

Justification

Both home and school want the best for children in our care. Parents want them to have the best opportunities so that they can become successful and happy members of the community. The Gates Primary School wants to provide pupils with the environment and support they need to achieve all their ambitions. Effective partnership between home and school is key to these aspirations. Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life, and the school needs to listen to and communicate with parents effectively to build the trust and understanding needed for pupils to achieve their best. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and school.

At The Gates 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, positive, safe and purposeful working relationship between the school and home and to ensure the environment reflects this.

Aims

1. To support pupils to achieve the highest standards through closer partnerships between home and school.
2. To involve parents fully in school life and the school community.
3. To ensure that all staff, governors and parents are able to support the pupils' development effectively at all stages of their school life at The Gates.
4. To develop good communication with parents by operating an 'Open Door' policy that encourages the fullest possible two way communication between staff and parents.
5. To utilise technology as a means of communication between staff and parents.
6. To provide an environment inclusive of all parents and their children, regardless of need, background or culture.
7. Supporting the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community, including on the use of social networking sites
8. Respecting the school environment, including keeping the school tidy by not littering; not bringing animals on to the premises; following parking rules

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

- * Hold a range of induction events for parents of children starting their school life at The Gates Primary School.
- * Make letters, the school website, class Twitter pages and key policies "user friendly", useful and informative.
- * Provide a regular and up-to-date information service through the school newsletter, text messages and school website.
- * Hold meetings to discuss, evaluate and update Early Help Plans for children with additional needs. * Provide fortnightly newsletters to inform parents of upcoming events and celebrate achievements. * Regularly updated class information informing parents of their child's curriculum on the school website.
- * Hold a parents' consultation meeting in the Autumn Term and in the Spring Term.
- * Provide parents with advance notice of all school events and dates.
- * Actively involve parents in the celebration of pupil success.
- * Update class Twitter accounts weekly to inform parents about what children have been doing in school.

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

- * Send annual reports at the end of each year.
- * Provide regular opportunities to extend pupils' learning at home, including through online technologies.

- * Operate a reading record book between home and school.
- * Invite parents into school to share and celebrate achievements.
- * Set home/school homework tasks to involve parents fully in their child's learning.
- * Hold individual meetings held with a range of staff.
- * Offer two formal parents' consultations for each class each year

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 workshops and celebration events.
 - * Attend school performances, events, school trips and celebrations.
- * Support their children to become good attendees.
- * Supporting their child with home learning.

To establish the views and opinions of parents, we will:

- * Conduct an annual parental questionnaire and inform parents of the results. Feedback is valued, and responses will be seriously considered and actioned where appropriate and in pupils' best interests.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the school cannot tolerate:

- * Disruptive behaviour which interferes with the operation of a classroom, an office area or any other part of the school grounds.
- * Using loud and/or offensive language or displaying temper.
- * Threatening harm or the use of physical aggression towards another adult or child.
- * Damaging or destroying school property.
- * Abusive or threatening emails, phone or social network messages.
- * Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol or other drugs or accessing the school site whilst intoxicated.
- * No animals, such as dogs, are permitted on the school grounds.

The above behaviours on school premises will be reported to the appropriate authorities and Governors may prohibit an offending adult from entering the school grounds to safeguard our school community.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in September 2024 by the Head teacher, staff and governors.