



## GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICE FOR PARENTS

### Guidelines for Best Practice for Parents

#### To support your son's education

Students respond to positive affirmation, support, and encouragement, good and fair discipline. They can mirror attitudes from home; if there is a lack of support at home in relation to education, the student will respond accordingly. This can be reflected in attendance, appearance, and respect to teachers and so on. Likewise if a parent's expectation exceeds that of the student's capabilities, problems can occur. Achieving a balance of support and realistic goals is important. Simply asking at the end of the day 'How was school?' shows support and an interest in your son's education.

#### To support the school in educating your son

Parents play a huge role in enabling the smooth and effective running of a school, from ensuring punctual arrival of a student to signing the school journal on a daily basis. Good parental support is invaluable and prevents so many well-documented discipline problems that exist in schools. Such involvement does not have to be time consuming. Good communication is the crux of this support. Below are guidelines for parents on what role you can play to help in the education of your son(s).

Tips for maintaining good communication with the school, throughout your son's secondary education with us:

- **Contact details:** mobile phone numbers and office/home numbers need to be provided and updated in case of emergency. It is also important to provide alternate names and numbers (first, second and third point of contact) in case first named person cannot be contacted.
- **Family circumstances:** it is important to keep the school informed of changing circumstances - such as family bereavement, separation, health issues - as this will impact on a student's behaviour and education. A variety of supports exist in the school to help students, from the watchful eye of teachers in the classroom to counselling service from the Pastoral Care Team.
- **Parent Teacher meetings:** these occur once a year per year group. Attendance is essential to maintain open communication between home and school.
- **Journal:** signing your son's journal every day has proved to be best practice and allows parents to be aware of any notes, reports etc. made in relation to your son. For students who have poor organisational skills, parents can use



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the journal as a tool to help students to have the right books, copies, homework in their bags for the following school day.

- **Change in behaviour:** if you see notes building up or change in behaviour that does not add up, do not hesitate to contact the school. Appointments can be made outside of Parent Teacher meetings if you have any concerns.
- **Punctuality:** parents should ensure that students arrive on time to school.
- **School rules:** it is important to know and understand the school rules, some of which parents can play an important role in ensuring they are carried out.
- **School uniform:** – important that this is checked (School Rule no.6)
- **After-school study:** provide an appropriate environment that enables a student to work (School Rule 7)
- **Mobile phones:** are banned during class time. We would encourage parents not to contact their sons by mobile during school hours (ref. school rule 9). In case of emergency contact the school at 315878.
- **Appointments:** for outside school business (e.g. physiotherapy, doctor) to be made where possible after school hours.
- **Absences:** or withdrawals from school should be explained in writing in the school journal to allow for smooth running of school and in order to adhere to Education Welfare Act. Such notes are to be provided on immediate return of student to school.

### Homework Policy

- Homework is a vital element in reinforcing the student's grasp of material and work covered in class. It consists of both written assignments and the learning of work done in class.
- The school expects that all homework both written and learning will be completed to the best of the student's ability, and presented on time.
- All homework, written and learning, is to be recorded by students in their school Journal/Diary.



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- Students are expected to have a study plan drawn up in consultation with teachers and the Guidance Counsellor. Revision is the key to ensuring that a student develops and retains a knowledge covered in class in earlier weeks, months or years.
- As students differ so much in terms of their ability and speed in completion of work, it is impossible to be specific as to the amount of time to be spent on a daily basis on homework and revision by each individual student. However, the following general guidelines are offered:

Year	Hours per day on homework/revision
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	1 - 2 hours per day
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	1.5 - 2 hours per day
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	2 -3 hours per day
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	1 hour on core subjects plus project work
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	3 hours per day
6 <sup>th</sup> year	3+ hours per day

### Supervised Study

An after-school supervised study programme from 3.15pm to 5.15 pm each day is offered to students.

- Parents are asked to ensure where possible that students are afforded a suitable room at home in which to study, i.e. quiet, adequately ventilated/heated and equipped with a proper table and chair.
- If it is felt by a student or his parent(s) that he is under undue pressure from homework and revision, it is suggested that the matter be discussed with the Class teacher(s).