

The Role of Parents in School – Relevant Legislation

Constitution of Ireland (1937)

Article 42 of The Irish Constitution (1937) sets out the rights and responsibilities in relation to the education of children, among other things, that the parent is the primary educator of the child and also that the State shall provide for free primary education.

Education Act, 1998

- Recognises parents as partners in the education process
- Promotes contact between the school, parents of students and the community
- Provides for the establishment of a parent association in schools and that the board of management should assist in this process.

Education (Welfare) Act, 2000

This Act provides for a number of matters in relation to a child's attendance at school, including the requirement to notify the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) of absences of 20 school days or more. The Act also requires parents to notify the school of any reasons for a child's absence.

Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2019-2023

The Governance Manual provides for (in most schools) the election of a mother and father nominee as part of the board of management, which runs the school on behalf of the Patron.

Education (Student and Parent Charter) Bill 2019

The Student and Parent Charter Bill (due to be enacted shortly) proposes to make schools more accountable and sets out the joint roles of parents, schools and children as education stakeholders.