



## **St. Louise de Marillac Primary School, Drumfinn Rd., Ballyfermot, Dublin 10**

### **Home/School/Community/Liaison (HSCL) Policy**

#### Introductory Statement

This policy has been formulated and reviewed in line with the updated Department of Education and Skills Circular relating to the HSCL Scheme (Circular 0058/2013, Amended August 2014), the clarification of Circular 0058/2013 issued in December 2014 as well as the Information Booklet for DEIS schools (May 2014).

The principal teacher, the HSCL teacher, staff members and the Parents Association were involved in reviewing the policy.

#### Rationale

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School is a DEIS Band 1 school and therefore has been assigned a Home/School/Community/Liaison Co-ordinator (HSCL) since the inception of the scheme in 1990.

In 2009, operational responsibility for the HSCL Scheme was transferred to the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB), which had statutory functions in respect of school attendance, through Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs).

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014, the statutory functions of the NEWB under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, were transferred to the newly established Child and Family Agency, *Tusla*, and the NEWB was dissolved. Responsibility for the services, formerly provided by NEWB, now rests with the Educational Welfare Services (EWS) of the new agency, which is the dedicated state agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. The work of HSCL continues as a vital part of the integrated Educational Welfare Services of the agency in DEIS Schools. The Department of Education and Skills (DES) remains responsible for the allocation of HSCL Coordinators to schools.

#### Relationship to the Characteristic Ethos of the School

This policy adheres to the Catholic spirit and ethos of the school which was founded as a Junior and Senior School in 1958/59 by the Daughters of Charity. In January 2012 the two schools were amalgamated to form St. Louise de Marillac Primary School. Up to January 2012, a HSCL co-ordinator was shared across the two schools. Since then the HSCL post is based in the amalgamated vertical school.

In our school's mission statement emphasis is placed on co-operation and teamwork and this is to be reflected in this policy. We also recognise and acknowledge parents as the primary educators of their children. When parents decide to send their child to our school they are entering a very important relationship.

“Partnership is a working relationship that is characterised by a shared sense of purpose, mutual respect and a willingness to negotiate.” (Gillian Pugh, *Working Towards Partnership in the Early Years*).

### Objectives

A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school community and this requires a commitment from parents.

This policy endorses the role and responsibilities of the teacher who is appointed to the HSCL post as well as the regulations and procedures regarding the appointment as set out by DES and Tusla in various circulars and information notes.

### Policy Content

This policy should be read in conjunction with its appendices.

The vision, values and priorities of the HSCL scheme as well as the role and responsibilities of the HSCL Coordinator in St. Louise’s are informed and directed by the publication “*Information Booklet for DEIS Schools participating in the Home School Community Liaison Scheme*” (amended version May 2014). It also lists the attributes necessary for a teacher appointed to the post. This document is included as *Appendix A* of this policy.

The appointment of the HSCL Co-ordinator within the school is governed by Circular 0058/2103 (amended version August 2014) which outlines the procedures for the assignment of HSCL Coordinators within DEIS Schools. This is included as *Appendix B* of the policy.

*Appendix C* issued in December 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 from the Social Inclusion Unit of DES clarifies issues arising from the 0058/2013 circular.

Our school’s “*Parents As Partners Policy*” which is included as *Appendix D* also informs the manner in which the HSCL coordinator will carry out the tasks associated with the role in our school.

Some of the requirements/regulations inter alia state that applicants for a HSCL post must have a minimum of three years fully registered qualified teaching service. There is a maximum period of 5 years allowed in the post. A HSCL teacher must vacate the HSCL position for a minimum period of 4 years before he/she is eligible to re-apply for the post. A Principal and Deputy Principal are not eligible to apply for the HSCL post and no job-sharing of the position is allowed.

St. Louise de Marillac Primary School has an agreed systematic cycle of review whereby new policies are reviewed after one year and subsequently every three years. In line with this, this policy will be reviewed in the academic year 2022 -2023 unless amended regulations come into place or other issues arise and the BoM deem it necessary to review the policy earlier.

Signed: Dr. Gerry Berry

Date: 23/6/2020

(Chairperson, Board of Management)