

THE GLEDDINGS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Partnership with Parents Policy

This policy applies to all pupils in school, including Early Years Foundation Stage and out of school care and clubs.

This policy takes account of the following documents and guidance:-

- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- The Independent School Standards Commentary on the Regulatory Requirements September 2016

This policy is to be read in conjunction with all other policies. Please particularly cross refer to the following policies:

- Admission
- Anti Bullying
- Asthma
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Collecting Children from School
- Complaints Procedures
- Code of Conduct
- Curriculum
- Equal Opportunities
- Health and Safety including Out of School Activities and Visits
- Homework
- PSHE and Citizenship
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Children
- Children with Special Educational Needs, Learning Difficulties or Disabilities and Inclusion
- Sex Education and Relationship
- Teaching and Learning

INTRODUCTION

We can best meet the needs of individual children by creating a welcoming atmosphere within the school and by working closely with parents and carers.

AIMS

In order to develop strong and effective partnerships with parents we aim:

1. to create a positive ethos and climate within the school where parents are valued as having a key role in their child's education;
2. to provide appropriate structures within the school for partnership with parents;
3. to keep parents well informed about the developments within the school related to the School Improvement Plan;
4. to keep parents well informed of the every day life of the school;
5. to inform parents/carers of their child's progress and welfare in school;
6. to involve parents/carers in school activities;
7. to seek the views of parents/carers when auditing aspects within the school;
8. to involve parents in their child's learning.

In school we will:

1. create an ethos and climate within the school where the views of all parents are valued, respected and taken account of, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, background or religion;
2. create opportunities for parents to come into school on a regular basis e.g to attend, for example, - assemblies/church services/ concerts, school book fairs, school events, attend extra curricular events or fun/sports days;
3. seek out possible skills and interests that parents may have that could be incorporated into enhancing the education of the pupils e.g. taking extra curricular activities/ helping within the school;
4. create clear and positive communication links with parents where they know they can approach the school with a problem and it will be acted upon positively;
5. seek (where appropriate) support from outside agencies if there are barriers to partnership due to language differences or a child has specific learning difficulties or physical disabilities;
6. share responsibilities for implementing school policies on , for example, behaviour, bullying, asthma, homework, administration of medicines, health and safety, special educational needs, sex education, collecting children from school and attendance;
7. involve parents in fund raising events e.g. to support local charities;
8. provide opportunities for parents to help within the school and on school trips;
9. establish mechanisms for seeking all parents' views on the provision/ areas of development/ amendments to practice e.g. through questionnaires and letters and also through email and consultations with staff.
10. Store all confidential information about children, staff and parents in a secure place. Any person needing access to confidential information in relation to their professional duties must ask the permission of the Headteacher. Permission will only be granted at her discretion and in line the requirements of Data Protection Act 1998.

Admission to School

When a child is first admitted to the school the Admissions Manager will:

1. make every effort to ensure that the appropriate information for parents/carers is available to them and that they are aware of the information we place on our web site ;
2. arrange an induction meeting with parents/carers before their child's admission e.g. to give them a tour of the school, explain about policies and procedures, provide other useful information and also to help allay any anxieties they may have;
3. ask parents/carers for information about their children, their individual needs and requirements in order to ensure the best possible care and education is provided for them;
4. provide information about the topics being covered in the Nursery or which ever class is appropriate;
5. ensure that any consent forms/agreements are completed;
6. ensure that contact information and details about the child/children and legal guardian are taken;
7. keep a record of any particular needs of each child;
8. ensure that arrangements for the children's arrival and collection are clear and understood by all staff and parents/carers;
9. ensure that information about children is treated as confidential, is held securely and is only shared with parents/carers and relevant personnel;
10. create class profiles to inform all teachers of the specific needs (learning and/or personal) of all children.

Teaching and Learning

The school will:

1. establish structures to involve parents in being active partners in their children's learning e.g through - homework, learning spellings, times tables or online mathematics. The use of home-school packs and story bags and in contributing to the children's profiles in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception classes);
2. hold Parents' Information Evenings (PIEs) for all parents for every year group of pupils to explain routine procedures and how the curriculum will be delivered at each stage of the child's education;
3. provide additional information for parents on ways they can support their children at home, for example, at parent information evenings, through consultation with the Headteacher and or the class teachers;
4. keep parents up to date with new methodologies and strategies being implemented within the school, for example, by providing information sessions on the teaching of early reading and writing.

Information provided:

The school will:

1. provide parents with a school prospectus and relevant information about admission to the school;
2. provide parents with additional information about the school and their children's activities through the use of the school's web site which is regularly updated;
3. communicate with parents through regular informative newsletters (paper or electronic);
4. provide alternative modes of communicating with parents if appropriate e.g through the use of interpreters or involving support agencies;
5. arrange additional meetings with parents/carers about individual children when this is appropriate or issues arise within the school;
6. provide a vehicle for a two way communication link from home to school e.g through the use of the homework diary, reading record book and by using each child's book folder for sending home school correspondence;
7. inform parents of extra curricular activities/clubs available/ before and after school care/ holiday school well in advance;
8. display notices and information about school events in the entrance hall or where relevant on classroom doors;
9. provide parents with information about any of the school policies and procedures on request;
10. keep parents well informed about the school's performance e.g in exams, sporting events, inspection and monitoring procedures;
11. provide opportunities for parents to attend information workshops where aspects of the school delivery/provision can be made.

Pupils' Progress and Welfare

The school will:

1. inform the parents/carers about the progress of the children through parental consultation evenings and also through written reports twice per year;
2. invite parents in to school to discuss any concerns about their children or to share any relevant information about changes to their child's normal life or routine at any time during the school year;
3. actively involve parents of any children who have specific needs in drawing up and reviewing Individual Learning Plan targets;
4. inform parents about the development of any policies concerning the welfare of the children;
5. encourage the parents to seek advice from the Headteacher if they are unsure as to whether to keep their child away from school e.g in adverse weather or if they think their child may be infectious;
6. inform the parents about the school's expectations on behaviour and attendance, for example re the school rules/rewards and sanctions and about ways of informing the school to explain a child's absence/illness;
7. inform parents of dealing with incidents that may result in pupils being put at risk;
8. ask the parents to speak to the administrative staff where there are changes to the arrangements for collecting children from school.

Complaints

Should there be any complaint it will be dealt with promptly. If any complaint is received we will keep a written record of the nature of the complaint, the action taken, the person responsible for investigating and taking action, the timescale and the outcome. (See the Complaints Policy for further details).

Privacy and Confidentiality (See Confidentiality Policy and Procedures).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and review of the partnership with parents is ongoing. Information from oral feedback, letters and questionnaires from parents, and also from staff discussions and Senior Leadership Meetings and the monitoring of the School Improvement Plan will inform future developments in promoting the partnership with parents. Where necessary, appropriate action will be taken to ensure that we maintain and strive to improve the strong links we currently have with parents.

This policy was reviewed in November 2016

Signed:

Headteacher

Next Review Date: November 2017