



Parent Partnership Policy

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Monitored by: SLT

The Ferrars Academy **Parent Partnership Policy**

Throughout this policy the term 'parent' is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers.

At The Ferrars Academy we endeavour to develop a close partnership with parents, one that will support and encourage all children to achieve their full potential. We value the contribution parents can provide to their children's learning and we acknowledge that learning begins and continues in the home environment. We recognise the importance of ensuring we have a strong partnership with parents, and value parental involvement in the life of the school.

Any educational setting can only be fully effective if there is partnership with parents. Education is a collaborative enterprise involving parents, staff, children, governors, the Local Authority and a range of other agencies.

This Parent Partnership Policy seeks to inform and broaden the further development of home/school links at The Ferrars Academy. We are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between home and school.

Aims:

To communicate fully with parents to ensure that we all (parents, children and staff) have the same purpose in mind – the needs, development and progress of the children.

We aim to:

- empower all parents to have an ownership of our school and their child's learning
- have a strong partnership with all parents
- ensure that all communication with parents is effective, clear and jargon free
- actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child
- make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their own child and other children and to actively involve them in school life
- provide an effective induction for all groups of parents
- establish, and act upon, the views and opinions of parents

To have a strong partnership and good communication with parents/carers informing them about what is happening in school, we:

- ensure that all written communication is "user friendly", useful and informative.
- publish regular informative whole school newsletters
- maintain and develop our school website, ensuring that it is updated on a regular basis
- have an open door policy for parents to visit the school
- hold parent consultations meetings each term
- hold an Open Day for prospective and established parents annually
- provide translations of key school materials as appropriate

To actively involve parents/carers in the education, progress and well-being of their child we:

- hold Induction Meetings in Nursery and Reception and for new parents
- hold a minimum of two parent consultation meetings each year during the Autumn and Spring terms. A meeting during the Summer term is available upon request.
- hold three IEP consultation meetings each year to discuss evaluate and update plans for children with special educational needs
- hold yearly EHC review meetings

- send written annual reports at the end of each academic year
- seek to ensure that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read; key policies are available on our website and as hard copies
- request that all parents and pupils sign a home/school agreement
- send half termly year group curriculum overviews informing parents of their child's curriculum
- involve parents in supporting their child's behaviour and well-being
- work closely with carers to maximise attendance and minimise lateness
- hold annual workshops on reading and mathematics
- provide leaflets and guidance on specific areas of the curriculum, e.g. reading, to enable parents to support children at home
- hold positive parenting sessions and workshops
- hold a monthly drop in surgery to access support from the Family Workers
- hold Stay & Play sessions for parents with children from birth to three.

To make good use of parents/carers' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their own and other children and to actively involve them in school life we encourage parents/carers to:

- speak to children to support lessons/assemblies e.g. vets, nurses, doctors, dentists etc.
- attend parent workshops, school performances, events and celebrations
- become involved in school projects
- volunteer to support in school
- use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members
- become parent governors
- engage in further study and to offer student placements across our school

To provide good induction for all groups of parents/carers we:

- ensure that our prospectus is detailed, informative and up to date
- ensure that our website is detailed, informative and up to date
- provide opportunities for all prospective parents to find out about our school
- provide tours of the school for all new and existing parents to see the school at work and get to know the geography of the building
- provide opportunities for parents to discuss all transitional decisions
- ensure information is produced and distributed appropriately, taking account of parental needs and views

To establish the views and opinions of parents/carers of the school we:

- provide bi-annual opportunities for parental questionnaires and inform parents of the results
- ask parents to evaluate key events in school
- seek parental consultation on key issues in school
- consult on key policies and procedures

We also seek to support those parents who work by offering an extended school provision, for example:

- providing Wraparound Care Club
- providing after school activity clubs

Home / School Partnership

The Ferrars Academy believe that a strong home/school partnership is key to children's emotional development, progress and growth as part of the community. We encourage parents to support their children's learning at home in a variety of ways, including:

- jointly signing the Home/School agreement and explaining to your child their responsibilities
- supporting our rules and expectations
- reading with children as often as possible
- checking and signing their Reading Records on a regular basis and as a means of contacting teachers
- visiting the library together
- encouraging children to complete and return promptly any homework they have been given, including completing Learning Logs, learning their spellings and helping them learn scripts for plays and performances
- talking with the teacher if parents have any concerns regarding their children's learning or behaviour at school or at home

Parents are welcomed into the school at mutually convenient times to learn more about their children's progress and to celebrate their successes. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year, both formal and informal to meet together and get to know each other. Meetings are arranged at a variety of different times to enable as many parents as possible to attend. We are committed to the highest possible level of partnership with parents and are always open to new suggestions on how we can improve.