

### Home Factors which are Beneficial

1. A positive co-operative attitude towards the school and teachers.
2. Interest in the child's work day and experiences at school.
3. Encouragement of children by parents.
4. The number, purpose and quality of parental visits to the school.
5. The social involvement in the home with the quality of concern about problems in society.
6. To seek to be consulted and to participate at all levels in the decision-making processes which affect their children?

Examples of how these objectives can be pursued:

- Assisting at, or organising events and functions for pupils at local level.
- Organising educational debates for pupils and/or parents
- Organising Talks and interviews.
- Increasing understanding and co-operation by organising regular meetings with Pupils, Teachers, Boards of Management and parents, including social events
- Circulating regular information to parents, regarding the work and activities of the Parents' Associations, and their school
- Exchanging information and reports with Boards of Management and other committees within the school community

### How to Join PACCS

Contact General Secretary:

Ms Connie Carolan

John Street

Ardee, Co. Louth

087 2350489

[info@paccs.ie](mailto:info@paccs.ie)

[www.paccs.ie](http://www.paccs.ie)

# Parents Associations of Community and Comprehensive Schools



### What is PACCS?

Parents' Associations of Community & Comprehensive Schools – was formed in 1983 to act as one national organisation for the Parents' Associations of Community & Comprehensive Schools of the country. It was formally established on a national basis in October 1984. There were 81 Community and Comprehensive Schools in the country.

In 2010 PACCS have 92 schools with approx 59,000 students

## Who can join?

Membership is open to all Parents' Associations, Parents' Councils, Parents' Groups, Parent/Teacher Associations etc. of the Community and Comprehensive Schools which are so designated by the Department of Education.

## What are the Objectives of PACCS?

To promote the role of parents as the primary educators of their children as enshrined in Article 42 of the Constitution of Ireland.

1. To provide an independent voice for democratic educational reform at national level.
2. To provide advice and information to its members on educational matters.
3. To ensure that parents have an effective voice in educational development by:
  - Asserting their right to information and consultation with regard to Government and other planning and policy making organisations.
  - Providing channels for such consultation,
  - Obtaining direct representation for parents on such committees, public bodies or other organisations viz. Curriculum and Examinations Board, the National Parents' Council Post Primary.
4. To promote liaison between school organisations and parents' organisations.
5. To act as a representational and negotiating body on behalf of all or any member organisation on request.
6. To develop co-operation with teachers unions, managerial bodies etc. and to assist understanding of their respective roles.
7. To professionalise the role of parents as educators.

5. To seek to be consulted and to participate at all levels in the decision-making processes which affect their children?

## Examples of how these objectives can be pursued:

1. assisting at, or organising events and functions for pupils at local level
2. Organising educational debates for pupils and/or parents.
3. Organising Career Guidance lectures and interviews.
4. Fund-raising for cultural, leisure and extracurricular activities and facilities.
5. increasing understanding and co-operation by organising regular meetings with pupils, teachers Boards of Management and parents, including social events
6. Circulating regular information to parents, regarding the work and activities of the Parents' Associations, and their school.
7. exchanging information and reports with Boards of Management and other committees within the school community
8. Providing a forum for elections to Boards of Management.
9. Serving as a focal point for liaison between the community and the school.

## The objectives do not include:

1. Acting as a complaints forum against teaching staff in areas which are the responsibility of the principal or the school authority.
2. Becoming solely a fund-raising organisation with no involvement in other matters of an educational nature.

**What basic information should a parent's nominee possess? The following is a suggested list:-**

1. Knowledge of the background of the development of Community Schools and the basic philosophy behind them.
2. A working knowledge of the Deed of Trust, the powers and constraints applying to Boards and the operating procedures for management of the school.
3. Reasonably accurate information on the basic logistics of the School, pupil and teacher numbers, curriculum planning, internal organisation, financial administration, discipline procedures etc.,
4. A realistic view of the current standing of the School - how far it is achieving its objectives, morale of pupils and teachers etc., SDP
5. Knowledge of how the School is servicing its second and third roles, as provider of adult education and as facilitator of community development.
6. An idea of where the school is going in the short and longer term. Whether it is likely to expand or contract, change its entry profile, develop new courses, extend its community involvement etc.

