



REDDITCH RSA ACADEMIES TRUST

Parental Engagement Policy

Approved by Governors : February 2017

Review Date : Spring 2020

Ipsley CE RSA Academy

Parental Engagement Policy

Overview

At Ipsley CE RSA Academy we recognise the importance of and value parental involvement in the life of the school. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving amongst others, parents, staff, children and young people. As a school we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home.

The guiding principles for this policy can be explained by the following:

“It’s what parents do rather than who they are that counts.”

(Charles Desforges)

“At the age of seven parental influence on learning is six times that of the school. At the age of eleven or twelve parental influence on learning is 30 per cent greater than that of the school. After the age of twelve, children – as they grow and mature – become their own greatest influence. At no point does the school have the greatest influence.”

(Charles Desforges)

“Where child learning becomes family learning, and where educators understand that they cannot meet the needs of children and young people alone, true engagement and shared understanding are developed”

(NCLSCS 2010)

It is known that:-

- Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child’s life. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is a partnership between parents, children and providers.
- Parents want their child to succeed.
- Children need educational and emotional support if they are to succeed. Parents need to be able to provide this effectively.
- Many parents have missed the opportunity of furthering their education and training.
- The school is a resource for the community it serves.

Aims

- a) To make school a genuinely welcoming place for parents and carers.
- b) To develop effective communication, which will include making the best use of information and communications technology to enhance parent partnership, and keep them fully informed about what is happening in school.
- c) To actively support parents and carers to enable them to engage with their child's learning.
- d) To plan and organise events and activities to engage parents and carers.
- e) To increase parental engagement in the context of the safeguarding agenda.
- f) 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.
- g) To engage with parents/carers in order to establish their views and opinions and act upon these where it would be appropriate to do so.
- h) To increase parental understanding of and engagement with the school's Christian values and ethos.

We will endeavour to meet these aims by:

- a) To make school a genuinely welcoming place for parents and carers, we will ensure that:
 - We have an open door policy for parents to visit the school
 - A robust induction programme is in place
 - The aims of the school are prominently displayed
 - The school environment is welcoming, recognises linguistic diversity, and includes high quality display of students' work and other materials throughout the school
 - The school's systems respond effectively to the needs of the parent/carer telephoning/emailing/visiting/writing
 - We hold an annual 'Open Evening' for prospective Year 5 students
 - Where appropriate we will attend the Y4 events held at our main feeder schools.

- b) To develop effective communication, which will include making the best use of information and communications technology to enhance parent partnership, and keep them fully informed about what is happening in school. To meet this aim we will:
 - Make all written communications "user friendly", useful and informative
 - Send regular newsletters containing information about upcoming events and celebrating school and student successes.
 - Use the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Twitter and the school website as a key communication tool.
 - Ensure policies and other useful information is easily accessible via the school website.

- c) To actively support parents and carers to enable them to engage with their child's learning, we will:
- Offer a minimum of an annual parent/carer consultation evening for each year group
 - Provide an annual report for each student
 - Provide a termly key assessment report to parent/carers
 - Hold information evenings to inform and empower parent/carers
 - Meet with every parent to discuss curriculum upon entry into the school
 - Meet with parents/carers outside of the above events at pre-arranged, mutually convenient times
 - Use the Virtual Learning Environment and the school website to host learning materials which help parents/carers to become actively involved in home school learning.
- d) To plan and organise events and activities to engage parents and carers, we will endeavor to:
- Offer events at key points in the academic year. These may be information sharing events, settling in events pre and post transition or social activities such as 'quiz nights'
 - Instigate a parent/carer forum.
- e) To increase parental engagement in the context of the safeguarding agenda we will:
- Publish the 'Safeguarding' policy on the school website and use the induction process to signpost this.
 - Inform parents/carers of appropriate technological advances to support them in safeguarding their child/children
 - Signpost parent/carers to support services available both locally and nationally
 - Signpost parents/carers to significant websites for information and support
 - Hold information evenings as and when appropriate
 - Inform parents/carers of local and national concerns as appropriate
 - Ensure parents/carers are aware of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school
- f) 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. To endeavour to meet this aim we will encourage parents/carers to:
- Attend induction days and celebration events linked to these, when requested to do so

- Attend induction evening on transition into Year 5
- Attend key assemblies and Christian celebrations
- Attend drama and music performances
- Attend school sporting fixtures
- Become involved in school and RSA projects
- Participate in family and adult learning events organized by the school
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members
- Become parent governors

g) To engage with parents/carers in order to establish their views and opinions and act upon these where it would be appropriate to do so. To do this we will:

- Ask parents to complete an annual survey and share the findings via the school's parent governor
- Consult with parents in the development of policies or on key strategic decision making
- Ask parents to complete evaluation forms for key events
- Ask parents for feedback via exit questionnaires
- Consult with parents in the development and implementation of the Home School Agreement

h) To increase parental understanding of and engagement with the school's Christian values and ethos, we will:

- Provide an overview of the values, the collective worship schedule and Collective Worship policy on the school website
- Invite parents to attend at least one key Christian celebration assembly or event in each year group (e.g. the Harvest Festival, Christingle etc.)
- Include the school's Christian Distinctiveness within stakeholder surveys