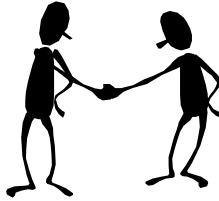


Rathfarnham Educate Together National School



Parents' Association

The Parents' Association represents all of the parents in the school. The PA committee is elected by the parents at an Annual General Meeting, which all parents can attend.

The aims of the Parents' Association are:

- to represent the views of parents
- to inform parents of developments in education and in the school
- to foster co-operation between parents, teachers and school management.

Here is how we attempt to fulfil those aims:

Represent the views of parents

- The Annual General Meeting is an excellent opportunity for parents to meet and discuss their views.
- The PA should have regular meetings at which parents' views can be brought up. The members of the committee should talk to other parents and bring any ideas, suggestions and opinions to committee meetings. These meetings include the Annual General meeting, coffee mornings and evening meetings with guest speakers.
- We have found it helpful to have at least one parent from each class on the committee.

Inform parents of developments in education and in the school

- The Parents' Association is a member of the National Parents Council (Primary). This is an organisation which provides a lot of information for parents. Their website is www.npc.ie.
- A regular newsletter is a great way to communicate with the parents. Our school has decided that all school committees and staff should contribute to one newsletter, rather than each group having their own. This should be produced biannually.

Foster co-operation between parents, teachers and school management

- We have regular monthly meetings with the school Principal to foster two-way communication: we present parents' views and concerns, discussing forthcoming events, discuss ways to support the school and feed information back to the Parents Association.
- The PA should be in regular contact with the Board of Management. There are two parent representatives on the Board and the Board may ask these reps to liaise with the PA on specific issues. In our case, one or both of the parent reps on the board attend regular PA meetings.
- We have found it helpful to have informal meetings between the Chairpersons of the PA and the Board of Management. This cross-committee communication is very helpful.
- We have participated in a Joint Committee meeting with all the members of all the committees. This meeting was chaired by an outside facilitator from Educate Together and followed by a social get-together. The chairpersons, facilitator and principal met before the joint meeting to prepare the agenda.