

Involvement of Parents in Child's Education

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<p>Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents are encouraged to be very involved in the school. Parents are invited for “for-fun” classes, in maths, science and English. There is a meeting space available for our school PTA to host monthly meetings. Our parents room needed to be re-appropriated as a classroom due to the expansion of the school. Parents are encouraged to go on field trips and outings with classes. Parents welcomed to meet with teachers daily in mornings and at home time. Formal meetings can be made through class teacher and/or office. Parents are encouraged to become active members of PTA. Parents are also encouraged to support school events. Parents room was used regularly. Parents engaged well with themed week activities and blocks of “for fun” activities. Parents very supportive of school events and functions. However “parent classes” this academic year were poorly attended. Coffee mornings were well attended for the larger parental body. Parental workshops, training and NEPS parent groups for the parents of children attending the ASD and DLD classes were held with positive feedback from parents and teachers. Garda vetting of parents strongly encouraged this year in line with departmental policy. PTA attendance was consistent this year with a working group PTA formed. The PTA set up class whatsapp groups for each class to encourage closer communication links with the school. The PTA volunteered at all school events. Going forward they will host an official election to solidify their PTA committee and elect their chairperson, secretary and treasurer. There is a dedicated PTA board that details all members and the teacher representative of the working group. The use of the school by parents will be formalized in the next academic year. A meeting room (walnut room) will be available to parents for PTA meetings, coffee mornings and parent classes when booked in advance. Thematic plans and COS plans were shared with parents. Parents have continued to appreciate the regular school newsletters. Class blogs, the school Facebook page and school website are updated regularly and parents have continued to appreciate these efforts. Parental feedback would suggest a reduced quantity of messages from the school with a greater emphasis on clarity and specifics e.g. if looking for volunteers, include specifics of what jobs are needed to be filled and the person of contact for this. Parents have also requested that Friday newsletters would remain current and non-repetitive.
<p>Target(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage 100% of families to download to school app to keep informed of children’s education and classroom activities. Ensure parents have access to school calendar on school website and app, informing them of school events and activities. Encourage all new parents in our school to apply for garda vetting by 30th September 2019. Link with Education Training Board to source tutor for adult classes. Feedback from parents showed strong interest in Art classes. Establish parents’ classes in Art for parents for Term 2. Request parent feedback in Term 1 re interest for classes in Term 2 & 3. Link with community centres to gain access to ESOL (Tyrrelstown) and Gaeilge classes (GaC) for parents Link with Barnardos so support the “Multicultural Coffee morning & parent & baby/toddler classes” weekly. PETNS staff to support Barnardos staff establish club with the aim it can run in school without needing school staff (due to staffing schedule restrictions). Barnardo’s ‘Parenting when seperated’ course to be held in the school and open to parents and educational professions in the community National Parents council to be approached to extend training to elected PTA committee Provide regular information sessions/workshops for parents; based on parental feedback. Term 1: Autism workshops by School Age team/Middletown Centre. Survey to be sent out in Term 1 to decide workshops for Term 2. Teachers to invite at least 2 parents (who are garda vetted), on each field trip/outing. Continue to ensure parents are aware / have access to content their child is learning monthly (SSE target) To send out a google form to collate date on parental skills/professions to utilize for school events, enquiry based learning, Aistear activities Open Parent Policy Group to new members and meet as necessary. Have one parent-child workshop focus per term and encourage 90% participation from parent body. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Term 1: Maths for Fun and Science for Fun. Parents invited into the school in each class to participate in activities. School events: Cake Sale & Winter Fair. ✓ Term 2: Parent Child Projects (completed at home): Science Fair projects, Write a Book projects, swimming ✓ Term 3: Intercultural May & Whole School Play.
<p>Action(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support parents download the app for new parents to the school. Sent out leaflets via email and hardcopy. Organise scheduled drop in sessions with Ann in the office. Encourage all parents to get Garda Vetted. Send home Garda vetting forms via email and hard copy and ensure comprehensive understanding of need for vetting. Support ETB funded parent class with school funding resources. Survey parents re interest in classes termly and apply for tutor accordingly. Term 1 - Art Link with Barnardos re support worker who may be able to support coffee morning. Request support of 2 staff members to assist in first 2 – 3 weeks until Barnardos project worker feels confident in surroundings and participant numbers are manageable.

POWERSTOWN ETNS SCHOOL PLAN 2019/2020: INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS TARGETS

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise workshop for parents/guardians and teachers on Autism in Term 1 with the school age team. Topics for term 2 and term 3 • Continue to schedule termly coffee mornings for parents of children with special needs. Based on feedback from staff and parental feedback set agenda for parents and maximise supports school can make available to them. Link with Daughters’ of Charity and Beechpark services, as well as Primary Care Team to organise training and supports for parents (where possible). • Principal to remind staff to ask minimum of two garda vetted parents on each outing/field trip. • Teachers to create monthly content plans. These plans are to be published on school website under “curriculum.” Teachers will continue to email this to parents via the school app. • Send out open invitation to parents to join “Parent Policy Group” to provide feedback on school policies being developed / updated • Host monthly PTA meetings and continue to encourage new members <p><i>Throughout the year:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain maths for fun during maths week, Science for fun during Science Week and Engineers’ Week, Shared reading during Book Week. • Encourage shared reading and maths for fun activities in other languages. Encourage infant staff to run a 4 week block in Term 1 and Term 2. • Support parents develop “parent led initiatives” that interest the parent body e.g. Walking Club, arts and crate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ September: Parents information Meeting ✓ PTA AGM in September, election to held for PTA roles ✓ October: Maths for fun activities, parent support of Fancy Dress Cake Sale ✓ November: Science for fun activities. Individual parent teacher meetings. ✓ December: Art Exhibition, Winter Fair • Term 2: Parent Child Project (completed at home): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continue to put a big emphasis of Parent / Child Projects in Term 2. Put detailed Action Plan in place and inform parents and pupils of same. Set criteria for projects. Host exhibition at end of projects for parents. ✓ Classes at teacher discretion: Write a Book Project (any language/dual language). ✓ Junior Infants – 6th class: Science Fair projects • Term 3: Intercultural May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents share knowledge about different countries, cultures and traditions ✓ Share knowledge of traditional games, languages and food ✓ Children complete class projects ✓ Parents encouraged to complete projects with pupils ✓ Share criteria for projects with senior pupils and encourage parents to get involved • Display projects in Hall
	Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record attendance of parents (PTA meetings / class teacher records for “for fun” activities.) • Parent focus group to share parent interest & impact of their involvement • Record teachers’ views on the impact of parents’ involvement • Record pupils’ views on the impact of parents’ involvement • Record parent and teacher observation of impact on pupils’ attitude to projects completed at home with parents.

POWERSTOWN ETNS SCHOOL PLAN 2019/2020: INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS TARGETS

	Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After each event, request staff feedback at staff meeting and parental feedback at PTA meetings.• Send surveys/polls to parents requesting feedback and to share interests.• A streamlining of communications can be done to aide parent/school communication• Recording data pertaining to parent skills and talents will assist school events, community engagement, depth of enquiry based learning in the school
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