



Parent and carer engagement and partnership policy

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Parent & Carer Engagement and Partnership Policy

Parents play a vital role in education. When parents are engaged and involved, everyone benefits - students, parents, families, teachers, schools and communities – and our school is enriched as a positive place to teach, learn and grow.

Parental involvement in the form of 'at-home good parenting' has a significant positive effect on children's achievement and adjustment even after all other factors shaping attainment have been taken out of the equation. In the primary age range the impact caused by different levels of parental involvement is much bigger than differences associated with variations in the quality of schools. The scale of the impact is evident across all social classes and all ethnic groups. (Desforges 2003).

Aims:

- To work with parents and carers to enable pupil of all abilities to fulfil their potential in every area of the curriculum and outside of it.
- For parents to understand their role within their child's educational development
- To work with staff, parents and carers to ensure that the students are safe and secure and their basic needs are met appropriately.
- To encourage parents and carers of students to participate in the wider life of the school and to support events to celebrate the achievement and success of their children and others.
- To help parents and carers of all students develop high aspirations and to empower to move towards a rewarding and fulfilling future.
- To promote effective parental engagement where parents/carers are involved in development of their child's learning.
- To provide support and information for parents and carers about their child's progress, attainment, behaviour, attendance and success.
- To work closely with pupils and families who may have additional support and, if necessary, to sign post accordingly.

What We Know about Parent/carers Engagement:

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children. Parents and families have the primary responsibility for the development of their children's character, with the support of their school and community.

Research clearly indicates that good schools become better schools when there is a strong connection with parents as part of the learning community. Parents have a primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school, their learning, and their future success.

“Parent involvement programmes that are effective in engaging diverse families recognize, respect, and address cultural and class differences.”

“Parent programs and interventions work best when the strategies respect the needs of families. When school staff engage in caring and trusting relationships with parents that recognise parents as partners in the educational development of children, these relationships enhance parents’ desire to be involved and influence how they participate in their children’s educational development.”

Parents’ engagement matters. Parents care about their children and want to be involved: they want their children to succeed in school and are willing to help in as many ways as possible. Commitment to our pupils’ well-being is the driving force behind everything we do in education. Everyone—parents, families, administrators, teachers, support workers and the federation has a commitment to this.

A true partnership takes sustained and intentional efforts on the part of all partners with commitment and action by all at every level of the education system. While parents can find it challenging to play an active role in their children’s education, it is important to meet this challenge so that pupils at FVA have the support they need to be successful in school and later in life.

The Parent Engagement policy seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to parents. With work schedules, outside commitments and individual preference— it helps parents to have choices on how they want to be involved. Strategies need to be flexible recognizing the diversity of our parents and their contributions

Current Strategies:

There are currently many opportunities for parents to take an active role in school life and their child’s learning:

- Foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel supported, welcomed and valued.
- Maintain an ‘open door’ policy so that parents are able to communicate with any staff involved with their child, both informally at drop and pick up time, and once a term from 8.30-9am
- Communicate with parents in a variety of ways including; website, text, email, newsletter, telephone, letters, parental questionnaire or home visits if appropriate and respond to any queries raised within 48 hours.
- In the case of absence of a child, all parents/carers will be contacted by telephone, and a follow up home visit will be conducted if no contact is made
- Respond to any complaints in keeping with our complaints policy.
- Hold meetings at times and in locations that are accessible for parents/carers.
- Maintain an on-going dialogue with parents and other stakeholders with regards to progress, attainment, attendance, behaviour and the general running of the school.
- Ensure that all parents are able to access our website and other portals and where appropriate support parents in doing so.
- Annually seek parental views and feedback via questionnaires. Recommendations are shared and reviewed and very often action taken.
- Provide regular and accessible assessment data for parents so that they are able to monitor their child’s progress, effort and any barriers to learning – parents evening twice a year
- Ensure that all parents receive an annual written report as required and the opportunity to discuss success or issues arising at an annual parents evening.

