

Scoil Náisiúnta an Chroí Ró-Naofa

Uimhir Rolla: 13741Q
Fón: 057-8626270
E-mail: office@rathns.com
principal@rathns.com
Web: www.rathns.ie



An Ráth
Bailebriotá,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois
R32Y510

Parent / Guardian Communication Guidelines

Introduction and Aims

The Board of Management and staff of Rath N.S. value and respect our relationships with parents and guardians. As the primary educators, we encourage parents to play an active role in their child's learning and school experience. Over the years, we believe these relationships have helped foster a culture of learning, empathy, wellbeing and a shared understanding of respect. In the main, we feel this joined-up partnership approach and vision has helped develop well-rounded, mature and confident young people.

The aim of this document is to guide and promote effective and respectful communications between parents/guardians and school staff. These communications are essential to support pupil success and create a positive educational environment. When both parties approach conversations with mutual understanding, empathy, and a shared goal of helping the child thrive, it leads to better outcomes.

Why Respectful Communication Matters

Children benefit most when their parents/guardians and educators work together as a team. Respectful communication helps:

- **Build trust and partnership:** It sets a foundation for collaboration.
- **Prevent misunderstandings:** Clear, respectful dialogue can avoid conflict and confusion.
- **Model good behaviour:** Adults who communicate respectfully set a strong example for students.
- **Promote student well-being:** A cohesive support system reduces stress and improves outcomes for the child.
- **Restorative approach:** We separate the person from any issue.

Also, as stated in our school Code of Behaviour, *"parents have a responsibility to model the school's standards of behaviour in their dealings with children, other parents and staff in the school"*.

Key Principles of Respectful Communication

- **Active Listening**
Both parents and teachers should take time to listen without interrupting or making assumptions. Listening carefully shows respect and helps each side understand the other's perspective.

- **Clarity and Honesty**
Open and honest communication builds trust. Both parties should feel comfortable sharing concerns or feedback in a clear but considerate way.
- **Tone and Language**
Respectful language, a calm tone, and avoiding blame are critical, especially when addressing challenges. Even difficult topics can be approached constructively.
- **Mutual Respect for Roles**
Teachers are professionals with training in education, while parents are experts on their children. Respecting each other's insights leads to more effective problem-solving.

Means of Communication

- If you are concerned about your child in any way, please contact the school to arrange a face to face meeting or a phone call with the class teacher. This is by appointment only. It is good practice to outline what the concern is in relation to when making the appointment.
- Teachers may also be contacted on less important matters via their designated school email address. *We strongly advise not to use school email addresses for more serious concerns.*
- As per agreed guidelines, the class teacher is the first point of contact in these situations. At times, it may be appropriate to contact the school principal or the relevant special education needs teacher.

Summary

- We value and respect the positive relationship school staff have with parents/guardians.
- School staff will communicate respectfully and professionally at all times.
- We expect parents/guardians to be respectful in their dealings with school staff.
- Emails sent directly to teachers may not be the most appropriate form of communication if an issue needs to be discussed. We ask you to make an appointment through the school office for a face-to-face meeting or phone call.
- Be conscious that school staff have a right to disconnect outside of normal working hours.

These guidelines were ratified by the Board of Management on November 26th 2025.

Signed: Tom Blanche (Chairperson)

Date: 26-11-2025

Signed: Tommy Fitzgerald (Principal)

Date: 26-11-2025