

The Constitution of the Parent Association of Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg.

1. The Purpose of the Parent Association

The purpose of the parent association is to provide a structure through which the parents/guardians of children attending Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg can work together for the best possible education for their children. The parent association will work with the board of management, principal and staff to build effective partnership of home and school.

2. The Aim of the Parent Association

The aim of the parent association is to enable parents to play their part in ensuring the best possible education for their children, through the association's programme of activities. The parent association will promote the interests of the students in co-operation with the board, principal, teachers and students, in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Education Act, 1998.

Other aims include:

- To promote all aspects of the diversity of Irish Culture
- To assist in fundraising
- To act as a forum for information/discussion and consultation on aspects of school life
- To act as the representative body of the general body of parents
- To acknowledge and respect the interdenominational aspect of the school life of the child
- To nurture a mutual respect between teachers and parents
- To act as an advisory support group to the school community

3. The Work of the Parent Association

The parent association will undertake a programme of activities which will promote the involvement of parents and which will support pupils, parents and school staff. In planning its activities, the parent association will consult with the board of management and the school principal. The parent association may advise the board and principal on any matters relating to the school in accordance with the Education Act, 1998, 26 2 (a) and will refer complaints/major issues to the board of management or principal/teacher.

4. The Membership of the Parent Association

All parents or guardians of children attending Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg are deemed to be members of the parent association.

5 The Committee of the Parent Association

The members of the parent association will elect a number of members who will have responsibility for managing the activities of the parent association. This team will serve as the committee of the parent association. The committee will elect the officers of the committee, including the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, from among their number.

6. The work of the Committee of the Parent Association

The committee is the team that will manage the tasks of the association on behalf of the parent body (the members). The committee will draw up a plan for the activities of the association, in consultation with parents. The committee will be responsible for seeing that activities are run in an efficient and effective way. The committee will consult with the board of management and school principal when planning the programme of activities for a particular year. The committee will be responsible for ensuring that it puts in place, in consultation with the board and the principal, arrangements for ongoing communications between them. The committee is accountable to and will report to the parent body (the members) about the work of the committee at the annual general meeting (AGM). The committee will manage and account for any funds collected by the parent association. The committee will ensure that, as far as is practicable, insurance cover is in place for activities organised by the Parent Association.

7. Membership of the Committee

The members will elect the members of the committee each year at the AGM of the Parent Association. The elected number of the committee will have a maximum of approximately 12 with a minimum of 6, excluding the parent representatives elected to the board. Each member will be elected for one year, with three to five members remaining on at the end of each term in order to provide continuity. Members may go forward for re-election. If re-elected, members may serve for a maximum of three consecutive years in an officer post.

Parent representatives elected to the board of management are automatically members of the committee, but will not hold an officer post.

A member of the committee may only be dismissed for serious misconduct subject to the Committee's Code of Conduct. Such dismissal will require a simple majority vote of the remainder of the entire committee.

8. Election of Members

At least one month prior to the AGM the secretary or other officer of the outgoing committee will seek in writing nominations for membership of the committee, where possible giving equal representation to each class. Voting on the election of members will be by secret ballot at the AGM. Where there are 12 or fewer nominees, those nominees will be deemed elected.

If a vacancy arises during the year for any reason, the committee may co-opt the nominee with the next highest number of votes who failed to be elected or may hold a by-election within one month of that vacancy having occurred.

9. Co-options and sub-committees

The committee may co-opt people onto the committee to assist in their work. Sub-committees can be set up for particular tasks. The sub-committees may also co-opt people to assist in their work. The sub-committees may not make decisions. They are accountable to the main committee.

10. Meetings of the Committee

The committee will meet once a month from September to June each school year on a date to be agreed by the members at the start of each school year. The committee may invite the principal and/or teachers to attend meetings as appropriate. At least three members of the committee will be entitled to call for a meeting of the committee at short notice, depending on the urgency of a particular matter.

Resolutions will be passed by a simple majority of members present and voting. A quorum of 50%+1 of committee members will need to be present before making decisions. Where there is a tied vote, the chairperson will have the casting vote.

Minutes of the meetings will be recorded and approved at the next meeting.

11. Finance

The parent association will retain an agreed percentage of all fund raising to finance its own activities. A treasurer will be responsible for keeping the accounts of the parent association finances. A written statement of income and expenditure will be given at the AGM. The parent association will keep a bank account in its name. The treasurer and at least one other member of the committee must sign cheques drawn on the account.

12. Fund-raising for the School

Fundraising for the school by the parent association will be done with the prior agreement of the board. The parent association committee will agree with the board the specific school projects for which funds are to be raised by the Parent Association.

13. Membership of National Parents Council Primary

The parent association will affiliate to National Parents Council Primary annually.

14. A.G.M.

The AGM will be held on an annual basis during the autumn term. The committee will set the agenda which must include the following:

- Adoption of the minutes of the last general meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Election of committee (and officers with effect from the 2003 AGM) and declaration of results
- Any Other Business

Except as provided by this constitution, resolutions will be passed by a majority of members present and voting.

15. E.G.M.

An E.G.M. of the association may be called by the committee of the Parent Association or by a written request from at least 33% of the members of the association. Such requests will be made to the secretary or, in his/her absence, to another officer of the committee. On receipt of such a request, the officer will issue without delay a notice of the EGM and the agenda, giving at least 3 and at most 7 day's notice for the meeting.

An E.G.M. should be called only to discuss a topic which can not reasonably await discussion at the next A.G.M.

The quorum for an E.G.M. will be 33% of the membership of the association. However, should less than 50% of the membership be present, no decision taken at the E.G.M. will be binding until put to the entire parent body by secret ballot.

16. Amendment of the Constitution

The constitution may be changed by a simple majority of parents present at the A.G.M.