



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS POLICY

Reviewed by

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Approved by Full Governing Body Meeting

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Date of next Review

March 2024

Aim

New Siblands School recognises that working in partnership with parents is of major value and importance in enabling it to provide a happy caring and stable environment for pupils and their parents. We aim to form excellent relationships with parents, so that information regarding their children can be exchanged easily, with any necessary confidentiality.

NB. The school regards parents and carers synonymously. For brevity this policy defines carers as parents.

Policy statement

Context

All the pupils in our school have a disability, nearly all pupils use school transport; relatively few parents live in the immediate locality.

Essential information

Beginning with prospective parents, the school conveys essential information on the school ethos, beliefs, values and customs, via our website and through a visit to the school led by a member of the senior leadership team. It includes how we teach children and how we manage the school, staffing, uniform, lunchtime arrangements transport etc.

When starting school, induction packs for each class provide detailed information about the class and the school with forms for parents to provide essential information on their child. The school commits to confidentiality wherever this is necessary. All new parents are offered a full induction.

Parent governors

Parent governors have a role in developing the ethos of the school and communicating this to parents. This is often best done at school events during the year through introductions to events and activities.

Parents support

The school has an important responsibility to support parents. The special needs of pupils make this particularly important. Pupils annual and transition reviews are a key way by which the school supports parents. Parent's evenings include one to one meeting time with the class teacher, and drop in information and support sessions provided by staff and other professionals. Provision of a wide range of parents support is an essential element of the schools provision.

The school fully engages parents in any programmes which require parental agreement, such as any needed to help pupils manage their own behaviour, or health care planning. The school offers support to parents where the needs of their child present them with difficulties.

The school provides opportunities for parents to access information and meet relevant professions at regular events for parents.

We fully support the activities of the Friends of New Siblands (FONS) and provide a link member of staff for the group.

Communication

Parents can access information about what their child has been doing in class by requesting a log-in for the 'Evidence for Learning' app, which is used to record children's progress. This also allows parents to share information about home activities with school.

The daily diary system is still a key communication tool. It provides a valuable means of communication between parents and staff. For our school, where due to school transport arrangements, daily contact is not possible, this provides an essential link. The diary will be used to send information that is not recorded on the app i.e. not about general classroom activities.

Generally telephone calls can be responded to by teachers out of class time.

The school has an open door policy to parents. Prior notice will allow us to dedicate any necessary time.

Our website is a good source of information for parents. As well as general information about the school, it includes our key policies and complaints procedures, which are available to all parents. The website also includes signposting to professionals and services.

Termly **newsletters** provide key dates in the school calendar. Information about events during the school year is also sent to parents via letters or text messages.

Safeguarding and well-being,

Child protection

Child protection is a priority for our school. There is a high level of awareness of the extreme vulnerabilities of our pupils and the school shares with parents the imperative of protecting their child. A copy of our Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website. The school always aims to work sensitively and in partnership in relation to any child protection issues.

Accidents

We make a careful note and record of any accidents that take place in school and always inform parents of these, we will contact parents about any injury noticed upon arrival at school as a matter of course.

Attendance

High attendance is a very important aspect of wellbeing. The school has a philosophy of striving for constant improvement in relation to pupil attendance. Whilst we consider every pupil on an individual basis, and whilst we recognise that some of our pupils have higher level of susceptibility to illness, we are rigorous in our efforts to secure the highest possible attendance.

Being healthy.

Wherever necessary pupils have care plans which ensure their medical and care needs are effectively met in school. Guidance from the Health Authority makes it clear that parents are responsible for the accuracy and updating as necessary of care plans. The school nurse works with parents to support this. The school seeks strongly to facilitate this as accurate plans are essential in ensuing maximum pupil safety.

Managing multiple professionals.

Parents of pupils with SEND tend to engage with a wider range of professionals and specialists than those in mainstream schools. The school understands the pressures that this can bring, and takes a holistic view of the child, and supporting parents in maintaining such a balance. The school therefore works hard to centralise the work of other professionals into the school for the benefit of the child.

Community cohesion, parent engagement in school life and school support for resources.

Transport arrangements tend to mean we see a lot less of parents than we would wish. The school is therefore keen to increase the opportunities for parents to become engaged with us, at many different levels, and plans activities to enable this to happen.

The school is keen to share the resources it can with parents, for example providing symbols for visual timetables.

School public events are important opportunities for parent involvement and we greatly welcome parents to sports day, performances and a wide range of special events.

Parent Voice

Hearing the voice and views of parents is very important to us. The school uses questionnaires to hear this voice and uses them as an important tool in establishing the direction of the school, alongside a range of other ways to record and consider parent voice, including family engagement research by independent external sources. The governing body has strong parental representation and a strong listening ear. Governors wish to extend and continuously improve their communicability with parents.

Equalities

The school has the strongest possible orientation towards equalities and applies this rigorously in its work with parent's terms of equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, disability and socioeconomic factors.