

Dunclug Primary School



Parental Access to School Policy

Date ratified by Board of Governors:

Date of Review: September 2019

Parental Access To School Policy

In recognising that the education of our children is a partnership between the home and school, the Board of Governors, the principal and the teaching staff seek to allow parents and guardians access to their child's teacher and the principal at all reasonable times. The principal, as the day-to-day manager of the school, will seek to ensure that all such contact is conducted in a manner that will promote the pastoral, educational and professional interests of everyone involved.

As parental attitudes to school and the teacher directly influence the child, it is important that all exchanges between school and home are based on assumed respect for the other's knowledge of, and concern for, the child's welfare. Pupils have much to gain from the shared interest of parents and guardians with teachers. Each has an in-depth knowledge of the child in different contexts. The sharing of this information in a positive way can help the pupil to feel valued and to achieve his/her full potential. It is important that pupils feel secure within the working relationship between home and school. The means of expressing this working relationship are diverse but parents and guardians will appreciate that some guidelines are necessary as each teacher has responsibility for a large group of children.

Parents are asked to report to reception upon entering school and before visiting any teacher. This will enable us to comply with health and safety requirements by ensuring that the office is aware of who is on site should there be a need to evacuate the building; it will also ensure that the teacher is available to meet at that time. Teachers are generally very

busy preparing for their day ahead before the children arrive each morning and therefore parents should make an appointment, at a mutually convenient time, to discuss any matter in depth and in privacy.

Children often take the behaviour and speech of adults as an example and parents are requested to be aware of speaking negatively about the school or a particular teacher in a negative manner as this can have longer, damaging consequences to the pupil's general and developing concept and attitude towards school, teachers and authority. We would ask that any discussions that may occur at home on issues causing concern do not happen in the presence of the child.

Contacts between parents/guardians and teachers are encouraged and will include:

- casual or informal exchanges of information made for routine housekeeping
- purposes e.g. dental appointments, illness, lost property, etc;
- meetings to discuss the pupil's academic progress; and
- more sensitive, wider issues which may relate to school policies that are causing

concern to either party. In such circumstances an appointment may be made and the issues clarified in advance to enable the parent/guardian and the teacher to make appropriate preparation.

It is essential that any conversations between school and home are carried out in a manner which is polite, courteous, mutually respectful and professional.

On the advice of the Education Authority, the school has put in place arrangements for addressing the most serious situations where the approach of a parent/guardian might amount to harassment or intimidation of teachers in the

workplace. There is a legal option for school to revoke permission for parents/relatives or other adults to enter the school grounds if their behaviour is deemed to be aggressive, threatening, abusive (verbal or physical) or intimidating. Thankfully such situations are very rare in the school system and, we believe, are extremely unlikely to occur in the context of this school.

The Board of Governors, principal and staff would like to acknowledge that in Dunclug Primary School we are fortunate to have parents who are respectful, interested and keen to support the school in many different ways. We thank parents and guardians for their co-operation and help, and look forward to the continued strengthening of our home/school partnerships.

Date of Next Review: August 2019