

Tonga Schools Network

Parents Handbook

Your Guide to Positive Communication with the School



www.tonga-schools.eu



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Tonga Schools Network



Tonga soa - Welcome to our Tonga School

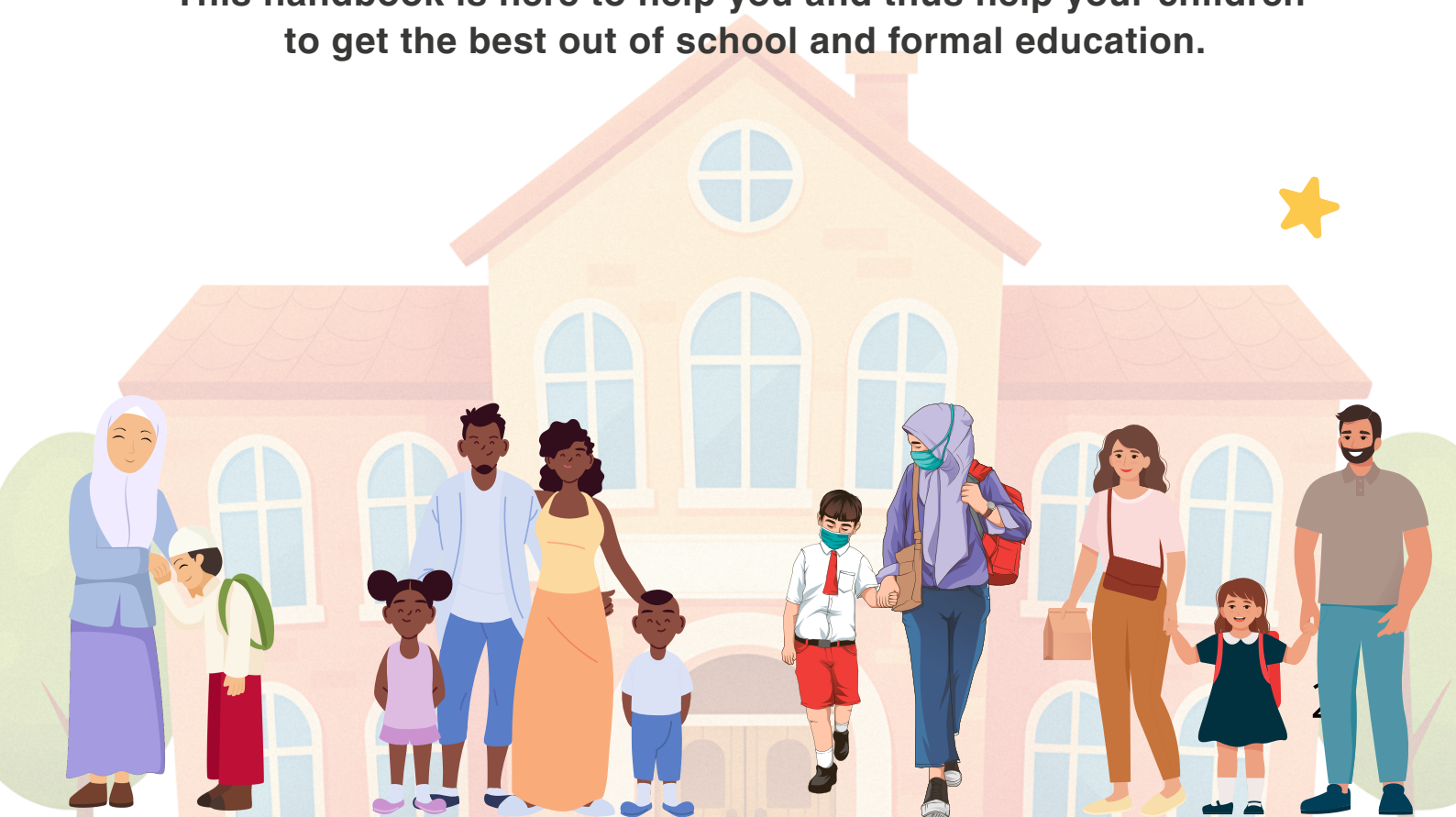
The aim of this handbook is to give you, the parents, the possibility to reflect on the communication with the school your children are attending.

Good communication with the school stakeholders is important, as it will help your children feel happy about going to school. It will give them confidence, and they will then be in a better position to improve their abilities and be more successful academically.

As a parent who has migrated from another country, you have a lot to do to settle in this new place.

You sometimes feel like learning everything again. It could be a long process. Raising your children in a new unknown foreign environment which has rules you are not aware of, could be challenging however worth it.

This handbook is here to help you and thus help your children to get the best out of school and formal education.





Our Mission

We are thinking that:



Good parental cooperation with the school is an important element that promotes and helps your children's learning.

Your languages and cultures should be respected in the school where your children are going.

They are your identity and should be visible.



What we advocate:

The school has the responsibility to accept and welcome your languages and cultures.

Your languages and cultures must not hinder the communication with the school.

Your languages and cultures will never prevent your children from succeeding at a school where they are taught in the local language.

They are NOT a problem.



We would suggest to take part in the Parents' Café where you can talk about this handbook and much more.





Why is school important ?

School promotes



It is a place which help promote:

- social equity
- inclusion
- integration

School reduces

it is a place which reduces:

- socio-economical inequalities
- poverty

School stimulates

it is a place where you can:

- make new friendships
- make new relationships



School helps

School is also a place where your children will learn to:

- read
- write
- count
- socialise



Your Role in the Partnership with the school

Get involved

Your involvement in the school will influence the achievement of your children

Get engaged

Getting engaged in more than getting involved.

It is when school and home act as a team.

