

Parental Involvement

COVID-19 Restrictions

Obviously due to the restrictions imposed by the Government and social distancing measures, some of the ways in which you would normally support the school may be curtailed or carried out virtually for the time being.

St Mary's is a family which welcomes children, parents and staff to cooperate and contribute to the educational process for the benefit of every child. We recognise that parents have many areas of expertise, including knowledge of the locality, and extend a warm invitation for such talents to be shared.

At St Mary's, we acknowledge that you, the parents, are the first teachers of your children and we aim to build on the foundations that you have laid at home by developing strong links of communication to involve and inform you of your own child's attainment, their social and emotional development and to share any other concerns.

You, as parents, can be involved in your child's education in the following ways:

- Attend 'Early Years' evenings prior to your child starting school.
- Read weekly newsletters which provide a record of happenings and a diary of forthcoming events.
- Read and contribute to home/school reading record book which outlines progress in reading and can be used as a valuable line of communication for other issues.
- Read annual reports and attend termly parent/teacher interview evenings.
- Read class teacher's synopsis of work to be covered, sent out at the beginning of each term.
- Read church bulletin.
- Attend celebrations such as masses and end of 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' topic based assemblies.
- Share in an informal dialogue in school.
- Attend education evenings which are designed to further educate parents on curriculum and other issues.
- Observe displays around the school which give information relating to work covered.
- Attend special events such as sports days and other festivities.
- Help and share expertise in school and on school trips, including swimming.
- Take an active role in the PTA. All parents are members of the association which functions partly to raise funds, but also for children, parents, staff and parish to meet socially.
- Contribute to school resources, especially expendable items such as fabrics, wool, boxes, etc. which are requested when they are needed.
- Contribute to school funds by pledging termly amounts to increase learning resources.
- Give financial support for school trips which enhance children's learning.
- Supporting children to achieve termly targets and support plan targets if appropriate.

We believe that children benefit most when our school family and the home family are working together. We extend to all parents a warm invitation to be wholly involved – both formally and informally - in your child's education.

September 2020