

Our Lady of Lourdes NS
School Policy on Home School Community Liaison

Introductory Statement

This policy was formulated in consultation with the principal and staff of Our Lady of Lourdes National School and approved by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The Home School Community Liaison Scheme is an integral part of the DEIS initiative in Our Lady of Lourdes National School and is a targeted intervention aimed at addressing educational disadvantage within the school.

Vision and Aims

All of the partners in Our Lady of Lourdes National School, parents, teachers, pupils and management, will work together, underpinned by our Catholic, Christian values and beliefs, to ensure that we create the optimum learning/teaching atmosphere in our school. Working together we will support all of our pupils to develop their full potential and use their diverse talents. We will create an inclusive atmosphere where all of the partners in the school community will treat each other with respect and dignity as partners and as equals.

Aims

1. To maximise active participation of the children in the school in the learning process, in particular those who might be at risk of failure.
2. To promote active co-operation between home, school and relevant community agencies in promoting the educational interests of the children.
3. To raise awareness in parents of their own capacities to enhance their children's education process and to assist them in developing relevant skills.
4. To enhance the children's participation in education, their retention in the educational system, their continuation to post-compulsory education and to third level and their life long attitudes to learning.
5. To disseminate the positive outcomes of the project throughout the school system generally.

Objectives

1. Maximise the participation of the children in the learning process... particularly those at risk.
2. Promote active co-operation between home, school and relevant community agencies.
3. Ease the transition for children/parents from pre-school and children/parents from primary to secondary.
4. Organise classes/sessions/courses to meet the needs of parents in helping them with the education of their children or their own education. (having firstly identified and discussed the needs with the parents)
5. Visit other schools/people to observe good practice.
6. Allow time for home visitations.
7. Try and pinpoint reasons for absenteeism/disruption and address the issue.
8. That the HSCL Scheme is targeted and focused on the most marginalized families.
9. Ensure that there is on-going development in teacher understanding of educational disadvantage and of partnership. That there is development in new methods and practices in schools so that pupils can reach potential – this will be reflected in our DEIS plan.
10. That the HSCL co-ordinator would take the delegation process to parents seriously

and in a practical way e.g. parent-to-parent delivery of courses, the provision of parent input at parent-teacher meetings, the training and support of parents as educational home visitors.

13. That the positive outcomes of the scheme would be disseminated throughout the school system generally.
14. That HSCL co-ordinator will produce term plans incorporating targets to meet the key objective.

Approaches and Methodologies

Staff development
Parental development
Parental involvement in school
Parental support
Parent to parent
Delegation to parents
Home visitation
Working partnership
Pre-school
Out of school provision
Transfer to Secondary
Liaising with Community Agencies
Teacher support
Networking
In-career development through CPD courses.

Assessment and Record-keeping

On-going
H.S.C.L. Co-ordinator assesses the participation of parents in activities related to their children's education.
Feedback from parents
Improved attendance.
Greater parental involvement in school
Higher expectations
Self-help leading to inter-dependence
Success

Equality of access and participation

It is the policy of Our Lady of Lourdes National School to provide equal opportunity of access to all parents, within the guidelines laid down by the H.S.C.L. scheme.

Health and Safety

The health and safety guidelines for all H.S.C.L. activities are those of Our Lady of Lourdes National School as a whole.
Home Visits –when the school (e.g. principal) receives information that a family/area may not be suitable for HSCL teacher to visit – the teacher will endeavour to make the contact on school grounds.

The H.S.C.L. Scheme and Our Lady of Lourdes National School Teaching Staff

This policy will enable school management and staff in the development of partnership and collaborative work towards the alleviation of educational disadvantage.

Staff Development

This policy will enable the H.S.C.L. co-ordinator to consult, advise and collaborate with the principal and staff to plan and implement strategies to address the problems of educational disadvantage.

Success Criteria

Success indicators will be teacher/parent/community feedback.
Greater involvement of marginalized parents in the education of their children.
Better attendance.
Improved communication between home and school.
A more positive attitude towards school from these at risk families.

Review

It will be necessary to review this policy regularly to ensure optimum delivery of the scheme to those targeted.

Ratification

This policy was reviewed and updated by the teaching staff of Our Lady of Lourdes National School on April 20th 2018.

The policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management of Our Lady of Lourdes National School on Monday 23rd April 2018