

Barachel Christian Academy

POLICY REGARDING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Parents who care for their children only want what is beneficial for them. It is therefore necessary for parents to have a say in the affairs governing the education of their children. Because of love there is a mutual bond of trust between parent and child. This is a very important relationship between the two. If certain things happen outside this relationship, of which one party is not aware of, it harms the relationship. One such thing is what happens at school with the child. It is therefore important that the parent knows what goes on at school.

2. CORE STATEMENT

Without the co-operation and active interest of the parent the task of educating the child becomes too much for the school. It is therefore necessary that the parents take care of their children both physically and mentally. That they ensure their children attend school regularly. Furthermore they must encourage, lead, support and be interested in their children's activities at school.

Parents must become more involved in the education of their children. The School Governing Body, principal and educators must do everything in their power to get the co-operation of the parents so that they can become more involved in school activities.

3. CONTINUITY

It is very important that there is continuity in the education of the child at home and at school. To accomplish this the educator must be familiar with the living conditions of the children and the parents must become part of the school's activities.

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Parents should take an interest in all assignments their children bring home. These assignments are their window into the classroom – a continuous link between the school and the home.

4. HOW TO GET PARENTS INVOLVED

Many parents do not know how to become involved in their child's education at school. A lot of them are shy and feel inadequate because of their poverty and lack of education. We must reach out to these parents so that we can stop complaining that the parents are not interested in the school. It is our duty as educators to get the parents interested in the school. Get the parents on your side and in the school by doing the following:

(a) Home visits are valuable in order to develop a good relationship between the school and home. These visits should have as its primary aim the well-being of the learner. It should afford the educator the opportunity to

- know the parents better;
- show interest in what the parents do or cannot do for their children;
- talk about matters such as the child's progress, study facilities, etc;
- give the parents advice on matters concerning their children.

Remember it bears more fruit to talk about the child's good points and achievements than just to dwell on all the negative aspects whereby only the child's weak points are highlighted. If parents use the opportunity for grievances the educator should listen sympathetically without making remarks that could embarrass the school.

(b) Appointments by parents to discuss their children's progress or problems must be encouraged.

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- (c) Parents must be kept informed about school activities by way of circulars and reports.
- (d) Parents must be informed timeously about continuous absenteeism, neglect of duties, weak progress and behavioral problems of their children.
- (e) Parent / Educator meetings, where parents have the opportunity to inspect their children's work must be held at least once per quarter.
- (f) The School Management Team, as representatives of the parent community must liaise on a regular basis with parents.

5. CONCLUSION

Taking everything into account it is a fact that successful teaching can only take place in

- an atmosphere where there is trust – trust between parent and child, between educator and child and between educator and parent;
- a spirit of co-operation between parent, learner and educator;
- a spirit of unity where parent, child and educator strive toward a common goal.