

St Pius X. G.N.S

Communications Policy

St. Pius X Girls National School is dedicated to providing a caring and supportive environment for all its pupils through positive affirmation, clear communication and a genuine partnership between the home, the school and the community.

Members of the B.O.M., teaching staff, classroom support staff, administrative and maintenance staff strive to create an open and welcoming atmosphere where good communications are fostered and developed.

Parents are recognised as the primary educators of their children. Teachers are recognised as professionals in education and work in partnership with parents. In order to maintain and support this professional partnership, both parties are encouraged to address each other by surname.

Parents are encouraged to;

- Develop close links with the school
- Collaborate with the school in developing the full potential of their children.
- Share the responsibility of seeing that the school remains true to its ethos, values, and distinctive character
- Become actively involved in the school Parent Association

Aims of Communication Policy

- To build a school community which is supportive of pupils, staff and all members of the school community who serve the school
- To establish procedures for the sharing of information in relation to pupil progress, needs and attainment
- To enrich and optimise the educational opportunities provided for our pupils by accessing the skills and talents of all of the school community
- To promote a culture of partnership in the education of our children

Types of Parent-teacher/ home school Communication at St Pius X G.N.S.

- Formal parent-teacher meetings
- Requested parent-teacher meeting
- Junior Infant Information Meetings
- Written Progress Reports
- Newsletters
- School website
- School homework journal
- Board of Management

- Parents' Association
- Text –A – Parent

Parent Teacher Meetings:

If a parent needs to meet her child's class teacher s/he is most welcome to do so. All appointments can be arranged through the school secretary or by written request to the class teacher. It is helpful to indicate what the meeting is in relation to.

Regretfully, teachers are unable to enter into consultation with parents during formal teaching time, between 8.45 am and 2.30pm.

Unscheduled meetings with class teachers at class doors to discuss a child's concern/progress is discouraged on a number of grounds;

1. A teacher cannot adequately supervise her class while at the same time speaking to a parent.
2. It is difficult to be discreet when so many children are standing close by.
3. It can be embarrassing for a child when her parent is talking to the teacher at a classroom door.

Procedures for resolving issues of concern

Parents are reminded that the staff of St Pius X G.N.S is always prepared to listen and it is in the best interests of pupils to resolve difficulties at an early stage.

A parent/guardian who has an issue of concern, should at all times bring the issue to the attention of the class teacher. All meetings can be arranged through the school secretary or through a note in the Homework journal.

If the issue remains unresolved it may be necessary to bring it to the attention of the Principal. All meetings with the Principal can be organised through the school secretary. Please indicate what the meeting is in relation to. On occasion the Principal may request the presence of another staff member at the meeting.

If the matter remains unresolved the parent/guardian has further recourse available to them through the Management Complaints Procedures.

Annual Parent-Teacher Meetings

These meetings are held annually in accordance with DES guidelines. Parents are given notice of these meetings. St Pius X G.N.S strongly encourages all parents to participate in these individual meetings. They provide a valuable opportunity for parents to learn about their child's progress and to get advice about their child's learning needs. These meetings are quite general in nature and a separate meeting may be arranged with the class teacher to discuss any specific needs. Follow-up meetings can be arranged if the need arises.

In situations where both parents are not living in the family home, the onus is on the parents to notify the school whether they want separate communication from the school. The school is happy to facilitate parents in this regard.

Junior Infant Induction Meetings

Class Meetings of Junior infant parents are held early in the first term.

Meetings with Special Education teachers:

Parents of pupils who are in receipt of extra learning support are welcome to meet with the Special Education teacher in order to discuss the learning needs of their child. Appointments are made in the same way as with the class teacher.

Progress Reports

Pupil progress reports are issued annually. Parents are advised to keep these reports in a safe place for reference as they may be required if the child changes school. They are also useful in building a profile of a pupil's learning strengths and weaknesses.

Open evening/morning is held when possible in the last term to advise prospective parents of the facilities available in the school.

Information leaflets/ forms from the HSE, DES or other bodies directly connected with education and welfare of pupils in the school will be distributed to pupils from time to time.

Absences must be notified in writing to the school in accordance with N. E. W. B. requirements. A separate attendance policy is available in the school.

Parents Association

The committee of the Parents' Association meets on a regular basis throughout the school year. The function of these meetings is to plan for school activities, to discuss and organise fund-raising activities. Individual parents are encouraged to assist at the various events organised for parents and pupils throughout the school year.

Board of Management: St Pius X G.N.S has a properly constituted Board of Management comprised of nominees of the trustee, community, teachers and parents. The B.O.M. meets on a regular basis.

Ratification and Implementation:
Ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: _Chairperson, Board of Management.