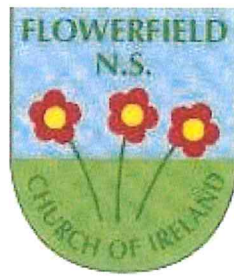


Principal: Naomi Kelly  
Deputy Principal: Vanessa Patterson  
(Roll No. 127880)



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C15XV20

## **Parent Helper Guidelines**

Thank you for volunteering to help our children in school. We feel that the involvement of parents in children's education is vital and we encourage active participation in many ways.

Some parents come to school to help with a variety of tasks such as ICT, cooking, reading and usually work with small groups in specific classes. Other parents help when the children are taken on visits outside school. In whatever way parents offer their time, we are always extremely grateful.

### **Aistear**

The parents' role will involve assisting small groups with activities during Aistear time, under the direction and guidance of the class teacher.

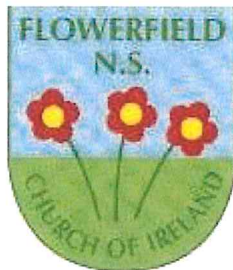
There will be a rota drawn up by the principal and class teacher.

Parent volunteers will assist the class teacher with all types of play, including the setting up of project work, arts and crafts and any other types of play. From time to time you may also assist the teacher with reading and writing stations. It will involve parents assisting and working with small groups during play. Parents will also be involved in the change over of Aistear activities every 4-6 weeks.

There will be opportunities throughout the term to meet with the principal and teachers involved where discussions can take place and matters can be reviewed, if necessary. As a school community, we are constantly evolving and this will be reflected in THE parents' role.

Parents will be invited to a training meeting in Flowerfield N.S., which will involve going through the Parent Volunteer Policy, Health and Safety Policies, Child Protection Policies and any other policies which the principal feels may be relevant to parents' involvement in Flowerfield N.S.

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## **Mission Statement**

Flowerfield N.S. strives to create a happy, friendly, inclusive, education environment where each child is unique and valued. We are a welcoming school where diverse talents are appreciated and the school community works together respectfully. We cooperate to have a peaceful and safe atmosphere in which to learn and teach. We nurture each person's potential and aspire to excellence.

Parent helpers have a valuable role in helping us to fulfil these aims.

Flowerfield N. S. is a primary school under the patronage of the Church of Ireland. We aim to reflect the characteristic spirit of the Church of Ireland ethos.

Our school welcomes children from the Church of Ireland community and children of other denominations and faiths and those with none. A culture of inclusivity is fostered within the wider school community.

We are committed to equality of access to children with special educational needs and children with general learning disabilities; procedures are in place to identify children who require additional support and to secure the additional resources to assist them in furthering their education.

The development/education of a child begins within the home and then continues in conjunction with the school as the child begins to relate to the outside world and people beyond family and close friends.

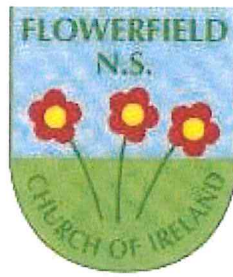
Within a Church of Ireland ethos, Flowerfield National School provides an environment based on justice (mutual respect for others and their property) in which each child's academic, social and personal development can take place.

Therefore, regulations governing the health, welfare and safety of the pupils form the basis for good behaviour, tolerance and mutual respect.

## **Garda Vetting**

There is now a requirement for schools to carry out garda vetting checks for all staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children. In order for you to work in school as a volunteer, you will need to complete a Garda vetting form (available from the school office).

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## Confidentiality

It is very important that all staff, parent volunteers and other adults working in the school work to a policy of confidentiality. You may see children struggling with work, be upset or misbehaving, or hear/see other information concerning a child while you are with us in school. It is vital that you do not share anything about specific children with friends or family or a child's parent if you know them. The teachers here have the responsibility of informing parents of any concerns about a child.

Volunteers working in classrooms should do so on the understanding that they support the teaching staff and will not pass opinions on such matters as behaviour management or teaching styles outside the school.

## Other Guidelines

Please do not worry about your child's behaviour while you are helping as often he/she will behave quite differently if mum/dad is there. Most children soon get used to their parent helping in class and settle down after a few weeks.

Please don't have favourites. As humans, we are drawn to certain individuals but it is important that all children in school are given equal time and attention.

Please encourage the children to be independent. In school we expect children to try everything themselves before we help them.

If you are unable to be in school as planned, please let the class teacher know either in person or by telephoning/emailing the office.

## Thank You!

In case we forget to say, please be assured that we really do appreciate your help (we may sometimes forget, because we are so busy, but we do).

Ratified by the Board of Management on 27/09/23

Signed: Tom Clarte Chairperson 27/09/23 Date