



Scoil San Carlo S.N.S.

External Coaches Policy

Rationale:

The Revised Curriculum P.E. (1999) states “Physical education provides children with learning opportunities through the medium of movement and contributes to their overall development by helping them to lead full, active and healthy lives.”

Regarding external input, the 1999 Curriculum states “National and local sports organisations may offer to provide coaching of particular sports on a voluntary basis as part of the physical education programme”.

The Irish Primary PE Association (IPPEA) intends to “guide school communities (principals, teachers and parents) as they work with External Providers (EPs) to implement the Physical Education Curriculum within curriculum time.” (Role of the External Provider Policy, IPPEA, 2014.)

Introduction:

In determining the role of any coaches, the school and teachers should identify:

- the needs of the children
- gaps in provision
- extent to which the support personnel will benefit the individual child and class
- previous experience with young people of the personnel selected
- qualifications of the support personnel and current Garda vetting status
- knowledge of health and safety displayed by the support personnel
- the organisational skills of the support personnel

The class teacher should then discuss with the selected personnel both the requirements of the class and of individual children within the class, where appropriate; and the school’s policy on physical education/the class programme for physical education.

The selected personnel can then support the role of the teacher in the implementation of a programme which will benefit the individual child and the class.

It is essential that a class teacher be present as the coach works with the class.

Responsibilities of the School Principal:

- Assess the suitability of the external coach to work with primary school children by ensuring that the external coach works within the guidelines documented by the Code of Ethics (Irish Sports Council, 2000) and Children First (DYCA 2017,) and ascertain the accreditation by an official and/or sporting body approved by COACHING IRELAND.
- Ensures the external coach has current Garda vetting as per Circular 0031/2016.
- Ensure that coaches have completed the Tusla and PDST online modules in Child Protection.
- Ensure that the external coach is suitably qualified in their particular activity.
- Ensure that the external coach is covered by the school's insurance policy
- Evaluate the contribution of the external coach within the context of the school's PE plan on a regular basis.
- Provide induction for the external coach regarding school policies, including, but not limited to the Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Child Protection Statement, procedures and expectations.

Responsibilities of the Class Teacher:

- Retain overall responsibility for the care and well-being of pupils in the class
- Remain present throughout the coaching session
- Provide external coaches with information and assistance regarding the needs of the children.
- Adopt an active role in lessons where an external coach is delivering or facilitating.
- Provides and receives feedback from external coach before/during/after PE lessons where appropriate.
- Develop their teaching skills/content knowledge through active observation and interaction with the external coach.
- Evaluate the contribution of the external coach within the context of the class/school plan for PE.

Responsibilities of the External Coach:

- Liaise with principals and class teachers regarding the suitability of their expertise vis-à-vis the school plan and individual class plans.
- Work directly alongside a designated class teacher.
- Support the class teacher where competence, confidence, knowledge or skills in teaching a particular activity may be a challenge to them.
- Ensure the emphasis is on participation and enjoyment during lessons.
- Provide for differing levels of ability.
- Take all necessary safety precautions.
- Ensure full participation by all pupils.
- Help to establish community/club links.
- Have current Garda vetting through their N.G.B.
- Coaches are expected to adhere to the school's Code of Behaviour.
- All performance and conduct is reviewed regularly.
- All coaches shall be recognised and accredited by an official sporting and/or appropriate sporting body approved by COACHING IRELAND (e.g. IRFU, GAA, BASKETBALL IRELAND etc.)
- Scoil San Carlo SNS reserves the right to terminate the coaching, when deemed necessary.

Success Criteria:

An external coach's input will be deemed successful if there is:

- Positive and constructive feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.
- A positive contribution to the learning environment of the school.
- A positive contribution to the quality of learning by pupils in class.

Communication of the External Coach Policy to the School Community:

- A copy of the External Coach Policy is made available to school personnel and to the Parents' Association.
- The policy is readily accessible on request.
- A copy of the Policy is also published on the school website (www.scoilsancarlo.ie).

Policy Review:

- This policy was reviewed and updated accordingly in April 2024.
- This policy will be reviewed by the school management authority periodically.

This Policy was adopted by the Board of Management on

22/4/2024

Signed: _____

Tomy P. O'Connell

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Christine McHugh

Principal