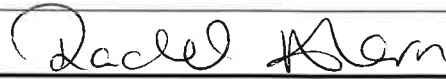

 Killorglin Community Childcare Centre CLG			PARENTS AS PARTNERS POLICY		
POLICY NO.:	CCP No. 5	REV. NO.:	10	REV. DATE:	01.04.2025

PREPARED BY:	 Centre Manager	Date: 2/4/25
APPROVED BY:	 Board of Directors	Date: 15/5/25

This policy is a requirement of the Childcare Act 1991.

Killorglin Community Early Years Care and Education Centre acknowledges the crucial role of parents as primary educators of their children. The Board of Directors, management and staff of the service are committed to being open, inclusive, welcoming, accepting, and respectful of all parents using the service.

A copy of all our Policies and Procedures is available in the Entrance Hall of the centre. Copies of our parent's handbook is also available at the reception area. Copies of the policies and procedures as well as the parent information booklet are also available on the Scamps and Scholars website.

A warm welcome is provided for all parents each morning facilitating a brief daily exchange of information with each parent when relevant.

Notice boards are provided for current information, leaflets, Tusla information, contact numbers and relevant statutory documents as required by the Child Care (Pre-school services) Regulations 2006 and subsequent legislation.

We also communicate verbally, via SMS and digitally (including Facebook, website and Childpaths) and email to enhance the smooth sharing of events and information.

We display some artwork and photos of children internally in the rooms and around the centre. We provide a daily report for all children via Child Paths.

All information relating to each service including curriculum, menus, etc., is on the main notice board and the notice boards of the rooms and is updated weekly. This information is also relayed via Childpaths and/or email.

We occasionally supply newsletters and written correspondence when appropriate to do so.

We periodically utilise a Parental Survey for parents to voice their opinions on our Service.

The Centre values all parents individually and ensures opportunities for them to contribute to the group's activities.

We have a suggestions box in our reception area and welcome any constructive ideas to enhance our service and parents/guardians are equally welcome to email suggestions to the centre.

The management and staff work in partnership with Parents and families to ensure:

The development of each child - physically, language and cognitively, socially and emotionally through the curriculum and programmes, activities and experience provided by qualified, professional and caring staff.

Terminology that we Use - Guardianship, Custody and Access Information:

Guardianship:

Guardianship in Ireland describes the legal responsibility of parents to make decisions and perform duties in relation to their child's upbringing.

Custody:

Custody in Ireland refers to the day-to-day care, residency and upbringing of children who are regarded as dependent children. Dependent children in custody matters are children who are under the age of eighteen. In cases of judicial separation or divorce one parent is usually granted custody. The children reside permanently with the parent who has custody, and the other parent is granted access to the children at agreed times, which can include overnight access. It is possible for parents to continue to have joint custody of their children after separation/divorce and for the children to spend an equal amount of time with each parent, if the parents can agree and arrange this.

Access:

Access refers to the right of the parent in Ireland with whom the child does not reside to spend time with the child. It can include the right to have the child stay overnight either occasionally, on alternate weekends or during school holidays and the right for parent and child to go on holidays together.

Occasionally where separated parents are in dispute with each other, conflicting demands can be made on the childcare centre where the children attend. As such, it is important to be aware of parental rights, to protect the centre and that the centre and parents act within a legal framework

A father in Ireland who is married to the mother of his child, has automatic guardianship rights of his child. As such both parents have the same rights. This is irrelevant of whether the marriage took place before the birth of the child.

Unmarried Fathers in Ireland Do Not have Automatic Rights

If a child in Ireland is born outside of marriage, the mother is automatically considered the sole guardian. There are two ways an unmarried father can become a guardian:

1. If the mother agrees, the father can become a joint guardian if both parents sign a "statutory declaration." This parental agreement is a joint statutory declaration made by the mother and father of a non-marital child, who wish the father to become a guardian of the child jointly with the mother.
2. If the mother does not agree to sign the statutory declaration or agree that the father be appointed as joint guardian, the father must apply to the court to be appointed as a joint guardian. This is possible, irrespective of whether the father's name is on the child's birth certificate or not. While the mother's views are taken into account, the fact that she does not consent to the guardianship application does not automatically mean that the court will refuse the order sought by the father. Instead, the court will decide what is in the best interest of the child.

The father's name on the birth certificate does not confer guardianship rights or mean he is a legal guardian.

If a dispute or issue arises in relation to a child the manager of this facility may have to request evidence of the parental agreement or court order dealing with guardianship, and/or access and custody rights, if they are not aware of it in advance.

Unless precluded by court order, each parent has a right to consult with this service, attend parent/teacher meetings, receive information in relation to their child reports and be notified of meetings of parents.

It effectively gives all parents/guardians a say in all matters affecting the welfare of the child(ren) whether physical, moral, religious, social or educational.