

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON POLICY

St. Joseph's N.S Arden View, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Introduction:

The Home, School, Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL), was established in the Autumn of 1990. The underlying policy of the scheme is one that seeks to promote partnership between parents and teachers. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance pupils learning opportunities and to promote their retention in the education system. In addition, the HSCL Scheme is the pioneer in involving the school in the life of the community and involving the community and its agencies in the life of the school. The Local Committee of the HSCL Scheme is central to this process of involvement.

Goals of the HSCL Scheme:

Five goals of the HSCL Scheme

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

National Co-ordinator Service:

A National Co-ordinator and two Regional Co-ordinators advise on, support and monitor the development of HSCL at local and national level.

Twelve basic principles which govern the operation of the HSCL Scheme:

- The scheme consists of a partnership and collaboration of the complementary skills of parents and teachers
- The scheme is unified and integrated at both primary and secondary levels
- The thrust of the scheme is preventative rather than curative
- The focus of the scheme is on the adults whose attitudes and behaviours impinge on the lives of children, namely, parents and teachers
- The basis of activities in the scheme is the identification of needs and having those needs met
- The scheme develops teacher and staff attitudes in the areas of partnership and the whole-school approach
- The scheme promotes the fostering of self-help and independence
- Home visitation is a crucial element in establishing bonds of trust with families
- Networking with and promoting the co-ordination of the work of voluntary and statutory agencies increases effectiveness, obviates duplication and leads to an integrated delivery of service to marginalised children and their families
- HSCL is a full-time undertaking
- The liaison co-ordinator is an agent of change
- Community 'ownership' of the scheme is promoted through the development of the Local Committee

