



## *Parent Partnership Policy*

*September 2024*

## **Intent**

It is widely recognised that children benefit hugely when parents/carers and school work together. Walbottle Village Primary School values the contribution that parents/carers make towards their child's emotional, social, behavioural and educational development.

By working in close partnership with parents, we intend to nurture in the children the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self-esteem and the desire to learn. Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life, and the school seeks to listen and communicate with parents effectively in order to build the trust and understanding needed for pupils to achieve their full potential.

The use of the term "parent" refers to any adult who has a caring role in the lives of children. This includes mothers, fathers, step-parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, older siblings and carers who are not related (e.g. foster carers).

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

### **1. Aims of the Policy:**

- To ensure that all staff, Local Advisory Board, parents and carers are able to support pupils' development effectively at all stages of their school life at Walbottle Village Primary.
- To communicate fully with parents/carers and to involve parents/carers fully in the school community to ensure that we all (parents, children, staff and Local Advisory Board) have the same purpose in mind – the needs, development, safety and progress of the children.
- To provide an environment inclusive for all parents/carers and their children, regardless of need, background or culture.
- To inform, clarify and communicate the opportunities available for families and the school to work together.

### **2. How we maintain parent partnership:**

#### **a) We provide a welcoming and friendly school for parents/carers by:**

- Ensuring we offer a friendly and professional reception for all visitors
- Asking parents/carers whether they felt welcomed when they visited school
- Making school a safe and vibrant environment
- Providing clear signs around school to improve accessibility
- Operating an open door policy for parents to share views, concerns and ideas.

- b) **We provide good induction and transition procedures for all new parents and parents whose children are transferring to secondary education (including those who transfer to a different school mid-year) by:**
- Holding induction events for new parents/carers.
  - Conducting home visits for all new Nursery and Reception families
  - Inviting parents/carers to Early Years open sessions
  - Offering tours of the school for all new parents/carers to see the school at work and get to know the geography of the building.
  - Maintaining strong communication links with receiving school to ensure a smooth transition process.
  - Providing impartial guidance on transition to parents/carers and pupils.
  - Supporting parents with the procedures for applying for secondary schools,
  - Actively encouraging Year 6 children to attend transition sessions during the summer holidays.
- c) **We provide a high quality two-way information system for parents/carers via:**
- Providing a regular and up-to-date information service through the newsletter, school website, text messaging service and parent partnership email address for those parents wishing to receive information about family learning opportunities via email.
  - Parent consultation meetings are held in Autumn and Spring Term and parents/carers receive a full annual report in Summer term to provide with up to date information on their child's progress, targets, attendance and behaviour.
  - Regular written reports provided detailing progress, attendance, behaviour and targets.
  - Providing advance notice of school events and dates
  - Actively involving parents/carers in the celebration of pupil success
  - School notice boards.
  - Formal school meetings to discuss Individual Education Plans for children with Special Educational Needs
  - Informal one-to-one meetings and verbal communication with parents
  - Home/School agreement
  - School surveys asking parents/carers for their views
  - Tapestry and Dojo apps
- d) **We provide regular opportunities for parents to be involved in our school community:**
- A variety of assemblies and presentations.
  - Foundation, KS1 and KS2 productions.
  - Christmas and Summer Fayres
  - Cake stalls and charity events
  - Educational visits

- Sports Events
  - Open days
  - Parenting Programmes and workshops
- e) **We provide flexible support to parents/carers to ensure that the needs of children are met:**
- We operate an open door policy for parents/carers to discuss their view and share concerns.
  - We offer the services of a Family Support / School Welfare Officer to support families experiencing difficulties that may impact on the development of their child.
  - We respond to parent/carers views about what they would like us to offer e.g. family learning opportunities
  - Breakfast club
  - After school clubs
- f) **We provide an enrichment programme for all pupils, involving parents where possible:**
- We provide a regularly updated programme of events e.g. homework projects, trips, after-school clubs, Easter schools, sports and arts activities.
- g) **We ensure that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read:**
- Making relevant school policies available to parents/carers and ensuring appropriate procedures are clear
  - Regularly reviewing the home-school agreement to ensure parents' views are taken into account
  - Having up to date policies available on the school website:
  - Providing translations of policies where appropriate
- h) **We offer development opportunities for parents/carers:**
- The school seeks to ensure that all groups of parents/carers connected with school are aware of training and enrichment opportunities available in the school and in the community by:
- Informing parents about adult learning opportunities
  - Offering positive parenting programmes
  - Responding, where possible, to parental needs for training opportunities
  - Providing information about advice workshops, for example in literacy, numeracy, ICT, behaviour management, healthy living and safeguarding to enable parents to support their children's learning.

### **3. Home/School Partnership:**

We believe that a strong home/school partnership is key to children's emotional development, progress and growth as part of the community. We

encourage parents/carers to support their children's learning at home in a variety of ways, including:

- jointly signing the Home/School agreement
- reading with children as often as possible
- visiting the library together
- encouraging children to complete and return promptly any homework they have been given
- supporting our rules and expectations
- engaging, where possible, in activities and opportunities in school.

#### **4. Parental feedback**

Hearing parent/carer views is extremely important to us. We will regularly seek parental views on a range of topics throughout the year via questionnaires, surveys, focus groups and verbal discussion. Feedback is valued, and responses will be seriously considered and actioned where appropriate and in the pupils' best interests. We also gather parental feedback in the following ways:

- Parent Local Advisory Board members who represent the views of parents and communicate ideas, issues and concerns to the Head teacher and to the Local Advisory Board. Relevant information is, in turn, communicated back to the parents.
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will meet regularly with our Parent Partnership Lead to plan events in school as well as looking at ways of using fundraising to enhance provision.
- Dojo App – parents can message teaching staff directly