- Take the opportunity to celebrate success with parents through letters or assemblies
- Ensure a multi-agency approach and share information with other professionals working with the child or family as appropriate (with permission from the family) so that an open and effective approach can be possible and we can draw on their expertise.
- Provide support to families who may experience difficulty or crisis through a range of outside agencies where possible.
- Ensuring that parents are fully involved and are informed of any disciplinary concerns at the school and where action is taken they are a part of this process. Also we will support parents in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Support parents where possible in making applications to other agencies or bodies for family or financial support.
- Ensuring that all of our up to date policies and news are available on the school website
- Provide opportunities for volunteering
- Host Friends of Frome Vale events which parents and carers and support with
- Provide workshops for parents of children in EYFS setting and year 1, on reading and phonics
- Provide opportunities for parents to be on the Academy Council
- A home/school agreement is provided to make expectations clear
- Distribute a whole school newsletter twice a term
- Distribute a class newsletter once a term
- Weekly texts to congratulate pupils
- Reminder texts of events

Future strategies:

The Parent and Carer Engagement and Partnership Policy identifies a series of key strategies designed to support parents as partners so that parents and carers have the opportunity, skills, knowledge and tools to engage with all education partners in fulfilling our core priorities for education.

Strategy 1: School Climate

Foster and sustain a positive, welcoming school climate in which all parent perspectives are encouraged, valued and heard through adults being visible and available.

Strategy 2: Eliminating Barriers

Identify and remove barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children's learning and to reflect the diversity of our students and communities such as translated letters.

Strategy 3: Tools and Supports for Parents

Helping parents support student learning at home and at school through workshops and online resources such as Wordpress

Strategy 4: Parent Outreach

Review and expand communication and outreach strategies such as local workshops, presentations, tools and resources, to share information and strategies to support learning at home and parent engagement in schools

Parent Engagement Action Plan:

Fulfilling the school's vision of parent engagement requires commitment and action by all of our partners at every level of the education system, which is written into our parental engagement and partnership action plan.

School Actions for 2020/ 2021:

1. Implement 'Meet the teacher' at the start of Term 1 for all classes
2. Provide staff training for effective parental engagement
3. Plan for a 'learning share' 3 times per year for each class.
4. Implement community projects with Oldbury Court Children's Centre
5. Continue to develop Wordpress platform as a homework platform
6. Implement reading workshop for all phases
7. Carry out parent voice survey twice a year
8. Continue (from Covid 19 period) to use email as the primary means to send information rather than paper documents
9. Stay & Play sessions to be implemented
10. Cake and Conversation to be reintroduced with themes that parents may be interested in such as finance support or planning healthy meals on a budget
11. Meet with Principal for in year admissions
12. Ensure whole school vision meeting is offered to all parents at the beginning of every academic year
13. Improve whole school communication on reading expectation and reading rewards both at home and in school.

Leadership, Management and Academy Council Responsibilities:

The Academy Council:

- The Academy council will ensure that the leadership team and the staff implement this policy.
- The Academy Council will support events that are designed to engage the parent and wider community.
- The Academy Council will be kept informed of complaints and responses made by the school as per the school complaints policy.
- Where possible, have physical presence in school so families are aware and know the Academy Councillors

Responsibilities – The Senior Leadership Team:

- The Leadership Team will monitor all home / school communication and the complaints policy and take action required if appropriate.
- The Leadership Team and wider leaders will ensure a response from the school in response to any complaints/ issues raised within 48 working hours.
- The Leadership team will ensure organisation and facilitation of events to give information to parents or celebrate success.
- The Leadership Team will facilitate the gathering of views of stakeholders and discuss any appropriate action to be taken as a result.
- The Leadership team will work with the Academy Council and any other appropriate bodies to ensure the engagement of parents.

Responsibilities - All Staff :

- Staff are expected to read the Home School Agreement (which has been signed on their behalf) and abide by expectations agreed.
- Staff are expected to communicate with parents/carers directly if there are issues arising inside or outside of the curriculum.
- All staff are expected to respond to any parental queries or concerns within 48 hours
- To share success with families as well as areas of development
- Be available in the mornings and after school to have informal chats with parents- this means being outside a few minutes before collecting at the start of the day and being accessible at the end of the day.

Responsibilities – Parents/Students:

- Parents and students are expected to read and sign the Home School Agreement and abide by expectations agreed.
- Parents are expected to communicate with the school directly where there are concerns or issues arising – initially through talking with the teacher, and then by SLT if no clear pathway is found.