

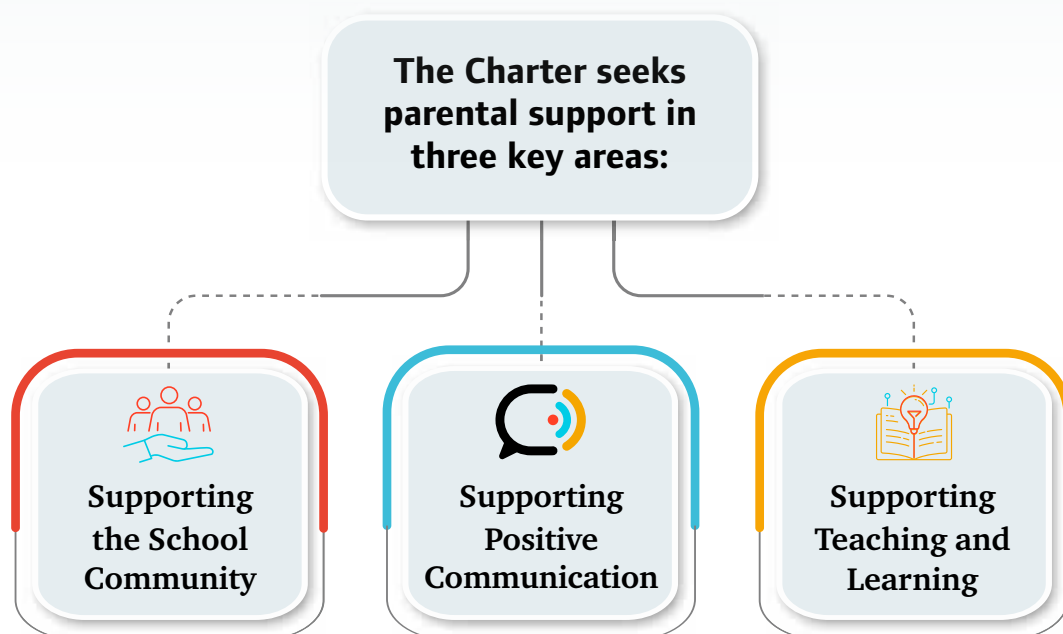


St. Gerard's School

PARENT AND GUARDIAN CHARTER

Introduction

At St. Gerard's School, we value the partnership between staff, parents, students and our wider community. As part of our **Strategic Plan 2030**, we have developed the **St. Gerard's School Parent and Guardian Charter** - a framework to promote respectful, collaborative engagement in line with our Mission, Vision, and Values.



By embracing these principles, we aim to cultivate a respectful, inclusive, and supportive environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Clear and respectful communication allows us to celebrate successes, address challenges, and work together to foster a thriving school community.

Supporting the School Community

As parents and guardians, your involvement is fundamental in building a thriving St. Gerard's School Community where all members - students, staff, parents - can flourish together.

Engagement in School Life

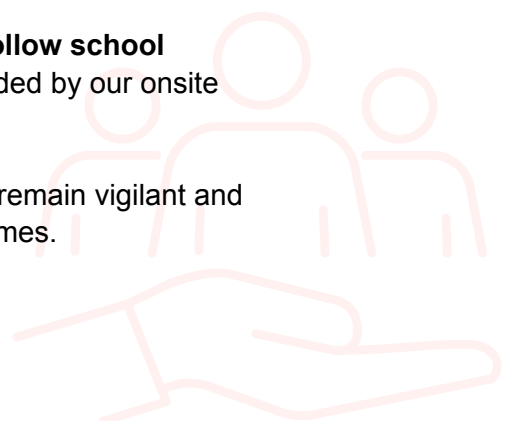
- Attending **Parent-Teacher Meetings** and **Parent Information Evenings** is essential for effective communication and collaboration between home and school.
- Supporting **key school events** such as Sports and Prize Day, St. Gerard's Day Mass, Carol Service and School Musical and Drama productions fosters a sense of belonging.
- We encourage and welcome your attendance at **school-organised and Parents' Association talks** and presentations on topical issues relevant to your child.
- We invite you to get involved by encouraging and supporting our students in extracurricular activities and sports, contributing to fundraising campaigns and initiatives, joining in School celebrations, or sharing your expertise on special projects. Your **participation** enriches our School community and helps our children thrive!

Promoting Respect and Inclusivity

- Our **School motto**, "**Memor**"-to be mindful, encourages all members of our School community to promote respect, kindness, and empathy within our community while celebrating the diversity that makes us unique.

Ensuring a Safe and Positive School Environment

- All members of our School community are required to **follow school parking protocols** and to adhere to the guidance provided by our onsite security and car park attendants.
- To ensure the safety of our students, we ask parents to remain vigilant and ensure adequate **supervision** of young children at all times.



