

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PARENT ASSOCIATION OF SCOIL NAOMH BARRA, WILKINSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL

The Purpose of the Parent Association

The purpose of the Parent Association is to provide a structure through which the parents/guardians of children attending Scoil Naomh Barra, Wilkinstown National School can work together for the best possible education for their children. The Parent Association will work with the Principal, staff and Board of Management to build effective partnership between home and school.

Under the Education Act, 1998

Section 26. – (1) The parents of students of a recognised school may establish, and maintain from among their number, a parents' association for that school and membership of that association shall be open to all parents of students of that school.

(2) A parents' association shall promote the interests of the students in a school in co-operation with the Board, Principal, teachers and students of the school and for that purpose may

(a) advise the Principal or the board on any matter relating to the school and the Principal or board, as the case may be, who shall have regard to any such advice, and

(b) adopt a programme of activities which will promote the involvement of parents, in consultation with the Principal, in the operation of the school.

(4)

(a) A parents' association shall, following consultation with its members, make rules governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs.

(b) Where a parents' association is affiliated to a national association of parents, the rules referred to in paragraph (a) shall be in accordance with guidelines issued by that national associations of parents with the concurrence of the Minister.

The Aim of the Parent Association

The aim of the Parent Association is to enable parents to play their part in ensuring provision of the best possible education for their children and that this is achieved through the Association's programme of activities.

The Parent Association will promote the interests of the students in cooperation with the Board of Management, Principal, teachers and students, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1998.

The Work of the Parent Association

The Parent Association will undertake a programme of activities which will promote the involvement of parents and which will support pupils, parents and school staff. In planning its activities, the Parent Association will consult with the school Principal.

The Membership of the Parent Association

All parents or guardians of children attending Scoil Naomh Barra National School will be deemed to be members of the Parent Association.

The Committee of the Parent Association

Any parent or guardian of a child in the school can be a member of the Parent Association Committee if they wish. Officer positions will then be elected from this Committee. The Parent Association committee will have responsibility for representing the parents of Scoil Naomh Barra National School and managing the activities of the Parent Association.

Subcommittees

Subcommittees can be set up for particular tasks. The subcommittees may also co-opt people to assist in their work. The subcommittees may not make decisions, they remain at all times accountable to the main committee.

PA Volunteers

This group is made up of parents who cannot commit to attend regular meetings but still wish to help at Parent Association events. These volunteers also need to comply with GDPR regulations. Volunteers do not have voting rights.

The Election of the Parent Association Officer Positions

The Officer Positions of the committee will be elected each year at the first Parent Association meeting after the AGM of the Parent Association.

Each member will be elected for three years. At the first meeting all Officer Positions step down, but they can be re-elected as long as they continue to be eligible to serve, that is as long as they continue to be a parent of a child in the school.

Parents' representatives elected to the Board of Management are automatically members of the active committee but will not hold an officer position on the Parent Association committee.

The Work of the committee of the Parent Association

The Parent Association committee will communicate on issues which are pertinent to the entire parent body. The Parent Association committee may advise the Principal and Board of Management on any matters relating to the school in accordance with the Education Act 1998, 26.- (2)(a).

The committee is the team that will manage the tasks of the association on behalf of the parent body. (the members)

The committee will draw up a plan for the activities of the association, in consultation with parents and in accordance with their wishes.

The committee will be responsible for seeing that activities are run in an efficient and effective way.

The committee will consult with the school Principal and Board of Management when planning the programme of activities for any particular year.

The committee will arrange with the Principal and Board of Management a system for ongoing communication.

At the annual general meeting (AGM) the committee will report to the parent body (the members) about its work.

The committee will manage and account for any funds collected or expended by the Parent Association.

Finance

The Parent Association committee will finance the activities of the Parent Association through fundraising.

A Treasurer will be appointed from among the committee members and will be responsible for keeping account of the income and expenditure of the Parent Association finances. The Treasurer will give a statement of income and expenditure at each committee meeting.

A written statement of income and expenditure will be given at the AGM and a copy will be forwarded to the Board of Management for their information.

The Parent Association will keep a bank account in its name. Each cheque issued requires two signatures. The Treasurer and at least one other assigned member of the committee must sign all cheques drawn on the account.

Fundraising for the School

Fundraising for the school by the Parent Association will be done with the prior agreement of the Board of Management. The Parent Association committee will agree with the Board of Management as to the specific purposes for which funds are to be raised by the Parent Association.

Membership of the National Parents Council Primary

The Parent Association will maintain membership of National Parents Council Primary by annual subscription.

Changing the Constitution

Changes to the constitution can be made at the AGM or, if for an urgent reason, an EGM can be called for that specific purpose. Such changes shall require a simple majority of those present and voting at the meeting.

Proposals to change the constitution must be submitted in writing to the Parent Association committee. The Parent Association committee will then circulate these proposals to all parents before the AGM/EGM. All parents of children in the school at the meeting are eligible to vote on the proposals.

Rules of the Parent Association

1. Attendance is obligatory. If a member fails to attend 3 meetings without an apology, they will be transferred to the PA Volunteer list.
2. All committee members must be willing to be Garda vetted.
3. All committee members are required to comply with GDPR regulations.
4. All committee members will treat each other with respect.
5. Decisions are decided by a vote and the majority rules.
6. The quorum for meetings will be 30%, 2 of which should be elected officers. Voting for decisions on some smaller expenditure may take place via a What's App poll on the

Committee Members What's App Group. The committee shall determine the expenditure limits for such polls at the first committee meeting following the AGM.

This constitution will be revised every 2 years.

Constitution revised at AGM on October 17th, 2024.