

# OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY



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## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

At Oakdene Primary School all parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children benefit most when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We are therefore committed to ongoing dialogue with parents, and carers, to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.

High investment in familial support and engagement particularly for the most vulnerable has always been a priority for Oakdene. Establishing 'stability around the child' in order to minimise negative and disruptive influences on each child's learning and progress is a strength of our school. This has never been more important than during the current Pandemic.

### Aims

The school aims through Parental involvement:

- To support parents, and carers, as their children's first and most important educators.
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the life of the school and their child's learning, *either on site or at home*.
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils *whether accessing learning on site or at home*.
- To provide a continued partnership between home and school, ensuring that families feel supported, welcome and valued.
- To ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.
- *To ensure we listen and respond to the individual household needs during partial school closures and lockdown measures resulting from the Pandemic.*
- *During any school closures we aim provide children with remote learning that suits the needs of the family. This may be paper packs delivered to the door or digital learning via a specific platform such as Microsoft TEAMS or a blend of both.*
- *We aim to use charitable donations, LA loan schemes and DfE digital device schemes to provide the families without suitable devices either a laptop or an iPad. We also offer support for those parents who may need internet access/data.*

### Involvement in the life of the school

At Oakdene we have always had an open door policy where we would always encourage parents/carers to come and speak to us about any matter. However, we also have expectations about this. These expectations are highlighted in our Home/school Agreement, which was in place prior to the Pandemic. Now the Stay Safe Parent and Carer Information with the Parent/Carer signed Pledge temporarily replaces this. Prior to the pandemic, families were invited to regular events, termly open days and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parents/carers. These occasions provide

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an opportunity to celebrate success, and to view a lot of the pupils' work. These will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

Wherever possible, we encourage a 'hands on' interactive approach to parents/carers sharing activities with pupils.

- We encourage parents/carers to view information on the school website, which we aim to keep updated regularly.
- We encourage and support parents/carers to play an active part in the governance of the school, through Parents Governor elections, as and when vacancies arise.
- We aim for 100% take up from families to use the Marvellous Me App. This is specifically designed for schools to inspire, involve and empower parents to engage with school.
- To ensure parents and carers are kept up to date with school news, weekly newsletters are sent home via Marvellous Me and posted on the website, these newsletters will be less frequent during any partial school closures/lockdown. Communication will be managed by secure teacher emails and more general letters from school leaders during lockdown.
- Each family receives a welcome pack when their child starts at the school.

### **Involvement in children's learning**

Parents and carers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have a formal discussion with their child's teacher during parent consultations, which take place in the Autumn and Spring terms. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views. During the Pandemic this has continued via pre-booked telephone calls rather than face to face.

An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is provided to parents and carers each Summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents are welcome to request a meeting with the teacher if they wish to discuss the contents of the report. In July 2020, class teachers produced an interim report encompassing the Autumn 2019 and Spring term 2020 information. As the pandemic continues we aim to provide an end of year written report as appropriate.

National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are usually also available, as appropriate, to parents/carers. The cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 National Assessments resulted in a change of data available to parents. Oakdene will follow all future National Assessment Testing and Reporting arrangements when they resume. In the Autumn Term 2020 current Y2 parents/carers were informed of their child's phonic screening check result.

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**Types of help at school – All of the following will resume at Oakdene once the Pandemic allows it to do so safely. This is subject to our Covid 19 risk assessment which is constantly reviewed.**

- Each year, we encourage parents and carers to help in school with groups and activities in a class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities) other than their child's class.
- Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits.
- Parents and carers are encouraged, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.

### **Organisational arrangements**

- For legislative reasons, it is necessary to organise a personal background check with the DBS on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.
- For security reasons all helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting. To ensure helpers maximise their contribution to the children's learning, they are asked to check the purpose and details of any activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.
- All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.
- All helpers should be mindful of the confidential nature of their work in school.

### **Consultation**

- Our Pre-Pandemic home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents, carers and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties. The interim Stay Safe parent pledge is signed by parents/carers only, but verbally explained to the pupils.
- The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.
- Parents or carers of a child with a disability or Covid-19 medical vulnerability within the household are encouraged to keep the school fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts/adjustments to meet the requirements of their child and family.
- The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on Parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.
- Teachers were able to be approached informally before and after school, and would always take careful account of any information forwarded to them. During the Pandemic, all the parents/carers are provided with a class teacher email to communicate about any matter they wish to communicate about. Teachers will respond directly or signpost to the most appropriate member of staff to help. Class teachers will also make or receive regular phone calls to keep in touch with children and parents/carers.
- Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.

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- After an OFSTED inspection parents and carers will receive a copy of the report and given information via newsletters.

### **Monitoring and review**

- The Executive Headteacher and Head of School will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will submit periodic evaluation reports on its effectiveness to the governing body.
- This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

### **Rights Respecting Schools**

Article 42 is adhered to at Oakdene Primary School. Through a range of parental /carer engagement activities, for example, newsletters, open days etc we promote the rights to educate adults as well as children. We believe that parents and carers should help children learn about their rights, too.