**What is a Parents' Association?**

A Parents' Association is defined as a group of parents whose main concern is the educational development and educational opportunities of their children.

**In general, the objectives of a Parents' Association are:-**

1. To make parents aware of their role (rights and duties) in regard to the school.
2. To inform parents about the school education of their children and to inform schools about parents' expectations in that regard.
3. To develop an active partnership within the education community and to ensure that parents are represented and participate at all levels of the educational system.
4. **To** assist parents to acquire the skills

**Who Decides Policy?**

Policy making is vested in the Annual Conference of PACCS. The first National Conference was held at Tullow in October 1984 when the Constitution was ratified. Each member is entitled to send two delegates to the Annual Conference. The Executive Committee is elected at the Annual Conference.

**How is PACCS organised?**

The activities of PACCS are carried out at national level by the Executive Committee and regionally by Committees representative of regions. All such committees act in a voluntary capacity. The Executive Committee consists of 20 representatives of member groups as follows:

Dublin & County: 6	North East: 2,
South East: 2,	North West: 2,
Midland North: 2,	Midland South: 2
Southern: 3,	West:2,

The constituency from whence the President comes shall elect a replacement delegate annually to the National Executive. - This year the Southern Region has four delegates.

**How is PACCS funded?**

The only source of income is the members' annual subscriptions which are used to meet the running costs of the Association. These running costs include such charges as printing, postage, photocopying, telephone, hire of meeting rooms, conference handbooks and other conference expenses. Not included are the extensive travelling and subsistence expenses of the Executive and regional officers. The subscription for the current year is 230.00 euro.

## What is PACCS Doing?

- PACCS is active through its four delegates in the work of the National Parents' Council which has been formed in co-operation with the Minister for Education and other parents' groups. The Council will act as a forum for parents' views and opinions on educational policy.

PACCS role is to support Parents' Associations / Councils in their role. To do this PACCS:

- Have information / Training for parents to support schools and parents
- Have regions for individual parents Associations / Councils to meet with other schools in their area to discuss regional issues, transport, catchment areas etc
- Have a rep from PACCS to attend individual schools to support, inform, and talk to parents about their role in the school and the education system.
- Have PACCS executive to work on motions passed at conference and discuss and resolve issues with our educational partners. ACCS, NPCpp, Unions, Department of Education and Science, State Exam. Opposition spokespersons on education.
- To keep parents up to date in educational matters with our website [www.paccs.ie](http://www.paccs.ie)
- Active in seeking adequate representation for parents on the Statutory Curriculum and Examinations Board.
- Is active in assisting Parents in the formation of Parents' Associations/Groups.
- Is providing advice and guidelines to help parents strengthen their Associations.
- Is meeting with teachers' unions, managerial bodies, education officers and groups etc., promoting an understanding and acceptance of the role of parents.

## Role of Parents

1. Since parents are the primary educators, it is essential that their responsibilities to their children extend to their involvement in the education process.
2. There is general agreement that parental involvement is essential to a child's education.
3. Research has shown that children's achievement at school **is** importantly related to the degree of interest shown at home.
4. Parents and teachers should act as partners in the education process.  
The development of links between the home and school along the following lines can produce the necessary stimulus where school management, teachers, parents and, particularly, pupils can benefit to a major degree.

## AIMS OF HOME SCHOOL LINKS

1. To provide a greater understanding of the child and of his/her need and so help to improve the quality of his/her general development.
2. To help parents develop a deeper insight into the nature of Schools. To add extra dimension to the teacher's range of skills and information
3. To emphasise the educational importance of parents and the paramount importance of their influence
4. To develop and strengthen mutually supportive influences and values to develop and strengthen lines of communication
5. To build up the view that progress depends upon partnership.