

Parental Involvement Policy

Beech Hill School



Approved by: Shameem Hussain

Date:

Last reviewed on: April 2021

Next review due by: September 2022

Introduction

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close cooperation with families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

Aims

Our aims through parental involvement are:

- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning
- To provide a partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued
- To ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities

Involvement in the life of the school

Seesaw

This App is a multi-purpose platform where children can share their learning with parents. Parents are able to leave comments on their child's work. School messages and notices can be posted on this and teachers can send messages directly to parents. This is an invaluable tool for parent-school engagement.

Termly Parents' Information Sessions

Each term, parents will be invited to an information session during which they will get the opportunity to meet the staff, get more information about the expectations of the year group and ask any questions. During the Coronavirus pandemic, information is sent out virtually via Seesaw.

Parents' consultation evenings

These take place each term and give parents the chance to discuss with the class teacher their child's progress and discuss next steps. During the Coronavirus pandemic, meetings are held as video calls or phone calls.

Parents' Workshops

Workshops for parents are arranged on a regular basis and may cover a wide range of issues such as sleep problems, behaviour, communication, etc. These workshops may or may not include the children in the sessions themselves. Some workshops will be based on academic subjects where others will focus on creativity or parenting skills. (During the Coronavirus pandemic, workshops are held virtually.)

Social Events and class activities

Parents and families are regularly invited to visit classes throughout the year and for whole school events such as the Winter Show, Sports Day and the leavers' assembly where their support and participation are much appreciated.

Parents are also invited into school in designated 'Parents' Weeks' where there are timetabled activities that parents can get involved in in their child's classroom. (Parents' week not in school due to Coronavirus pandemic).

Website

This contains a variety of factual information about the school, prospectus, term dates etc as well as news from classes, subject content, special events and useful links. It is continuously being added to and updated.

Weekly Newsletter

This is sent home weekly from the school office and contains general news, future dates, events and other general information for parents and families.

Home learning activities

The school is committed to meeting the individual 'homework' needs of each pupil and teaching staff will consult with parents at the start of the academic on home learning opportunities for their child. We provide a 'Family Challenge' for parents to take part in with their children at home and celebrate this in school in assemblies

- School is open to parents and carers at reasonable times
- Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parent-teacher association. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and a viewing platform for a lot of the pupil's work
- Weekly newsletters are sent home informing parents of what is happening in school
- Parents can view much of this written information on the school website

Involvement in children's learning

- Parents and carers can talk with teachers before and after school on an informal basis on most days (During the Coronavirus pandemic, this is limited)
- Appointments to see a teacher or the headteacher, can be made through the school office, and can be set up for as soon as required in most instances
- Every term, there is an opportunity for parents to have a formal discussion with their child(ren)'s teacher. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate success, review learning targets and listen to parental views
- An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents may request a meeting with the teacher to discuss the contents of the report
- Regular curriculum workshops and parent events will be organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child(ren)'s learning

- Curriculum letters are sent to each family at the start of each term, detailing the aspects of learning each child will undertake, and how families might support that learning, for example by visiting museums, galleries, website etc.
- National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also readily available, as appropriate, to each child
- Parents and carers are invited to our weekly Celebration Assemblies to celebrate their child's achievements. (During the Coronavirus pandemic, we aren't holding assemblies as a whole school).
- Parents are able to engage in their child's learning through the Seesaw App
- Parents are invited to the Friday coffee morning. This is an opportunity for parents to share their experiences and find out more about their child's learning.

Types of help at school- this is dependant on Covid-19 restrictions

- Parents and carers are invited to help in school.
- Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits, including, in some instances, assisting with transport arrangements.
- Parents and carers are invited, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.
- Occasionally the governors will seek parents, elected by other parents, to serve on the governing body. Parent governors represent the views of parents, for example when they feel that their children's special needs are not being recognised by the school.
- We value the work of the school's PTA (Parents and Teachers Association). This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school and charities.

Organisational arrangements

- It is necessary to organise a personal background check with the DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.
- Insurance cover will be organised regarding parents' and carers' work at school, but those involved in transporting children in private vehicles will have to check their own insurance arrangement in this regard.
- All helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting, for security reasons.
- All helpers working with children in class are asked to check the purpose and details of the 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 will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.
- The personal information of any parent volunteers will be held securely and all parent volunteers will be made aware of their requirements to secure any personal data that they may come into contact with during their time in school.

Consultation

- 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 are asked to keep the school fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts to meet the requirements of that child
- The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible
- Teachers (including the headteacher) can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them
- Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme
- Parents or carers are invited to the monthly headteacher's forum to discuss and issues they may have
- Also, if desired by a sufficient number of families, the governing body will hold an annual meeting at which issue of interest and concern can be raised by parents and carers
- After an Ofsted inspection parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings, and later on they will be sent a summary of the action plan written in response to the report.

References

This policy should be read in conjunction with the relevant passages in:

- the school Standards and Framework Act (1998), regarding adults working in school
- the Human rights Act (October 2000)
- the School Improvement Plan
- the Equal Opportunities Policy
- the school's evaluation procedures
- the data protection policy

Monitoring and Review

- The headteacher and deputy headteachers will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will submit periodic evaluation reports on its effectiveness to the governing body
- The named Governor for Parental Involvement is: **Mrs Sofia Loreen**

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.