



St. Kilian's Community School

Home School Community Liaison Policy (November 2014)

The HSCL scheme is based on the principle of partnership between homes, schools and communities. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance pupils' learning opportunities and to promote their retention in the education system. The HSCL scheme is a pioneer in involving the school in the life of the community and involving the community in the life of the school.

Aims of the HSCL at St Kilian's CS:

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

The Home School Community Liaison Coordinator encourages active parental involvement, in the education of their children. The Coordinator works towards developing a mutual appreciation of the parent's role and the teacher's role. She provides opportunities for parental involvement in the school and provides training and supports for parents, where appropriate.

It is an aim of this Home School Community Liaison Policy to develop and maintain a positive Parent/Teacher relationship, to make our school more accessible to all parents/guardians and, in general, to promote the well-being of the school's students.

The Role of the HSCL coordinator at St. Kilian's Community School:

- The HSCL Coordinator is a key member of the school's **Care Team**, where she works with the Chaplain, Guidance Counsellors, SEN Coordinator, School Completion Team, Behaviour for Learning Teacher and school management in supporting the welfare of the students of the school.
- The HSCL Coordinator plays a pivotal role in supporting students and their families through many difficult and challenging situations, up to and including situations requiring the implementation of the school's Critical Incident Policy.

The HSCL Coordinator:

- Provides a **link between the school and students' homes**.
- Provides **support to families around educational matters**.
- **Visits students' homes**, providing advice and support, as appropriate.
- Makes **referrals** to both **in-school supports** or **external agencies** including the SCP, Guidance Counsellors, SEN Team, Chaplain, Túsła, EWS, NEPS, Teen Focus, Lucena Clinic, Bray Youth Services and Adult Education Centres.
- Gives parents/guardians **information** about the school through a series of meetings including First Year Progress meetings, Pre-Assessment meetings and Transfer meetings.
- Encourages **parental participation** in the school through **Courses, Activities, Talks and Workshops**, both educational and leisure.
- **Gives parents/guardians a role** in the school through activities such as Paired Reading, Story Sacks, Maths for Fun, the Community Garden and Multi-Cultural Day.
- Supports the work of the school's **Parents' Association**.
- Maintains links with **TÚSLA (Child and Family Agency)** and **Education Welfare Services**.
- Works with the Year Heads, the SCP and the EWO in monitoring students' **attendance** and liaises with homes where problems exist.

- Supports families in crisis through **Family Referrals** to the Education Welfare Services and through Family meetings and support.
- Supports Parents/Students/Families through **referrals to other community services** for appropriate supports e.g. TÚSLA, Lucena Clinic, Counselling services, Adult Education Centres, Financial supports through MABS or the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Leads **community-based initiatives** through the Bray Local Committee, which is facilitated by HSCL. Recent Literacy Initiatives include “One Book One Community”, and FAB 1-5 (Film and Book).
- Fosters **links between the school and the local community** by working with groups such as Bray Adult Education Network (BAEN), Bray Area Partnership (BAP) and Youth Mental Health Sub-Committee.
- Works with **local DEIS Schools**.
- Maintains strong links **with feeder Primary Schools**.
- Provides assistance and support to local initiatives e.g. Bray Area Partnership, Bray Adult Learning Centre and Bray Volunteers Bureau.

The HSCL Year Plan for 2014-15 provides more specific details on the HSCL Coordinator’s role and activities and interventions with which she is involved.

The work of the HSCL Coordinator is in full compliance with the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary schools (DES 2011).