Support

It is important to support and help your child in the school life in connecting with the teacher and helping with homework.

When there is parental involvement, the grades get higher, the children develop self-confidence, the children have better social skills and classroom behaviour.



As a parent you also have rights. Do you know how you may use these rights?

- participating in the decision making and cooperating with the school;
- taking part in parent-teacher meetings and school events



What You Should Know



Attendance

It is important that your children attend school every day. Any absence will have an impact on his/her performance.



School rules

Each school has its own rules:

- Try to know them as well as understand them.
- Explain them to your children, so they know what is allowed and not allowed.



Communication with the school and the teacher

Communicating with the teacher will help you understand what is happening in the class as well as being able to help your child.

Communication with the school is done using various channels (see next page) - use the ones that the school where your children are going is using.

Meeting with the teacher is beneficial for your child



Use of your mother language

Your mother language should be respected in the school. It should not be considered as a barrier.

If someone talks too quickly, ask them to slow down.

You are allowed to get information in a language that you understand, so feel free to ask.

Your child **MUST NOT** translate for you. It can be stressful for them and have mental health impact.



Please look at the longer version of this booklet where you will get a chance to reflect and write some useful notes.

Feel free to ask for help if you need it.













Staying Connected

Communication is Key

School-home communication is essential to help children be happy and thrive at school.
You should take a great care about it.

Which means of communication do I have with the school?

mobile phone 	school website 
email 	newsletter of the school 
WhatsApp group 	special folder or booklet 
School App 	face-to-face meeting 
social network of the school 	school assembly 

This is important. The means of communication that you are using as well as the language you are using and your attitude make a difference in your communication.

If the communication is done in the school language and you do not master it well, this could be difficult and you may wish to use tools to help you or ask someone to translate for you.



Make sure you check your children's school bags every day, as they may contain important information that you need to be aware of.



Get Involved and Make a Difference

Being involved does not mean taking the place of the teacher, but rather collaborating with him/her. There are several ways of collaborating and letting your voice be heard. The more you are interested and collaborating with the school, the better your children will feel when attending school, the happier they will be, and this will help them to be successful.

Join the Parents' Café



Parents' Café is an **informal gathering of parents** who meet to talk about their experiences with the school. They can ask their questions to other parents, and sometimes a teacher can be present to help them and answer questions.

The Parents' Café is not taking the role of the Parents' Association, It has a different aim. It will give you the possibility to meet with other parents on a regular basis and will help you feel being part of the school community.

Read our Guidelines and listen to our video.



Join the Parents' Association

The parents' association has two main interests:

- moral interest: concerning the way children are treated in the school, make sure that the children are safe at school, etc..
- material interest: check that the buildings are safe, check the price of the meals at school and that every child is included, etc...

How can you be involved? This group of people are set up as an association, and thus there are a number of people elected every year who represent the parents and act as their voice at school.



School events

As parents, it is important to take part in the events that the school is organising. You will meet other parents, get to know new people and learn more about the school. It will help your children feel happy at school and perform better.

Information evenings are also important.



How You Can Support your child

Parental involvement is key to the success of the children.
Great things happen when parents get involved.
Your involvement in the school will influence the achievement of your children.

How can you help your child?

- establish routines for learning
- establish routines for reading
- communicate with the teachers
- attend school events
- eat meals together with your children in order to communicate with them



How can you get involved?

Both for you and your children, it is important to get involved in the school your children are going to.

Being involved does not mean taking the place of the teacher, but rather **collaborating** with him/her.

There are several ways of collaborating and letting your voice be heard.

The more you are interested and collaborating with the school, the better your children will feel when attending school, the happier they will be, and this will help them to be successful.



Know what the school expect from your child

School can be challenging for your children, because it is rigid and formal; there are also many rules to follow and understand. It is important as a parent that you get to know what the school expects from your children, so that you can explain it to them.

Some rules:

- stay sitting
- ask when you want to go to the toilet
- listen to the teacher
- do not miss school
- go every day
- help with home work





Resources to Support Your Parenting Journey

We have created a number of tools that can help you as parent.
Do also feel free to ask us any questions you may have.

Parents Handbook

You have the handbook in your hand.
We also created a longer reflection booklet and we would suggest you go through it with someone else in order to reflect or during a meeting at a Parents' Café

Parents' Café

We have imagined Parents' Café to be a place where you talk about the school and the relationships you have with it. It is important that you try to get part into it.

Parents' Posters

On the website, we have a number of posters which present parents' good practices about their communication with the school. Have a look at them and maybe they can be hung in the Parents' Café

Vidéos

We have created a number of videos presenting the various way to get involved in and with the school. You can look at them on our Vimeo channel

Parents' Association

Parents' Association already exist in most of the school - you may wish to get involved and engage yourself in the association. See our video for more explantion about the parents' association



get in touch:

contact@multilingualcafe.com

Tonga Schools Network



Together, We Build a



Bright Future



Thank you.



Do not forget your language and culture are important to your children.

Do not forget it is important to have good relationships with the school for your children to be successful.

Do not forget that everything will change and evolve as your children grow.

**Languages and Cultures are Not Barriers.
They are your identity.**

Use them efficiently to get in good communication with the school for the success of your children.



Personal notes

A blank sheet of lined paper with a red margin line on the left side. The paper is white with light blue horizontal ruling lines. The red margin line is positioned approximately 10% from the left edge. The top of the page is blank, and the rest of the page is filled with horizontal lines for writing.

Personal notes

A blank sheet of lined paper with a vertical red margin line on the left side. The paper has horizontal blue lines for writing. The top of the page is a light gray header area containing the text "Personal notes".



The project partners



!FALL

Integration För Alla



Initiative
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