

HOME-SCHOOL LIAISON POLICY - ST KEVIN'S COLLEGE

Home-School Liaison is a national initiative. It is about partnership between the home, the school and the community. This partnership is achieved through a sense of purpose, a willingness to negotiate and mutual respect.

AIMS:

To ensure that all of our pupils participate as fully as possible in the learning process.

To make the parents of our pupils more aware of their own capabilities and skills, thus empowering them to become more involved in their children's education.

CURRENT PROVISIONS:

Home visitations which help to build bonds of trust between home and school.

Class meetings with the parents of new 1st Years.

A Parents' Room and cheche facilities. These are intended to make the school more accessible for parents and to encourage participation in the school's Adult Education Programme.

Adult Education Courses – these may include Parenting, Personal Development, Computers, Health Issues, Art, Study Skills and Drug Awareness.

Contact with the local primary schools to facilitate a smooth transition from primary to secondary on the part of our incoming pupils.

PLAN:

To constantly monitor and improve our structures so that an increasing number of parents will become sufficiently confident to become involved in the Home-School Liaison Scheme and in their sons' education.

To make every effort to involve parents of incoming 1st Years in the Parents' Council.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES:

PAIRED READING

Definition:

The paired reading technique allows for students, specifically adolescents, to be supported while reading texts of greater difficulty levels than they would be able to read independently.

Studies show that children involved in paired reading on average, make three times the normal progress in reading accuracy and five times the normal progress in reading comprehension.

Aims:

- To create a greater awareness of the importance of books as a recreational and educational resource.
- To build confidence and self-esteem in the student.
- To promote a life long love of reading.
- To develop comprehension techniques.
- To enable parents to exercise their role as partners in the education of their children.
- To foster a close liaison between parents and teachers for the benefit of students in the school.

Procedure

With these aims in mind the home school co-ordinator liaises with the learning support teacher to put a draft paired reading programme in place.

Parents are recruited and training takes place involving parents, English teachers, the learning support teacher and the home school co-ordinator.

Consultation follows regarding the draft plan and suitable amendments may be made.

- Pupils are targeted for the programme in consultation with the class teachers, learning support teacher and principal.
- Parents are briefed and encouraged to support the scheme by the home school co-ordinator during home visits or at meetings in the school..
- Consent forms need to be signed by parents/guardians.
- Pupils are allocated to trained parents on a one to one basis for the reading sessions.
- Careful consideration is given to match pairs and inform parents of specific abilities and needs.
- A timetable of the sessions is drawn up and notification of it posted for all staff members.
- Suitable rooms are allocated for the sessions.
- Students choose from a range of suitable books, one that appeals to them.

A definite time scale is agreed involving 8 x 30 minute sessions.

Regular evaluations [informal] are carried out during the programme and particularly after the initial contact. A final evaluation involving parents/students/teachers is conducted at the end of the programme.

Recommendations from the evaluation are noted and amendments will follow for the next programme.

MATHS FOR FUN

Aims

- To work with the challenges Teachers and Students are experiencing around problem solving and concept learning in Maths.
- To involve Parents in their children's learning by training and facilitating them as a resource in the classroom. The Home School Community Liaison [HSCL] teacher encourages parents to volunteer their services.

Objectives

- To give students hands on experience
- To encourage students to use problem-solving techniques/strategies ie. predicting, deductive reasoning, evaluating etc.
- To give students opportunity to focus on mathematical concepts ie. transformations, spatial awareness, area, perimeter, congruence, symmetry, tessellations ,etc.
- To allow students experience Maths as fun.
- To integrate concepts from Maths for Fun into Junior Cert. learning experiences.

Procedure

- Discussion meetings with Principal, Maths teacher, Resource teacher and HSCL teacher.
- Source equipment needed.
- Finance purchase of equipment.
- Laminate worksheets
- Recruit Parents
- Train Parents and affirm them in their ability to facilitate.
- Run Programme with target class for 6 weeks.
- Monitor and evaluate on regular basis.

Personnel involved

Students from Class 1C/1D.

Parents

