

Home School Community Liaison

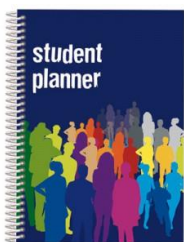
The Home School Community Liaison scheme has been in operation for more than twenty years in Ireland. The National Education Welfare Board is responsible for the scheme. A school which has the scheme has a dedicated Teacher appointed to work as an intermediary between home and school. That teacher in Finn Valley College is currently Angela Ward.

The main aim of the HSCL is to promote partnership between parents and teachers to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for students. It is hoped that by teachers and parents working together, children will be more likely to come to school, be active and participants in school life and remain at school.

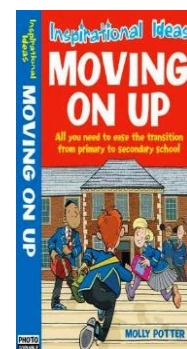
Finn Valley College promotes initiatives and activities that encourage parents and guardians to become more involved in their children's education.



HOW DOES THE SCHOOL ENCOURAGE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT?



1. The **Student Journal** is the main daily mode of facilitating communication between parents and teachers. Parents are encouraged to sign the student diary every evening, check for notes from teachers and/or share information with a teacher in the space provided.
2. **Student Reports** are posted home at least twice annually. This comprehensive document shows academic, behavioural and attendance progress.
3. **Parent Teacher Meetings** are generally held shortly after the issuing of a school report. Teachers and parents can plan how best to work together to improve the educational outcomes for the children.
4. **Other Correspondence** may include text messages re upcoming events and phone calls or letters from the Year Head/Guidance Counsellor/SEN Coordinator/HSCL Teacher.
5. **Parent/Guardian Support** the HSCL/SEN Coordinator/Guidance Counsellor is available to discuss issues and difficulties a child may be having in school and can offer direction. Parents and Teachers can work together to devise a short-term/long-term support plan tailored to meet the individual needs of the child.
6. **Attendance** is monitored daily by the Tracking Secretary who may phone home to determine why a child is absent. Poor school attendance will merit input from the HSCL teacher who will work with the parent to find solutions to improve the child's attendance.
7. **Parent Classes** are organised by the HSCL Teacher. The classes are generally free of charge and are open to all parents. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming classes. If a parent has any suggestions for a particular night class please contact angelaward@donegaletb.ie. Classes can take the form of six week courses or workshops over an evening. The school offers well-attended classes on positive parenting, healthy eating and wellbeing.
8. **Induction Programme** for incoming first years begins early in the year. Primary school visits by the Principal and his team ensure all students are equipped with the information they need before deciding on a secondary school. Open Day for students of sixth class takes place in November with open night for parents providing further information that same evening.
9. **Transition Programme** for first years ensures that the school is aware of the needs of the child before they commence school. The SEN Coordinator/HSCL Teacher visits the local primary schools after enrolment to meet with the 6th class teachers/Principal/Teacher of Learning Support/parents and other professionals e.g. NEPS Psychologist where appropriate. This allows a plan to be drawn up before the child commences first year. Special visits to Finn Valley College can be arranged for individual sixth class students where necessary. The Transition Programme for incoming first years normally includes two full days at the school where students become familiar with the school environment, their new peers and the general operation of the school.
10. **Information Evenings** are provided for parents of new first years and for parents whose children are selecting subjects for their Leaving Certificate. Programme information evenings e.g. JCSP/LCA are also held to ensure parents are informed.





2016/17



HSCL ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 16th November Open Night for Parents
1st December Enrolment Night



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

ALL SECOND YEARS WILL TAKE PART IN DROP EVERYTHING AND READ WEEKLY FOR THREE CLASS PERIODS OVER SIX WEEKS BEGINNING MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ AT HOME EVERY EVENING AND SIGN THEIR READING RECORD AT THE BACK OF THEIR DIARY. THERE WILL BE A QUIZ WITH GREAT PRIZES ON 5TH DECEMBER.



14th November @1:50

Two hour Workshop for girls addressing such issues as friendship, wellbeing and self-esteem. Anyone who has not returned their permissions slip, please return to Ms Ward ASAP.



7-9pm over six Wednesdays. Your tutor is Frankie Duddy.

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Parent Teacher Meetings

Thurs 27th October 1st and 5th years

Tues 22nd November 2nd, 3rd and 4th Years

Tues 21st March 1st, 3rd and 5th years

PRIZE GIVING

Thursday May 25th 2017

Finn Valley College
Gymnasium



JIGSAW DONEGAL

Young people's
health in mind

All parents are encouraged to attend the Workshop that Jigsaw have kindly agreed to host in the school. Strategies on supporting our children's mental health will be explored.



Wed 9th November

Finn Valley College

6.30-7.30



You are invited to a Coffee Morning in the School Library on **Thursday 8th December 10.30-12.00pm**. A guest speaker from Parentstop will be in attendance and will provide a short talk on wellbeing. Depending on uptake/interest Parentstop may run a Parenting Course in the School at a later date. Parentstop is a free and confidential support service for parents based in Co Donegal. Parents come to Parentstop for one-to-one advice and support on any parenting challenge they are facing at that moment in time.

Home School Community Liason

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

www.scoilnet.ie/parents

www.parentstop.ie

www.jigsaw.ie

www.education.ie

[www.schooldays.ie](http://www schooldays.ie)

www.stateexaminations.ie

www.npcpp.ie

www.webwise.ie

www.ncca.ie

www.ncse.ie

www.tusla.ie

www.donegalyouthservice.ie

www.herostartswithher.ie

For further information or support contact Angela Ward, HSCL:
0749131684

Or e-mail: angelaward@donegaletb.ie.

