

The Role and Responsibilities of Parents

The ethos of Ballintubber National School reflects the belief that parents are both in law and in fact, the primary educators and have, as such, the greatest formative influences on the social, intellectual and spiritual development of their children. Teachers, in addition to their professional role of imparting academic skills, have a complementary function in this formative process.

They endeavour to forge a partnership between home and school, with the aim of educating your child for life, including the development of critical thinking and communication skills, of managing oneself, of expressing one's viewpoint and of effectively relating to others. These are the personal qualities and skills which enable your child to be at ease with their environment, instilling in them a sense of self-worth, self-esteem and self-reliance.

To facilitate this development, we aim to create a positive, caring and welcoming atmosphere in Ballintubber National School, where each child knows what he/she can expect of the school and what the school expects of him/her. We aim to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while at the same time safeguarding the right of each child to an education in a disruption free environment.

The conditions required for the creation of a positive, caring and stimulating learning environment are listed in "Guidelines for Parents" and "Attitudes to Schoolwork" which give practical effect to positive parental involvement in the child's schooling with particular emphasis on acceptable behaviour and application to schoolwork.

Time Keeping

- Pupils should not be on school premises before 9:00am
 - Small break is between 11:00am and 11:10am
 - Lunch break is from 12:30pm to 1:00pm
 - Classes finish at 1:40pm for infant classes and 2:40pm for the rest of the pupils.
- Children should be off the school premises as quickly as possible.

Parents should be aware that there is no supervision of pupils before 9:00am and after 2:40pm

Uniform and Personal Presentation

It is school policy that every pupil wears the prescribed uniform. The Board of Management, the teaching staff and the Parent/Teacher Association have all given their unanimous approval to this policy and consider it a vital element in maintaining a high level of order, discipline and cleanliness within the school. The tracksuit is worn on P.E. days, tours and any occasion that the teacher believes appropriate.

Notes

Written explanations/requests from parents are required for:

- Absences. This is now a requirement under law. A note must be provided stating the dates of non-attendance and reasons for that absence.
- Arriving late for school.
- Permission to leave the school during school hours.
- Homework not completed.
- If for some reason, your child is not in a position to comply with every aspect of the rule regarding the school uniform.

Safety in School

The school authorities take every precaution to minimise the possibility of injury to your child within the school and particularly in the play yard. Any action or behaviour that the supervising teacher considers to be of an aggressive, threatening or dangerous nature is absolutely forbidden. Any pupil who is not prepared to show due consideration for the wellbeing of his/her fellow pupils will face strict and consistent sanctions and ultimately have the matter referred to his/her parents.

Homework Diary

The Homework Diary should be used as a means of communications between parents and teachers. It is in the interest of your child's progress that you should check and sign it every night.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

If your child is experiencing a particular problem or is distressed in any way, it is important that you let the class teacher know about it. You are welcome to call and discuss your child's progress with the principal or class teacher during the school day. However, to ensure maximum benefit to parent and teacher, it is advisable to give advance notice of date and time of the intended meeting.

Attitude to Homework

Research shows that parental interest in and attitude to school, to books and to education are the most important influences on a child's learning. The teachers in Ballintubber National School are confident that the parents will continue to participate fully in the educational partnership of school and home by showing a lively interest in and enthusiasm for, the work undertaken in the classroom, the primary aim of which is to help our children attain their full potential.

Creating a positive learning environment

The teacher's work compliments that of parents, in striving to educate children for life, in fostering their confidence and self-esteem, in developing their social skills. It is essential to create a positive learning environment in which children would feel secure, with a clear understanding of what is required of them.

The following are central to the achievement of this aim:

- **Behaviour**
- **Application**
- **Presentation: Personal and Schoolwork**

1. Behaviour

- Courtesy and consideration should be shown to others at all times, in the classroom and in the yard. A spirit of kindness, gentleness, tolerance, and peace should guide our words and actions.
- Respect for and co-operation with teachers and fellow pupils is required.
- Pupils should be attentive and orderly in class, showing due regard for the rights of others to work without distraction or interference such as talking in class, speaking out of turn, unnecessary movement or noises and interfering with other pupil's property.
- Pupils are expected to take reasonable care of all property whether their own or that of others or the schools'.
- Any form of bullying is totally unacceptable.
- The spirit of trust, which exists in Ballintubber National School is based on truth and honesty.

2. Application

- Each pupil should strive to complete all class work and homework to the best of his/her ability and to the highest possible standard.
- Full participation is expected in oral work; listening, reading and discussion.

3. Presentation: Personal and Schoolwork

- A high level of personal hygiene is expected.
- Pupils must wear the full school uniform, and the school tracksuit on P.E. days and outings.
- It is essential to have a complete set of textbooks and copies, properly covered, as well as pens, pencils and other materials as required. These should be maintained in good condition throughout the school year, clean and free from scribbling and defacing.
- Written work should represent their best effort in neatness and legibility.