



WELCOME!

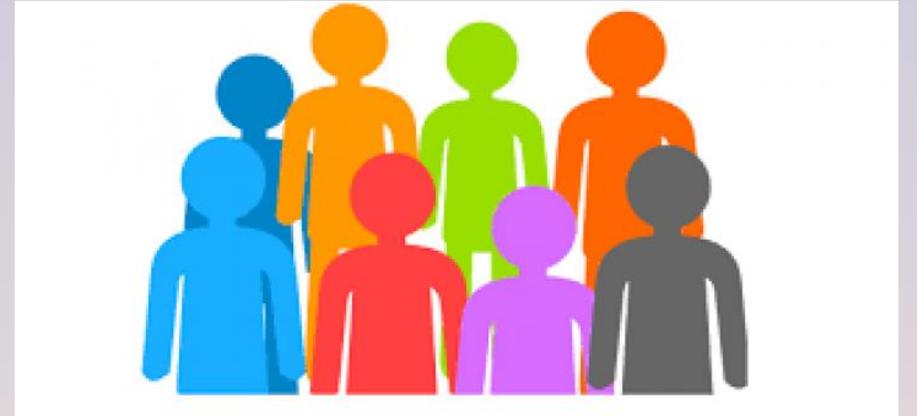


NDMNS PARENT ASSOCIATION

2022/2023

What is a Parent Association?

1. A Parent Association is the structure through which the parents* in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children.
2. The Parent Association works with the Principal, staff and the Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school



What is the role of a Parent Association?

Although the Parent Association may organise many activities, these activities should all assist the association to achieve its two main roles within the school:

- 1) To work in partnership with the Principal, Board of Management and the whole school community for the betterment of the children in the school
- 2) To support and empower parents to be active in the best interests of their children's educational lives

Why is partnership between home and school important?

We know from research that:

- 1) Children do better, behave better and are happier at school when parents and teachers work closely together and when parents are able to give their children support at home*
- 2) Teachers can do a better job when they are supported by and work closely with parents*
- 3) Parents can do a better job when they have the support of other parents*

The Parent Association is the key mechanism in a school that can support the home/school partnership.

Partnership in Action

The Parent Association committee, on behalf of parents, must ensure that it has good connections with all the other partners in the school community, so that there are:

- 1) Shared goals and expectations for children and the school
- 2) Shared understandings of one another's work and responsibilities

Partnership

Partnership should exist between the Parent Association, school staff, school pupils and the school's Board of Management.

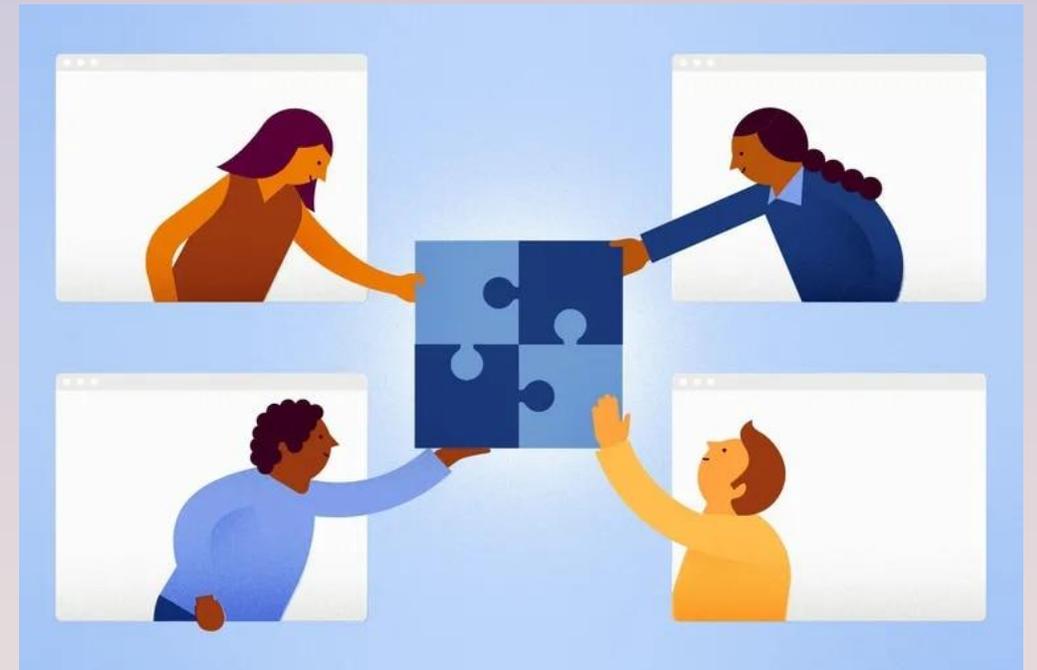
The Parent Association plays a key role in promoting partnership within the whole school community.



Working Together

The Parent Association works together with other school stakeholders to, among other things:

- 1) Develop and review policies
- 2) Plan the curriculum
- 3) Improve the physical school environment
- 4) Discuss and consider areas of concern



Supporting and Empowering Parents

The Parent Association should be a structure that actively supports parents to ensure the best interests of their children.

Parents value opportunities to meet other parents and share experiences about bringing up children and helping them to learn.

The Parent Association will be stronger and will help networking if it fully represents all parents.

The PA can actively support the involvement of parents by:

- Arranging opportunities for parents to meet informally
- Running a social event (such as a coffee morning) for parents of a particular school class
- Getting together with parents from neighbouring schools for an occasional event such as a talk or workshop
- Having a parents' page on the school website
- Welcoming new parents and making sure to include parents from different backgrounds
- Providing a Parent Association notice board in the school
- Linking with local organisations to promote positive communication and parental partnership, for example, health boards, county councils
- Finding out what information parents would like or need
- Preparing a newsletter or contributing to the school newsletter
- Helping teachers set up an information meeting for parents of particular class groups

Continued...

- Contributing to the preparation of a school handbook in cooperation with staff
- Providing access for parents to leaflets and books on topics of interest
- Bringing Department of Education circulars to the attention of parents (these are sent to the Board of Management for all partners in the school and are available on the Department of Education website www.education.ie)
- Identifying parents who have certain skills for curricular and after-school activities e.g. painting, ICT, etc.
- Providing information for parents about how to help their child/ren
- Providing opportunities for parents to network
- Inviting speakers to address the parents on issues which are topical or relevant e.g. homework or the curriculum
- Informing parents about educational courses and training programmes being offered by organisations such as NPC

Supporting and Empowering Parents to Deal with Issues

It is important to note that a Parent Association is not a forum for complaint against an individual teacher, parent or child, nor does it have a role in pursuing individual complaints.

However, a Parent Association can play an important role in signposting the school's agreed complaints procedure and encouraging the parent to seek resolution of the issue.



Establishing a Parent Association

All parents are automatically members of a school's Parent Association.

It is not expected that all parents will be active members of the organising committee.

All parents will be invited to a meeting where the Parent Association committee will be elected.

From those elected members, a chairperson, secretary and treasurer are selected.

Training and support are provided to all committee members.

The Next Steps...

1. How should our PA committee be constructed to ensure that our entire community is represented? (a nominee per year group, by geographical area, etc.)
2. When should we hold the meeting to elect committee members?
3. What additional information would you like about the Parent Association before the elections?

