

Club-School Link

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Primary School-Aged Children

SUITABLE FOR: All Clubs and Schools



AIM:

The Club-School link is a vital part of Club development and sustainability. It is essentially creating a visible and vibrant link between the local School and the Club, which will encourage the growth of the game in both settings and provide optimal opportunities for girls to participate.

It will also allow for the development of a good working relationship for both parties and opportunities for the Club and School to support and assist each other.

Club Executive:

- Discuss intentions at Club meeting and ensure support for initiative.
 - » Engage with Club executive if a One Club model around a cohesive plan e.g. GAA and Camogie look after mixed schools, GAA boys-only schools and Camogie girls-only schools.
- Referencing the Club school database, identify schools in your local areas which are in the Club's vicinity.

- Contact you local GAA Games Manager to clarify what mixed schools in your area are receiving GAA Coaching and offer to support where possible.
- Identify girl-only schools which may not be receiving GAA coaching.

Step 1:

Club Chairperson contacts Principal of School(s) in the Club's catchment area to arrange a meeting to discuss Club-School link for the coming school year. This contact to be made in mid to late August.

Step 2:

A meeting takes place, usually in the school, between the Club Chairperson and the School Principal.

The aim of this meeting is to clarify

- (a) Does the school want a person to act as a Club-School liaison? If so, identify a suitable person to act in this role.
- (b) Identify the needs of the school in the promotion of Gaelic Games for the year ahead
- (c) Clarify how the club Can help to meet these needs

Step 3:

The following conditions are fully understood:

- Any person acting as Club=School liaison must be Garda Vetted or PSNI Vetted. This person will make an appointment when they intend to visit the school.
- If coaching is identified as an area where the school needs assistance, the liaison person and school will agree on the choice of coach.

Areas to be clarified:

- If the school is a mixed school, boys and girls are treated equally.
- The coach signs the visitors' book on arrival and departure.
- For insurance purposes, a teacher must be present for all coaching sessions.
- A timetable is agreed and adhered to. This may be from term-to-term or for the full school year.



- The coach must be Garda/PSNI Vetted and must be familiar with the school's Code of Behaviour.
- If a disciplinary issue arises, the coach refers the matter to the class teacher.
- Confidentiality is non-negotiable.
- Coaching may not be the only requirement. Access to the Club pitch(es) may be a priority identified. In such cases, the following need to be agreed. This list is not exhaustive:
 - » Who will open the pitch if required for school training or matches?
 - » Will there be portable (juvenile) posts? Who will put them up? Who will take them down?
 - » Who will the school contact for access to Club grounds? Club school liaison? Groundsman?
 - » Other areas where the school may need assistance are equipment and facilities.

Final Step:

The School Principal and Club Chairperson will meet in late June or early July and review the year. Identify successes or shortcomings. What can be done to improve in the future?

County Development Officer:

- The County Development Officer in each County to have a list of Club-School links and Club-School link officers per Club.
 - » This can be done by linking in with the GAA Games Manager each Autumn/Winter to see where Club-School links are registered around the County.
 - » Communication with Clubs directly.
- Following on from the school Principal and Club Chairperson meeting in late June or early July and reviewing the year. Any shortcomings or issues should be informed to the County Development Officer. The County Development Officer to collate list of what the main issues schools in the County are having and refer to the provincial Participation & Growth Co-ordinator.

What can the School do for the Club?

- The School can promote Club activities such as registration evenings,
- The School will invite Club personnel to medal presentations etc.
- Successful Club teams may visit the school by appointment.
- The School may arrange Colours Day, bunting etc. when the Club is in a County Final etc.

What makes a Club-School link effective and successful?

- Communicate and engage on a regular basis.
- Respect each other.
- Have a shared vision and approach.
- Agree expectations and goals.
- Find ways of enabling young people to take part in activity.
- Share and develop teaching and coaching expertise.
- Share facilities, equipment and resources.
- Emphasis on fun and participation.
- All treated equally and given a fair chance to learn and develop.

