



PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

A school community of faith encompasses staff, pupils and parents. Our partnership with parents is distinctive in that it is based upon shared values:

“Partnership between a Catholic school and the families of the students must continue and be strengthened. It is not a question of convenience, but a partnership based on faith”.

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School

In Turnbull High School we believe that young people benefit most from education when the parents and the school work together in partnership. We seek to provide helpful communication with parents about how their child is doing. This is achieved in a number of ways.

Satchel One

The Show My Homework App can also be used to share information on the allocation and completion of homework. It can also be used to inform parents of test scores and next steps in learning.

Group Call/Telephone

Principal Teachers Curriculum may choose to alert parents to any issues through Group Call (as per agreed templates) or telephone.

Parents can also contact the school by telephone or email. Unless a communication link has been initiated by the PT Curriculum, parents should contact the PT Pupil Support in the first instance with any queries or concerns.

Open Door Policy – Turnbull High School has an open door policy. Where possible parents are asked to telephone to make an appointment but a drop in facility is also available to meet a member of the SMT

Reporting

A formal reporting calendar is in place as per the school calendar

Parents Welcome

All East Dunbartonshire Council schools welcome parental involvement as research has shown that when parents are involved children do better in school.



Involvement in the Life of the School

Parents and Carers are the most important influence in a child's life, and the school needs to listen to and communicate with parents effectively to build the trust and understanding needed to provide pupils with the environment and support they need to achieve their potential.

Parent/Teacher Association

The Association was formed in June 1988. The objects of the Association are:

1. a) To promote the close association of home, school and church for a wholesome, positive Christian education for the pupils.
b) The Association shall pursue this object through educative, religious, social and caring activities.
2. Membership of the Association shall consist of parents and guardians of pupils attending Turnbull High School and teachers of Turnbull High School.

Meetings of the Parent/Teacher Association are normally on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) held in Turnbull High School. Details are posted on the school website and published in the Turnbull Times.

Parent Council

Parental Involvement Act

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement Act) 2006 aims to improve the quality and extent of parents' involvement in their own child's learning and in the education the school provides. It modernises and strengthens the framework for supporting parental involvement. It also establishes a structure and process to replace School Boards with Parent Councils.

The Act outlines three areas where parents should be supported and encouraged to be more involved in their child's learning:

- At home - providing parents with information on what their children are learning at school and how this can be supported at home
- Through school – providing parents with opportunities to contribute to the life of the school e.g. by helping out in the classroom at school events
- In a more formal way – deciding what kind of parent representation the schools should have

Parent Councils

Parent Councils are the formal representative body for parents / carers with children attending school. Parent Councils are different in each school to enable them to meet the needs of parents / carers locally.



Parents are welcomed to be:

- involved with their child's education and learning;
- be active participants in the life of the school; and
- express their views on school education generally and work in partnership with their children's schools.

All parents / carers are automatically members of the Parent Forum at their child's school. As a member of the Parent Forum all parents can expect to:

- receive information about the school and its activities;
- hear about what partnership with parents means in our school;
- be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you;
- identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school;
- be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and the education it provides;
- work in partnership with staff; and
- enjoy taking part in the life of the school in whatever way possible.

The Parent Forum decides how their representatives on the Parent Council are chosen and how the Parent Council operates. Parents / carers are encouraged to volunteer or put themselves forward to be chosen as representatives of the Parent Council if they wish.

The main aims of the Parent Council are:

- To support the school in its work with pupils
 - To represent the views of parents
 - To promote contact between the school, parents, pupils, providers of nursery education (*if applicable*) and the community
 - To report to the Parent Forum
 - To be involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff.
 - To raise funds for the school for the benefit of pupils (in some schools the PTA fulfils this role).
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There are many occasions and opportunities for parents to speak to and work with the school. There is however, a formally constituted group which represents the interests of parents:

The Parent Council

The Parent Council consists mainly of parents from the Parent Forum (all parents with a child in school is automatically a member of the Parent Forum), representation from staff and the local parish community. The Parent Council has a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and meets at least seven times in a school session. Its aims are to:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming community which is inclusive for all parents and encourages parental involvement in their children's education and the life of the school
- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils, all its parents, the Church and the local community
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils, promoting their moral, spiritual, personal, social, physical and intellectual development within a Christian ethos based upon Gospel values
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.

