



Parental Involvement Policy

Reviewed by staff: Autumn Term 2015

Approved & Ratified by Governors (SI Committee): Autumn 2015

Next Review Date: Spring 2017

VERSION 1

Introduction

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close cooperation with all families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

Aims

Our aims through parental involvement are:

- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning;
- To provide a partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued;
- To ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

Involvement in the life of the school

Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parent-teacher association. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, support with fundraising and share in some of the activities that promote enjoyment in learning and development of the children.

Regular newsletters are uploaded onto our website and hardcopies issued on request. From time to time letters, emails and texts are sent to parents, providing important information and news.

Involvement in children's learning

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.

There are opportunities for parents to have a formal discussion with their child(ren)'s teacher during the autumn and summer terms. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.

An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the spring term. Parents may request a meeting with the teacher to discuss the contents of the report.

Termly meetings are held between the class teacher, SENDCo and parents / carers of children with special educational needs, to review their targets and set new ones.

Occasional curriculum workshops will be organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child(ren)'s learning.

Policy documents, schemes of work and National Curriculum guidance are readily available on our website for parents and carers to view.

Types of help at school

Parents and carers are invited to help with groups and activities in class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities).

Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits, including, in some instances, assisting with transport arrangements.

Parents and carers are invited, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts, for example during Science Week.

Occasionally the Governors will seek parents, elected by other parents, to serve on the Governing Body. Parent Governors represent the views of parents.

Tewin Cowper School Parent Teacher Association

We value the work of the Tewin Cowper School Parent Teacher Association. This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school. They also provide many opportunities for the parents to get together socially.

Tewin Cowper School Family Swimming Club

We appreciate all the hard work of the Tewin Cowper School Family Swimming Club in maintaining the swimming pool enabling curriculum swimming throughout the second half of the summer term, social events during the summer term and family and community swimming during the summer holiday

Tewin Cowper School Prayer Group

The Prayer Group consists of parents, Governors, staff and members of the local community who meet together twice a term to support the school and those connected with it. They organise a Pudding Party at the end of every academic year for the current Year 6s and the previous year's Year 6s. They also hold functions to invite people who do not attend the prayer group meetings eg the Prayer Group supper. All are welcome to join.

Organisational arrangements

It is necessary to organise a personal background check with the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.

Insurance cover will be organised regarding parents' and carers' work at school, but those involved in transporting children in private vehicles will have to check their own insurance arrangements in this regard.

All helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school and wear a school ID badge when visiting, for security reasons.

All helpers working with children in class are asked to check the purpose and details of the activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.

All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.

All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.

Helpers will be given a leaflet outlining Safeguarding procedures and other issues, for example, confidentiality when they first help in school.

Consultation

Our home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.

The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.

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.

The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.

Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.

Also, if desired by a sufficient numbers of families, the Governing Body will hold an annual meeting at which issues of interest and concern can be raised by parents and carers.

After an Ofsted inspection parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings and, if appropriate, a summary of the action plan written in response to the report.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will submit periodic evaluation reports on its effectiveness to the Governing Body.

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.