Supporting Positive Communication

At St. Gerard's School, we aim to engage in **collaborative, supportive** and **constructive** communication between all members of our School community.

We are committed to working together to find positive solutions to issues that may arise. Should you have an important or complex concern, we encourage you to reach out to the class teacher, Head of Year, Deputy Principal or Principal to arrange a meeting. Should further support be needed, our School's *Complaints Procedure* is available as a next step or as an alternative approach.

To facilitate **positive communication and collaboration** between School and home we ask that parents/guardians observe the following guidelines:

Communication

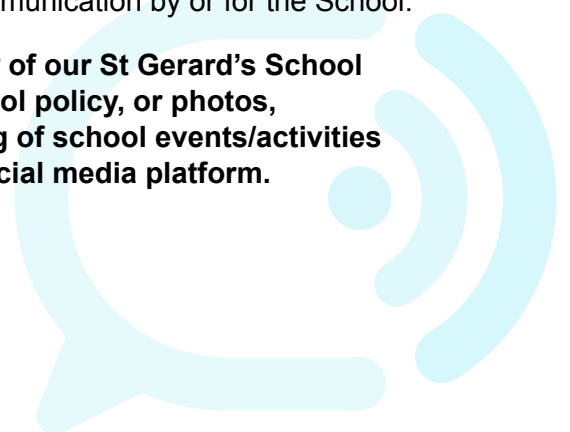
- All members of our School community should maintain the **highest standards of conduct** when interacting with students, members of staff, Sports Coaches and other parents/guardians.
- Everyone must ensure that the language used in conversations that take place on the school grounds or at any School-related events is **respectful and appropriate**.
- All members of the School community should be mindful of **not labelling incidents** inappropriately or prematurely.

Email

- **Respect, courtesy and consideration** must be shown in written communications with all members of the School community.
- Parents/guardians should be aware that while staff will respond as promptly as possible, communications received outside working hours may be addressed during school hours.

Social Media/ WhatsApp Groups

- We ask that parents/guardians seek relevant information from **official School channels**. **Class/Year-Group WhatsApp groups** are **not** an official means of communication by or for the School.
- **Comments about any member of our St Gerard's School community or about any School policy, or photos, screen-grabs or live-streaming of school events/activities must not be shared on any social media platform.**



Supporting Teaching and Learning

A strong home-school partnership ensures that every child receives the best educational experience possible.

Supporting School Policies and Procedures

- Familiarity with the following policies ensures a consistent approach between home and School:
 - **Junior School:** Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying Policy); ICT Acceptable Use Policy; & Homework Policy.
 - **Senior School:** Code of Behaviour; Bí Cineálta (Anti-Bullying Policy); ICT Acceptable Use Policy, Homework; Study & Revision Guidelines; & Uniform and Deportment Policy.
- Completing Student Information Forms and Medical Forms promptly assists the School in remaining informed and up-to-date.
- It is important to follow School guidelines regarding student **health, safety, and emergency procedures**, including sickness, medication, and allergies.

Supporting Attendance, Punctuality and Participation

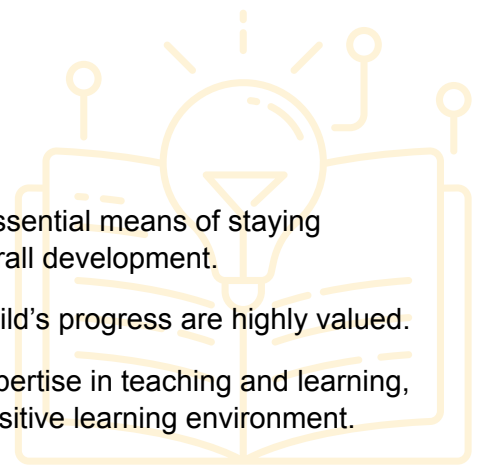
- **Punctuality** and **consistent attendance** are essential to a child's academic success and overall development.
- Encouraging your child to **participate fully** in our **School's Extra-Curricular Activities** and extensive **Games Programme** contributes to their holistic development.
- Please notify the School of all absences through the appropriate channels.

Supporting Your Child

- Ensuring children have the **necessary books and materials** sets them up for success.
- Familiarity with our **online learning platforms and apps** such as Google Classroom & Aladdin Connect (Junior School) and VS Ware & St. Gerard's Unique App (Senior School) helps you stay engaged with your child's education.

Supporting The Teacher

- Your engagement with your child's **School Reports** are an essential means of staying informed about their academic progress, behaviour, and overall development.
- Your **engagement, contribution and insights** about your child's progress are highly valued.
- Your support of teachers as **professional educators** with expertise in teaching and learning, assessment and classroom management helps to foster a positive learning environment.



Our Shared Commitment - *We sincerely thank you for your commitment and ongoing support as we continue to foster our Mission, Vision and Values.*