The membership will be a minimum of five parents of children attending the school. The maximum size is 12 parents.

The Parent Council will invite the Church in whose interest the school is conducted to nominate a representative to serve on the Council. The Parent Council may decide to co-opt a second community or Church representative.

The Parent Council will also have 1-3 teachers or support staff as members.

The School Student Council will be invited to send two representatives on a rota basis to each meeting of the Parent Council, with each Year Group having the opportunity to be represented once each year.

The Head Teacher has a duty and a right to attend all meetings.

The Parent Council will be selected for a period of 3 years, after which they may put themselves forward for re-selection if they wish.

Any parent of a child at the school can volunteer to be a member of the Parent Council and the school will invite nominations in advance of the AGM. They should intimate their interest in writing to the Head

Teacher in advance of the AGM. Where possible, 2 representatives for each year group will be elected.

If each year group allocation is not filled, the places could be given to the parents of another year group.



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In the event that the number of volunteers exceeds the number of places set out in the constitution, members will be selected by names being drawn by lot.

Anyone not selected to be a member of the Parent Council may be offered the opportunity to be part of any sub-groups set up by the Council.

Co-opted members will be invited to serve for a period of 3 years, after which time the Parent Council will review and consider requirements for co-opted membership.

Parent Councils will play an active role in supporting parental involvement in the work and life of the school, while also providing opportunities for parents to express their views on their children's education and learning. The Parent Council, as a statutory body, will have the right to information and advice on matters which affect children's education. The school and the education authority will consult with the Parent Council and take their views into account wherever decisions are being taken on the education provided by the school.

For more information on parental involvement or to find out about parents as partners in their children's learning, please contact the school or visit the Parentzone website at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk.

The PTA is mainly responsible for arranging events for parents and raising funds for the school. Volunteers are welcome - please contact the PTA if you want to join in.

The Scottish Parent Teacher Council is the national organisation for PTAs in Scotland and runs an independent helpline service for all parents. They can be contacted by phone on 0131 226 4378, fax 0870 706 5814 or email on sptc@sptc.info or write to SPTC, 53 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2HT.



At the heart of successful home-school relationship is good communication. Below are some of the ways in which we try to keep parents fully informed.

School Handbook

This is given to every parent when their child enrolls in Turnbull High School. Copies are available to other parents on request. It contains lots of information about the school and East Dunbartonshire Council.

Letters

Where an issue arises that parents need to be informed of or needs to be a matter of record, the school will communicate with parents by letter.

Text Alerts / Group Call

Text alerts / Group Call will be used to remind parents of important events or when immediate contact is required.

Newsletter

The Turnbull Times will be issued approximately every 6 weeks

August, October, November, January, March, May, June

How Parents Can Assist in School

The school welcomes and values the contribution parents can make in school. There are many ways parents can help:

1. Keep the school informed about any changes in circumstances.
 2. Come to Parents' Evenings.
 3. Read the School Newsletter.
 4. Check Show My Homework
 5. Support School Uniform.
 6. Support Promoting Positive Behaviour Procedures.
 7. Support the Parent Council.
 8. Get Involved in the Life of the School.
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The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' views wherever possible. We will make every effort to consult parents, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives. Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.

In Turnbull High School we are committed to continual improvement. Our Parental Engagement Policy requires that we:

- Establish and sustain a positive learning culture and welcoming climate where parental input is welcomed, respected and valued.
- Implement strategies to identify and remove barriers that limit engagement.
- Actively explore and utilise opportunities to further engage parents.
- Actively encourage and support Parent Council's parents to share ideas for improving student achievement to help inform our school improvement plan.
- Support opportunities for parents to develop on strengthen skills and knowledge (eg workshops, tips sheets) to support learning.
- Review and establish self evaluation processes to determine the effectiveness of parent engagement strategies.

We encourage parents to view information on the school website, which we aim to keep updated regularly and can be found at www.turnbull.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.
