



Policy for Parent Partnership

Aims: Communication with Parents to ensure clarity of purpose and enable the fullest possible understanding in respect of all school activities.

To involve Parents in all aspects of the school community.

To operate an Open Door Policy that encourages the fullest possible two-way communication between Staff and Parents.

To work in close co operation with Parents in order to ensure high standards of care and academic achievement for all of our children.

Mission Statement

We have a commitment to providing a secure, happy and caring environment which meets the needs of all the children - intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural.

By working in close partnership with Parents we nurture the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self esteem and the desire to learn.

We provide quality learning experiences with the expectation that all will have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Parents are welcomed into the school at all times, although we have a plethora of formal and informal opportunities throughout the year to meet together and get to know each other. These include a weekly Assembly open to all Parents, and “focus” days such as Dad’s days to encourage fathers to become actively involved in school life.

We have a variety of systems which we use to communicate with Parents. The most used is letters by pupil post. To ensure maximum effectiveness, these letters are always given to children as they leave the classroom. Any child who is absent has the named letters put into their tray in the classroom, to await their return to school. Parents may, if they choose, have their letters sent in envelopes to increase the profile and in certain cases, letters can and will (on request) be posted to the home address. Newsletters and all other information sent home is also available and regularly updated on our website.

All letters sent out to Parents from the school office are copied to a central file which is kept in the entrance hall so that interested Parents can check that all communications have been received. Letters are also copied to the Staffroom, the Kitchen and to all Governors.

Regular half-termly newsletters and lists of dates are sent out with updates on events and advance notification of forthcoming events. Events are also publicised by means of posters attached to the classroom windows, clearly visible from the outside where Parents wait for their children.

We have a very active "Friends of Parsonage Farm" association, which seeks to encourage and extend involvement in a wide variety of activities. Membership is open to all who are

interested and actively supports those who prefer to offer help on a more informal or sporadic nature for individual events. We hold an annual Summer event, together with Discos and sales of second-hand uniform on a regular basis.

Parents and friends are actively encouraged to support the school by helping with a variety of tasks which is limited only by the expertise which is offered. There is a booklet entitled "Helping in school" where Parents can volunteer all types of support. A data bank is then maintained in the school office which records offers of help and ensures that full use is made of Parent skills. Specific "one-off" jobs are also incorporated into the newsletters.

In order to ensure the safety of our children we require that all adults who offer to help in classrooms are prepared to fill in a simple Police check form. No adult helper is left in sole charge of any child/ren and is directly under the supervision of the class teacher at all times.

We operate an "Open door" system in that all members of the teaching staff will make themselves available to Parents at the beginning and end of each day for informal discussion and day to day communication. We ask Parents to be aware that our first and primary care is for the children and exercise discretion in their requirements at these times. Staff are always happy to make appointments for longer interviews at a mutually agreed time. The Headteacher's office is quite literally "open" (unless a private interview is already taking place) and Parents are always welcome to call in. The Headteacher makes every effort to be around the school between 8.30 and 9.00 for informal contact.

Regular meetings are held throughout the year to communicate aspects of the curriculum to Parents. These generally take the form of an opening address followed by informal discussion or workshops. We produce notes to accompany these meetings, which are available on request to anyone who has been unable to attend. We can arrange a crèche for children if requested and meetings are often repeated as afternoon and evening sessions in order to encourage all to attend.

We are committed to the highest possible level of Partnership and are always open to new suggestions on how we can improve our systems.