

PARENT AND CARERS ENGAGEMENT POLICY

AIMS

Parents and carers play a vital role in the education of their children. When parents/carers 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. It is essential for home and school to be working together for the education of the child to be effective and successful.

Parents/carers and families have the primary responsibility for the development of their children's character, with the support of the school and community.

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

Our aim is for the children to work in a happy friendly atmosphere, where they feel secure and relaxed and can take on the challenges of learning and developing. We involve parents and carers throughout their child's school life. Parents and carers are encouraged to become part of the school community. We aim to work together with parents and carers to promote life-long education and development.

We aim to enable parents and carers to recognise the importance of home school partnership.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

To make the school a welcoming, communicative and friendly place for parents and carers

- Home-school communication
- Information to parents and carers
- Home visits
- Views are sought and feedback provided
- Consultations undertaken
- School supports active PTFA
- Opportunities to visit the school
- Opportunities to volunteer in the school

The school to promote the awareness and participation of parents and carers in supporting their children's learning and developing their own learning

- Courses, workshops and activities for parents
- Opportunities for parent/carers to develop their own learning
- Parents/carers and their children learn together

The school to provide a good induction for all new parents

- Transition events are organized
- Induction meetings are planned
- Induction information is available
- Key information is available and shared
- Procedures in place for parents of children joining during the school year

The school to provide parents and carers with relevant and accessible guidance and information to help them support their children's learning

- Information provided about their child's learning and progress
- Parents evenings
- School reports
- EHCP reviews
- Support meetings
- Appropriate home learning tasks that support the child's progress when it is agreed as a part of their educational programme
- More general information provided about programmes and interventions
- Links to on-line platforms and resources
- Calendar of opportunities to celebrate the school's and their own child's success

The school to operate parent-friendly policies to support home-school partnership

- Website allows easy access to main policies
- Home-school support team support parental engagement and provide resources to this team
- Home-school support team work to overcome any barriers that prevent parent/carer engagement in the school

The school to provide good support for all parents and carers as their children move through or leave the school

- Additional support and guidance is provided at all transition times
- Impartial transition information, advice and guidance is made available
- Parents and carers are involved in transition events

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The school will communicate with parents and carers through a range of media

- Home-school books
- Emails
- Letters
- Newsletters
- The school website
- School texting service
- School Facebook page
- Meetings
 - EHCP Reviews
 - Parent/carer evenings
 - PBS Meetings
 - Involvement in Social care meetings
 - Specially arranged meetings

HOME-SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

HOMEWORK

The continuation of programmes for the development of communication, independence skills (eg toileting, feeding or the use of leisure time) and positive behaviour management from school to home and home to school is essential if the child is to make progress. We see this as the homework that the pupils have and it is therefore individualized according to the priorities for that child. Home and school

can work closely together in developing literacy and numeracy skills by generalizing and developing skills learnt in one environment to another. Reading books and book bags (for the younger children) that go home with the children will support this. There also may be other curriculum tasks that the teacher can devise a homework project for that will support the child's learning for example a prompt sheet for recording what the child has done at a weekend or a worksheet that brings information the child can use into school. Homework of this sort needs to be negotiated between home and school so that the teacher's strategy is supported and the amount given is appropriate and can be supported at home. Some of the older pupils who are following externally moderated courses may need also to complete some tasks at home in order to ensure the full course is covered in the time available. Again these tasks will be carefully worked out and prepared and parents will be supported in helping their child to complete them.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored every three years by the Head teacher to keep up to date with any adjustments to statutory legislation or curriculum and any changes will go via the Governing Body when necessary.

EQUALITY, SAFEGUARDING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

St Nicholas School, in all policies and procedures, will promote equality of opportunity for students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds and ensure freedom from discrimination on the basis of membership of any group, including gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances, ethnic or national origin, disability (physical or mental), religious or political beliefs.

St Nicholas School aims to:

- Provide equal opportunity for all
- To foster good relations, and create effective partnership with all sections of the community
- To take no action which discriminates unlawfully in service delivery, commissioning and employment
- To provide an environment free from fear and discrimination, where diversity, respect and dignity are valued.

All aspects of Safeguarding will be embedded into the life of the school and be adhered to and be the responsibility of all staff.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

Safeguarding Behaviour PARRC Curriculum Policies Health and Safety
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DANIEL LEWIS November 2021
