



# HOMELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNORS ON.....24.11.09.....

REVIEWED.....

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## **Rationale**

Only 15% of a child's life is spent at school so it is clear that parents have a major role in their child's education. Children do better in school if parents and school work closely together to support the child's learning.

This policy aims to set out what Homelands Primary School will do to ensure parents and school have every opportunity to work together in partnership.

## **Aims**

- To enable and encourage parents to be involved with and support their child's learning
- To maintain good communication between home and school
- To help parents feel welcome in school and to feel confident about approaching the school

## **Implementation**

Each key stage has particular ways of fostering links with parents.

### **Foundation stage**

- Inviting parents to introductory meetings about F1 and F2 and talking to parents about their child before they start in our school during a Stay and Play session.
- The teacher and nursery nurse visiting the new children in their home setting prior to starting F1.
- Taking time to listen to the parents' comments and information about their child's interests and making notes which then form the first page of their child's learning journals.
- Inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts F2.
- Having flexible admission arrangements that enable children and parents to become secure and by allowing time to discuss each child's circumstances.
- Arranging for children to start school over the first half of term. We stagger the starting time of each child over this period, so that the families are welcomed individually into our school.
- Asking the parents of children in F1 to stay with their child for the first week to settle them in to the new routine.
- Having welcoming boards which consist of weekly plans, information sheets to help with learning at home, news, special visitors visiting and photographs showing their children's learning.
- Providing children with reading diaries, which allow for two way dialogue.
- Offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress with our 'open door' policy. Parents and carers can talk to teachers before and after school on an informal basis most days.
- Giving parents open access to the learning diaries and come into the unit at the start of and at the end of a session to read the observations of their child's learning.
- Offering a range of activities that support the involvement of parents. There is regular communication with parents being encouraged to complete 'home learning stories'. We also encourage the parents to engage on a weekly basis by encouraging them to support their child to learn our weekly song in F1.
- Arranging curriculum workshops and activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents; we invite parents

to; reading and phonic meetings, to watch videos of the children engaged in play in F1, workshops on mathematical learning in F/S and family music sessions.

### **KS1**

- Utilising a daily meet and greet at the door by TA/Class Teacher.
- Having KS1 noticeboard - topic webs, copies of letters and times of parent interviews.
- Sending home Reading Diaries - encouraging 2 way dialogue.
- Having Homework Books - encouraging 2 way dialogue and to support work being done in class.
- “Wonderwall” - parents invited in to look at work on wall.
- Holding September welcome meeting (every 2 years) to explain how we work.
- Holding transition meetings with parents for children moving into Y1.
- Sending certificates and stickers to praise achievement as well as sharing anything significant as it occurs.

### **KS2**

- Sending out parent letters.
- Arranging parent meetings
- Start of term introductions to class.
- Setting homework tasks.
- Awarding Star of the Week to praise achievement.
- Individual contact (positives/issues).
- Invitations to creative curriculum workshops - ½ termly.
- Open door policy.
- Multiplication challenge.
- Reading diaries.
- Spelling journals.
- Invitation to performances.
- On the door contact with parents at the end of the day.

### **Parent Teacher Association (Friends of Homelands School)**

All parents are encouraged to support this organisation. It helps fundraise for the school but perhaps more importantly is a way of parents getting to know each other and promotes working together to support all pupils at Homelands Primary School. The association has regular newsletters and a notice board showing parents who are links for particular classes. It arranges a variety of events e.g. summer fair, talent shows, quiz nights, discos and is always open to new suggestions. Louisa Greasley (Y5 Parent) and Emma Lindsay (Y3/5 Parent) currently co-ordinate this group. From January 2010 the PTA will hold a coffee morning for parents new to the school.

### **Support for Parents**

We have a Parent Support Facilitator attached to the school, Paul Rundle. He is available every Thursday morning and will talk through any issues with you. These might be about behaviour, attendance or anything else you require support with. Our Pastoral Assistant is also available to support parents as necessary. Our School Nurse, Sharon Murray, has a drop-in session once a week.

## **Communication**

At Homelands Primary School we have a wide range of communication strategies. These include:

- Our school website, which as more parents have internet access, will be used increasingly to pass on information.
- Curriculum newsletters each term
- Newsletters
- Individual phone calls or letters
- Parent Evenings Autumn and Spring Terms  
Open Evening Summer Term.  
Opportunity to discuss reports Summer Term
- Postcards home
- Annual written report on progress
- Questionnaires
- Consultations
- Individual education plans and reviews for children needing extra support.
- Behaviour logs for children with behaviour difficulties
- Informal discussion with teacher and TAs

## **Home School Agreement**

All new parents receive a copy of the Home School Agreement which they are asked to sign. The agreement outlines the parents, the children's and the schools responsibilities, which all parties are expected to honour. A copy of the agreement is attached to the policy.

## **Meetings**

At Homelands Primary School formal Parent Evenings are held in October/November and February/March. There is an optional Parents Evening in the Summer Term to discuss your child's report. An Open Evening is also held in the Summer Term so that you can look at work across the school and meet your child's teacher.

The needs of any parent with severe obstacles to attending a Parent Meeting can be addressed if we are aware of these.

Parents not living with their child are given an appointment on request. Parents are invited to all reviews if their child has Special Educational Needs. Individual Education Plans are shared with parents.

If a parent requests a meeting with the Headteacher every effort is made to arrange this as quickly as possible.

Information meetings may be held through the year. These may include:

- Secondary transfer
- New Parents
- Curriculum Evenings (many parents have requested maths evenings)
- Transfer meetings for children moving from F2 to Y1
- Preparations for residential visits

### **Assemblies**

Parents are invited to our Friday achievement assemblies. The Y6 parents are also invited to the Leavers' Assembly in July.

### **Reports**

Reports on a child's progress and attainment in all subjects and their personal development are sent to parents in early July. A separate slip is enclosed for parents to respond to their child's report. Separate reports are sent on request to parents not living with their child.

### **Parent Helpers**

We encourage parental help if this is on a regular basis. However, in line with recent legislation, only those people who are police checked can help in classrooms. We also welcome support with school clubs. From time to time we also seek parental help for walking to the swimming pool or out of school visits. Parents also organise our fruit and vegetable scheme.

### **Family Learning Opportunities**

Community Education regularly offers opportunities for parents to learn about the work children do in school. We are currently running a Maths Course for Foundation Stage parents. These courses some times lead to opportunities for parents to develop their skills by obtaining qualifications.

### **Parent Governors**

Homelands Primary School has 4 Parent Governors. These are currently:

Chris Mabbutt

Trystan King

Dean Jones

Homelands Primary School encourages all parents to consider membership of the Governing Body when vacancies arise.

### **Homework**

Teachers set out the pattern of homework in their class at the beginning of each term. Increasingly we are setting Home Learning Tasks in Key Stage1/2 related to work your child is undertaking in class. Home Learning Tasks require you to be fully involved with your child. Hopefully you will enjoy these tasks and teachers will be happy to support you in working alongside your child.