

2017 WINNER OF THE NPC INNOVATION AWARD

The Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's Junior and Senior Schools, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, with their project

'Our understanding of a Parents' Association'

Purpose of the project:

The Parents' Association wanted to find ways, other than running events and fundraising, to support the children, parents and the school and to engage more members. The Parents' Association wanted to make parents aware of the important role they play in their children's education.

Who needs to be involved?

The Parents' Association committee and parent volunteers.

How to implement in your school?

The Parents' Association used a 4 stage approach in their schools, this approach could be used in other schools.

Step 1: Create a new mission statement for the Parents' Association

To highlight the objective of the Parents' Association and to ensure parents know what the objective is – the new mission statement of St. Colmcille's PA is:

St. Colmcille's Parents' Association supports the Junior and Senior schools' mission and strategic direction and builds community through active parent engagement, ongoing communication and strong partnerships.

Step 2: Develop a new logo

Create a strong visual of what the Parents' Association represents. The Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's created a new logo comprised of the school colours and in the shape of a shamrock representing three intertwined groups; a) the parents b) the children and c) the school. The groups are intertwined working together to achieve one goal. The goal is to help each and every child to achieve his/her full potential.



Step 3: Set up a Facebook page

In order to engage more members and to make it easier for parents to connect with one another and to share information.

Step 4: Develop a new website

The Parents' Association of St. Colmcille's were in the lucky position to have a parent who works in IT create a new website for the Parents' Association www.stcolmcillespa.com which

includes a resource page, split into different categories such as sports, music, etc and in each category are links to websites of local clubs and activities. Other local Parents' Associations also share information on their events on this website and reciprocate by sharing St. Colmcille's events on their sites.

The Parents' Association put a lot of time and effort into the new website as they wanted to show parents that they are committed to building a strong community within the school and they realise how valuable the parent role is within a child's education.

Step 5: Share information with all parents

All the new endeavours by the Parents' Association were shared with parents via the PA's newsletter sent out by the school.

SPRING NEWSLETTER ST. COLMCILLE'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Spring is in the air and with it brings change and new beginnings. There has been a lot of work going on in the background over the last few months to revamp the Parents' Association's image. We hope you like the end result as much as we do!

