

## **Appendix 2: Strategies for building relationships**

### ***Strategies for building relationships within Board of Management***

- Have a social night; social event after meeting to familiarise members with each other; tea and biscuit – before/after
- Hold regular meetings; Train/learn together as a team
- Work on policies together – do one policy area at each meeting perhaps
- Share responsibility – assign tasks more broadly – work to peoples' strengths/skills, delegate tasks to members according to interests/abilities
- Ensure everyone's voice is heard at meetings
- Share basic information with all members – empower people – give everyone confidence through knowledge – make them comfortable
- Keep length of meeting to 2 hours approximately
- Number of meetings over the year laid out clearly – minimum 5
- Annual 'get together' (Christmas) with BoM; Parents Association members
- Fund Raising activities; Saturday morning breakfast to meet parents involved
- Prize giving time – parents in attendance; attend school celebrations/assemblies
- Sub-committee to have brainstorming sessions

### ***Building relationships between Board and School Staff***

- Board get to know school staff – maybe arrange a function or meeting at start and then again at end of year for all
- Distribute list of staff members and BoM members to each group
- Sheet with classes and teachers'/support staff names giving to BoM members
- Mark the celebration of events in school as a Board/Staff meeting
- Social occasions – some boards may doubt value of such functions but this interaction is very valuable; social functions should play an important part in familiarisation; perhaps if funds cannot be found for social occasion – might be paid for by people themselves
- Board invites teachers to drinks/wine and cheese – affirmation very important
- Social events to meet informally – Christmas drinks, tea/coffee
- Working Groups: BoM reps.; Staff reps.; Parents reps working on school policies and procedures; sports days/special occasions. BoM invited to such occasions/events, e.g. school concerts ... 'Service of Light'/festivals etc.
- Make sure staff know names of each new board member - memo to teaching staff informing them of names of the BoM; Board should also be made aware of those on parents' committees, etc.
- Involve Board as much as possible in day-to-day events in school; Open day (art exhibition)
- Newsletter informing parents and staff of news items
- Formal discussion at BoM meeting re the importance of members' availability for social/informal meeting

### ***Building relationships between Boards, Parents and Pupils***

- Communication – Names of new Board members to parents and pupils
- Newsletter – about school issues
- Open Day – where Board member would meet parents
- Parent Association meeting with Board – information and social
- Presentation of awards to pupils
- Attendance at pupil events – games and concerts
- Graduation night
- Attendance at religious celebrations/events/festivals
- Pupil involvement in projects
- Joint fundraising
- Children's council have access to Board. Tell their issues
- Be visible on daily basis
- June – internal induction day for pupils and parents; Open days; Coffee morning, especially for parent of junior infants
- Parents' Association works co-operatively with BoM and information should be shared
- Board members to be included at functions – be present at local events relating to school/community
- Dance club/swimming club – parents involved; may need teachers to be involved
- Pub quiz/race nights

### ***Building relationship between Board and Local Community***

- Make school available for various groups – within ethos of school
- Board members available – e.g. open days.
- Communicate through newsletter, church
- Establish lines of communication, via school/principal
- Raise profile on BoM among parents
- Invite representatives from the wider community to be part of the Board
- Get involved in community initiatives, e.g., wisdom of age and youth; build links with local council; meet local politicians
- Community based fundraising – e.g. Christmas fair
- Contributing to fundraisers e.g. Amnesty International, Co-operation North
- Inviting people into the school e.g., gardai, local doctors, Health Board, Youth Services
- Inviting speakers in to give talks e.g., bullying, anti-drugs
- Building positive relations with local media –invite them to cover event
- Always thank people for their contribution
- Make the board known to local community
- Build relationships with local businesses

- Make connection with local developers/builders for mutual benefit
- Support local groups, e.g., Tidy Town, Green Schools initiatives
- Bring in members of the community to talk to children about their profession
- Accommodate transition year pupils, teaching practice, special needs assistants for work experience
- Contact local agencies
- Meet with other BoMs in local schools
- Send out Newsletters
- Engage the support of local businesses
- Work with and through the Parents Association
- Make contact with sports bodies/leisure bodies
- Newsletter – BoM – taking a slot in a local newsletter/paper
- Attend local Community Meetings
- Attend local celebrations representing the school in an official capacity