

PARENT/COMMUNITY HELPER POLICY

RATIONALE

Parent participation and additional adult support in the educational process has a positive effect on children's social, emotional and academic development.

Learning and social experience with positive adult role models most importantly their parents and teachers, directly impacts on children's capacity to become confident, capable, lifelong learners and productive citizens.

PURPOSE

- To provide opportunities for parents and community volunteers to be actively involved in the education of our children.
- To build strong partnerships between school and home.
- To provide a safe, friendly school environment in which parents and volunteers feel welcome and comfortable to contribute to the educational development of our students.
- To give our students every opportunity to become confident and capable lifelong learners and productive citizens in an ever changing world.

BROAD GUIDELINES

Each parent/community helper will:

- Report to the office, sign in and out and wear the appropriate badge identifying them as a parent helper, volunteer or visitor to the school.
- Be required to have a current **Working With Children's Check** (forms available from Post Office or school office)
- Be under direct supervision and in the presence of a member of staff at all times when with students.
- Work within the guidelines and framework as set out by the school and Department of Education.
- Be trained in their specific role

Class teachers/level teams/curriculum coordinators will:

- Ensure that parent helpers/volunteers involved in regular activities such as hearing reading, assisting in writing sessions are trained in the process prior to commencing.
- Ensure that parent/helpers/volunteers are aware of appropriate interaction with students.
- Ensure that parent helpers/community volunteers are fully supervised.
- Ensure that the parent helpers/volunteers are fully aware of the importance of **CONFIDENTIALITY**

EVALUATION

Each class teacher will:

- Regularly reassess the effectiveness of the partnerships within their classrooms and make alterations where applicable and discuss these with those people involved.

Unit Levels will:

- Reassess situations where parent helpers/volunteers participate on a regular basis.
- Discuss possible avenues for involvement in specific units and reassess how successful these were for future reference.

Leadership Team will:

- Assess and address any concerns or issues arising from parent or volunteer involvement within the school.

This policy was approved at School Council Meeting on: *18 September 2012*