

At St Josephs Catholic Primary School we recognise the importance of and value parental involvement in the life of the school. Throughout this policy the term parent is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving amongst others, parents, staff and children. As a school we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home.

“It’s what parents do rather than who they are that counts” (Charles Desforge)

“Parental involvement in a child’s education can be a more powerful force in learning than family background and parents’ education level, and contributes to no less than 10% of variation in achievement”. (DfES 1999)

It is known that:-

- Parents/carers are the most important influence in a child’s life. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and providers
- Parents want their child to succeed
- Children need educational and emotional support if they are to succeed. Parents need to be able to provide this effectively
- Many parents have missed the opportunity of furthering their education and training
- The school is a resource for the community it serves

Aims

- To develop good communication with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in school
- To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child
- To make good use of parents’ expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life
- To establish the views and opinions of parents of the school and act upon these

To develop good communication and fully inform parents about what is happening in school we will:

- Make letters, school prospectus and key policies “user friendly”, useful and informative.
- Send regular whole school newsletters (Parkland Mail) containing information such as dates and events.
- Hold a parents evening in the Autumn term and a pupil/parent/teacher consultation day in the Spring term
- Hold a Parents Meeting in the Summer Term for parents and pupils to meet their new class teacher for the following year.
- Display key information on the school website and around school

To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child we will:

- Offer two parents evening for each year group each year
- Hold an annual pupil/parent/teacher consultation day
- Send annual reports at the end of each year
- Hold “Bring a parent to school” days

To make good use of parents’ expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life we will encourage parents to:

- Volunteer to support within classrooms and/or become parent governors.
- Attend school trips
- Attend class and praise assemblies
- Attend school performances, events and celebrations
- Become involved in school projects
- Participate in Family and Adult Learning events organised by school
- Join or support the school fundraising group
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members

To establish the views and opinions of parents and act upon these we will:

- Hold an annual parental questionnaire and inform parents of the results
- Ask parents to evaluate key events in school
- Seek parental consultation on key issues in school.
- Establish a Parent Partnership Group

We recognise the importance of ensuring we have a strong partnership with parents, and value parental involvement in the life of the school. Throughout this policy the term 'parent' is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers.

We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving parents, staff, children, governors, the Local Authority and a range of other agencies. We are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between home and school.

We aim to:

- empower all parents to have an ownership of our school and their child's learning
- have a strong partnership with all parents
- ensure that all communication with parents is effective, clear and jargon free
- actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child
- make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their own child and other children and to actively involve them in school life
- provide an effective induction for all groups of parents
- establish, and act upon, the views and opinions of parents

To have a strong partnership and good communication with parents/carers informing them about what is happening in school, we:

- ensure that all written communication is "user friendly", useful and informative.
- publish regular informative whole school newsletters
- maintain and develop our school website, ensuring that it is updated on a daily basis
- have an open door policy for parents to visit the school
- hold parent consultations meetings each term
- hold an Open Day for prospective and established parents annually

To actively involve parents/carers in the education, progress and well-being of their child we:

- hold Induction Meetings in reception and for new parents
- hold three parent consultation meetings each year (one each term)
- hold three IEP consultation meetings each year (one each term)
- send written annual reports at the end of each year
- hold annual workshops on reading/literacy, mathematics
- seek to ensure that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read; key policies are available on our website and as hard copies
- request that all parents sign a home/school agreement
- involve parents in supporting their child's behaviour and well-being (refer to our Behaviour Policy)
- encourage all parents of children in the Early Years and KS1 to come into school with their child each morning to settle them in, support their learning and speak with staff if necessary
- work closely with carers to maximise attendance and minimise lateness

To make good use of parents/carers' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their own and other children and to actively involve them in school life we encourage parents/carers to:

- volunteer to support in school
- attend school performances, events and celebrations
- become involved in school projects
- join or support our FOWS Fundraising Group
- volunteer to be part of our skills bank organised through our FOWS Learning Group
- use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members
- become parent governors
- engage in further study and to offer student placements across our school

To provide good induction for all groups of parents/carers we:

- ensure that our prospectus is detailed, informative and up to date
- ensure that our website is detailed, informative and up to date
- ensure that our School App and Twitter account are detailed, informative and up to date

- provide opportunities for all prospective parents to find out about our school
- provide opportunities for parents to discuss all transitional decisions
- ensure information is produced and distributed appropriately, taking account of parental needs and views

To establish the views and opinions of parents/carers of the school we:

- provide bi-annual opportunities for parental questionnaires and inform parents of the results
- ask parents to evaluate key events in school
- seek parental consultation on key issues in school
- consult on key policies and procedures (e.g. this policy, our Dress Code, our Sex and Relationships Policy etc)