



ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

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Parental Engagement Policy

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At Alsop High School, our Parental Engagement Policy aims to enhance our vision and ethos of believing that every child has the potential to achieve excellence and incorporates our key principles of 'Knowledge, Respect and Opportunity'. As an inclusive school, we believe that every student has the potential to achieve something special and has something positive to offer society. We recognise the crucial role parents, guardians and carers play in shaping our students and encourage positive home-school relationships to ensure they have the best outcomes.

Our Aims

- To provide an environment where parents, guardians, carers and families feel welcomed and respected.
- To provide a variety of opportunities to develop positive home-school relationships through ongoing communication.
- To provide regular support and information to ensure parents, guardians and carers have the knowledge and are involved in the development of their child's learning.
- To work collaboratively with parents, guardians and carers to enable all students to fulfil their potential both academically and socially.

Benefits

By implementing a Parental Engagement Policy all staff at Alsop intend to encourage two-way communication and develop relationships with both students and their families. In doing so, research suggests student attendance, achievement and positive behaviour will increase. Parents, guardians and carers will also have a deeper understanding of the strengths and areas for development of their children and will be able to work alongside school in order to develop aspirations, celebrate success and ensure the best outcomes for all.

Fulfilling our Aims

In order to reach our aims we will ensure we communicate with parents in a variety of ways including:

- Written reporting of student academic progress and their behaviour for learning - regular assessment data will be communicated to parents, guardians and carers so they are able to monitor progress, effort and any barriers to learning.
- Annual parents' evenings will be held, as an opportunity to discuss successes and any arising issues.
- Workshops- we will also offer a variety of workshops for parents, guardians and carers at each parents evening on topics including attendance, encouraging reading at home, online safety and providing subject specific resources to support learning at home.
- Information evenings- parents, guardians and carers will be invited and encouraged to attend a variety of information events throughout the year. These can be specific to year groups or topics e.g. to increase knowledge, offer advice and support in terms of choosing options, helping with revision, transitions, Post 16 opportunities, extra-curricular visits etc. It will also be an opportunity for subjects to showcase work students have created.
- Direct contact- telephone calls will be used for immediate contact and for praising students and celebrating their achievements.

- Text and email - these methods will be used for attendance purposes, for sharing information and for praising students.
- Website- our school website contains a large amount of information for parents, guardians and carers including important dates for the calendar, curriculum information, news and events, policies and procedures. Support is available for any parents, guardians or carers who require help accessing our website, please contact Mrs K Begley who will arrange this.
- Social Media - school uses Twitter to post information about upcoming events and achievements, Mrs K Harrison has responsibility for this. A school app is also being launched in September 2019 to give parents increased levels of information and communication with school.
- Letters- at times it is necessary to give students letters to take home to advise the whole school of important information, events or news. This is the easiest way for school to disseminate information to large numbers of students. It does rely on students taking these letters home and passing them on and so copies will be uploaded onto our website and referred to on social media when necessary.
- Meetings - these will be pre-arranged at a time and location that is accessible for all. Home visits may also be arranged when required.
- Regular Parent Forums- parents, guardians and carers will be advised of times and dates of these meetings in order for us to seek parental views, gain feedback and share information. Questionnaires will also be used throughout the academic year, recommendations will be shared, reviewed and actions taken.
- Events- Alsop holds an annual Prize Night to celebrate the achievements of our students and regularly plays host to invited guests. These events will be publicised and parents encouraged to attend.

'At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.'

Jane D. Hull

In order for two-way communication to be effective it is essential that we have up to date contact information including telephone numbers, email and home addresses. In turn, staff at Alsop will aim to respond to any queries raised within 2 working days.

Alsop High School recognises that issues may arise which require face-to-face discussions, wherever possible we would encourage meetings to be pre-arranged at time and location that is suitable for all concerned. We also welcome tours around school; again these must be pre-arranged due to our staff teaching full timetables. Our Parental Engagement Policy aims to encourage a partnership between school and home to allow parents, guardians and carers to be involved with their child's education and progress at Alsop by offering a flexible and diverse range of strategies.

Evaluation

The Parental Engagement Policy will be reviewed Summer 2020. Each of the activities undertaken throughout the academic year of 2019/20 will be individually evaluated through, parent, student and staff voice. Other forms of evaluation include increased numbers of parents attending parents' evenings, the attendance data dashboard, improved reading ages and improved behaviour shown in cycle data.