

Ashgrove Primary School

Policy
On
Parental
Access to
Teachers

1 January 2005
VERSION 1:1

Parental Access To Teachers

In recognising that the education of our children is a partnership between the home and school, the Board of Governors, the principal and the teaching staff seek to allow parents and guardians access to their child's teacher and the principal at all reasonable times. The principal, as the day-to-day manager of the school, will seek to ensure that all such contact is conducted in a manner that will promote the pastoral, educational and professional interests of everyone involved.

As parental attitudes to school and the teacher directly influence the child it is important that all exchanges between school and home are based on assumed respect for the other's knowledge of, and concern for, the child's welfare. Pupils have much to gain from the shared interest of parents and guardians with teachers. Each has an in-depth knowledge of the child in different contexts. The sharing of this information in a positive way can help the pupil to feel valued and to achieve his/her full potential. It is important that pupils feel secure within the working relationship between home and school.

The means of expressing this working relationship are diverse but parents and guardians will appreciate that some guidelines are necessary as each teacher has responsibility for a large group of children.

Parents are asked to report to reception upon entering school and before visiting any teacher – even in a mobile classroom.

Children often take the behaviour and speech of adults as an example and parents are requested to conform to the atmosphere of calm, patience, encouragement, respect, happiness and trust.

Contacts between parents/guardians and teachers are encouraged and will include:

- casual or informal exchanges of information made for routine housekeeping purposes e.g. dental appointments, illness, lost property, etc;
- meetings to discuss the pupil's academic progress; and
- more sensitive, wider issues involving school policies that are causing concern to either party. In such circumstances an appointment may be made and the issues clarified in advance to enable the parent/guardian and the teacher to make appropriate preparation.

On the advice of the North Eastern Education and Library Board the school has put in place arrangements for addressing the most serious situations where the approach of a parent/guardian might amount to harassment of teachers in the workplace. Thankfully such situations are rare in the school system and, we believe, unlikely to occur in the context of this school. The Board of Governors, principal and staff would like to thank parents and guardians for their co-operation and support in this matter and look forward to the continued strengthening of home/school partnerships.

Ashgrove Primary School

Ashgrove Road, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, BT36 6LJ

Principal: Peter B Waddell B Ed Dip Sc Ed

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telephone: **028 9084 8734** fax: **028 9084 4483**



Licence To Enter School Premises

Date:

Dear

With reference to your recent visit to school I note that your behaviour seriously contravened the school's policy on promoting effective working relationships between parents and teachers. In light of these circumstances I now give you notice of the intention to revoke your licence to enter school premises.

In future you should not come onto the school premises without an appointment arranged through me. If granted permission to enter school you should refrain from any behaviour that might be considered by the staff as inappropriate.

Should you fail to comply with the above I will liaise with the North-Eastern Education and Library Board to seek an injunction excluding you from coming within the school gates.

You have the right to comment on this letter and the school's intention to revoke your licence. Any response should be in writing.

Yours sincerely

Peter B Waddell
(Principal)

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Date:

Dear

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the above matter.

The situation has now been reviewed in the light of the assurances of acceptable behaviour given by or on behalf of yourself. It has been agreed in the interests of your child/children to restore normal access arrangements to the appropriate school staff.

In welcoming your positive assurances it should be noted that the school will continue to keep this situation under review.

Yours sincerely

Peter B Waddell
(Principal)