



Stocksfield Avenue Primary



Parental Involvement Policy

Rationale

Research has shown that the most important factor in a child's success at school is the interest and support given to them at home. Therefore, at Stocksfield Avenue, we recognise the parents' influence on their child's learning, and actively encourage the development of links with parents and their involvement in school life. Throughout this policy, the term parent is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers.

Aims

- To see parents as partners in their child's learning and encourage them to take an active involvement in both this learning process and the life of the school. This allows the child to have the best possible support during their school career;
- To develop good communication with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in school;
- To establish the views and opinions of parents and act upon these where possible.
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- To ensure that maximum use is made of adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities;
- To encourage parents and carers to develop and extend their own learning;

Parental Involvement will be achieved through:

1. Effective communication with our parents to ensure the needs of the children are met fully, and parents understand what the school is trying to achieve. This can be brought about through a variety of means:
 - Providing an [on-line prospectus](#) for Nursery and Reception;
 - Induction meetings for new parents to Reception and Nursery;
 - Nursery Home Visits;
 - Initial talks on the [school's reading policy](#) when the child and parents first become a part of the school;
 - Participating in appropriate workshops organised to help parents understand how they can support their children at home, e.g.: numeracy, homework, early language – these are led by school staff or Newcastle Family Learning;
 - Year Group Meetings in September;
 - Holding curriculum meetings as and when necessary to inform parents about new developments or policies;
 - Home-school diaries are an effective way of communicating;
 - ['Learning Together Programme'](#) – parents come in to work with children and class teacher;
 - Informing parents about adult learning courses at Kenton School;
 - Good class teacher and parent communication, with both parties showing mutual respect for each other;
 - [Monthly newsletters](#) / [Termly Curriculum Guides](#) / [Homework Guides](#);
 - Promoting our Home/School Agreement policy which is signed by pupils, parents and the school and details the responsibilities of all parties;
 - Actively supporting our [Behaviour Policy](#);
 - Exhibitions of work which reflect the school curriculum in terms of continuity and progression;
 - Inviting parents to class assemblies, performances and sports day;
 - Fundraising Activities, often organised in partnership with [Friends of Stocksfield](#);

- Gaining the views of parents by sending out [questionnaires](#) and holding consultation meetings about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives – parents are informed of the results;
 - Parental support in the teaching area and throughout school;
 - Encourage parents to take part in Family Challenges such as 'Build A Bridge', 'Design a Family Shield';
 - Parents having access to all key information on the school website. School also has a Twitter account and a Facebook page.
 - Key dates and events are displayed on a Parent's noticeboard in the KS1 / UKS2 yard.
2. Opportunities are given for parents to be informed fully of their child's progress in both a written and verbal form through parents meetings in October and February, annual reports in July, SEN meetings to review IEP's / G&T discussions... Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views. At each meeting, or in the end-of-year report, parents are given a Pupil Progress sheet about their child's progress.
 3. Parents and carers can talk with teachers before and after school on an informal basis on most days. 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.
 4. Homework is given on a weekly basis, and Learning Logs are sent home half-termly. We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks, many of which contain guidance for helpers.
 5. Parents and carers can expect to be spoken to in a quiet, private area if there are any concerns regarding their child.
 6. 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.
 7. Occasionally, the governors will seek parents, elected by other parents, to serve on the governing body to represent the views of parents.
 8. 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.
 9. [A Parent Partnership Working Group](#) has been set up to seek parental views on key issues in school;
 10. Friends of Stocksfield are a group of parents / grandparents who work voluntarily with school staff to raise money for the school, support at events and make a difference for the children. The Friends Group provides an opportunity for everyone to work together towards a common goal and is open to all parents and teachers, even if they only have a small amount of time available to get involved.

Guidance to staff on 'helpers' in the school

- If parents are helping in school on a regular basis, they need to be DBS cleared. All parents' names will be held on a register kept by the Admin Officer.
- Please make sure that parents working in school are made to feel welcome and appreciated.
- Always ensure that if parents are working with a group, or giving 1:1 reading support, that there is either a Teacher or Teaching Assistant in the same area.
- All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.
- Ensure that parents know that if a difficult situation arises they must leave you to deal with it.
- Parents will not be asked to mark work.
- Reinforce with the children that they must treat parents with the same respect as teachers.
- For security reasons, helpers will be asked to sign in and out of school, and wear their identity badges whilst working in the school.
- Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits. Insurance cover will be organised regarding parents and carers working at school. However, if they are involved in transporting children in private vehicles, for example to football matches, they will have to check their own insurance cover.

Conclusion

Stocksfield Avenue Primary School has an 'open door' policy towards all its parents, and values parental support in its many varied forms.

Person Responsible: Head Teacher / Co-ordinator / Full staff / Parents Working Group

Review Date: November 2018

Next Review Due: November 2020