

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING POLICY

RATIONALE

At St. Clare's we believe that learning happens all around us, formally and informally, in school, home and community environments. We value the role of parents as the primary educators of their children.

We believe that:

- strong relationships between all stake holders underpin successful learning
- parents need to feel empowered to take their place alongside educators in the schooling of their children
- it is important to engage in authentic partnerships between educators, parents and the wider community to develop the whole child and improve student learning and wellbeing

AIMS:

At St. Clare's the key components of Family Engagement in Learning are:

- Building Relationships
- Learning Conversations
- Learning Community
- Home Learning

Building Relationships

We aim to:

- Build strong partnerships with families
- Provide a welcoming, inclusive environment for all
- Communicate positively and respectfully at all times
- Provide opportunities to build relationships among and between parents, children and teachers

Learning Conversations

We aim to:

- have open and respectful conversations around learning
- provide feedback about learning to families and students to improve student outcomes
- provide learning opportunities for children that can stimulate discussion with parents
- communicate to families in various ways, such as; phone calls, emails, face to face, written letters

Learning Community

We aim to:

- foster a sense of connectedness
- empower parents to partner with the school to achieve improved student outcomes
- provide a rich learning community and varied learning opportunities for children, families and teachers
- invite parents to become active sharers of their skills and knowledge with the wider school community

Home Learning

We aim to:

- seek to make connections between home learning and in-school learning
- acknowledge that learning happens everywhere and at any time
- include the family in home learning opportunities
- encourage conversations between parents and children
- build a learning relationship between family members

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS/PRACTICES

There are many opportunities, both formal and informal, to address Family engagement for Learning, through learning and about learning. These six core actions provide the framework for Family Engagement Learning Opportunities at our school.

Family Engagement in Learning Opportunities:

- connect families to in-school learning, such as classroom visits, curriculum nights, home learning, family engagement newsletter
- provide learning opportunities for parents, such as parent education classes and workshops
- foster open communication, that builds a positive learning relationship, by providing a welcoming classroom environment
- set up co-learning opportunities for teachers, parents and children, such as learning together events, professional learning days, staff meetings
- celebrate family and student achievements
- make in-school connections to the students home learning opportunities

To achieve our aims, we implement the following programs and practices:

Personalised learning approach
Building Relationships roster
Family Engagement in Learning events
Transition/Orientation
Family Engagement in Learning Newsletter
Community partnerships development
Parent Partnerships
Home learning

EVALUATION

We revisit and evaluate this policy annually.