



**ElmsBank**

## Parental Engagement Policy

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## **1. Introduction**

At Elms Bank, all parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. We aim to provide pupils with the support and environment they need in order to achieve their full potential. 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 school.

## **2. Rationale**

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children. Parents and families have the primary responsibility for the development of their children's character, with the support of their school and community. Research clearly indicates that good schools become better schools when there is a strong connection with parents as part of the learning community. Parents have a primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school, their learning, and their future success. When parents are engaged and involved, everyone benefits; pupils, parents, families, teachers, schools and communities. School is enriched as a positive place to teach, learn and grow.

## **3. Objectives**

- To foster and promote a two-way partnership between home and school where all parents feel welcome and valued
- To maintain an 'open door' approach so that parents are able to communicate with staff on a regular basis, both formally and informally
- To provide parents with regular and frequent information about the school and their child's progress and development
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils through the involvement of parents and the community wherever possible
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in their child's learning
- To work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school
- To seek parents' views and opinions and act upon them
- To provide support and encouragement for families suffering difficulties/crises, or barriers to involvement
- To promote parental learning

## **4. Strategies for Success**

The Parent Engagement Policy identifies 10 objectives (identified through the Leading Parent Participation Award) that are designed to support parents as partners so that parents have the opportunity, skills, knowledge and tools to engage with all education partners in fulfilling our core priorities for education.

## **5. Leading Parent Participation Award (LPPA)**

The LPPA is a national award that will strengthen and enhance the school's work with parents and carers. The LPPA will provide evidence of a sustained approach to parental

engagement, which meets Ofsted criteria and ensures parents have a positive experience of the school.

**The Leading Parent Partnership Award objectives are:**

1. The school demonstrates a commitment to work towards the LPPA
2. The school makes and implements effective plans to achieve and maintain the LPPA
3. The school is a welcoming and friendly place for parents/carers.
  - *Foster and sustain a positive, welcoming school climate in which all parent perspectives are encouraged, valued and heard.*
4. The school promotes an awareness of and participation in lifelong learning opportunities available in school and the community to all groups of parents/carers
  - *Identify and remove barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children's learning and to reflect the diversity of our students and communities.*
5. The school holds and actively promotes enrichment opportunities for joint parent/child participation
  - *Review and expand communication and outreach strategies such as local workshops, presentations, tools and resources, to share information and strategies to support learning at home and parent engagement in schools.*
6. The school provides good induction for all new parents/carers
  - *Helping parents support student learning at home and at school.*
7. The school provides parents/carers with relevant and user-friendly guidance and information to help them support their children's learning
  - *Helping parents support student learning at home and at school.*
8. The school produces and implements parent/carer friendly policies to establish effective home school links and improve pupil attendance, punctuality, behaviour and progress and positive participation in school
  - *Review and expand communication strategies to improve the sharing of information and strategies to support learning at home and parental engagement in school.*
9. The school provides good support for transition for parents/carers when their children leave the school
  - Recognise that transition is a three-way partnership between parents and schools. Support parents in supporting their child to make the onward transition.
10. The school evaluates performance against the LPPA Objectives and Key Performance Indicators.

**6. Involvement in Children's Learning and Wellbeing**

- The Senior Leadership Team are available to meet with parents and carers to offer support and discuss any concerns they may have. Parents and carers may wish to talk to class teachers before or after school on an informal basis
- We have an annual Parents' Evening for each Key Stage where parents can meet with individual subject teachers. This provides an opportunity to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.

- Pupils in Year 7 have two Parents' Evenings. The first one takes place in September/October and allows parents to meet with their child's teacher and teaching assistants to discuss transition into Elms Bank.
- Every pupil in the school has an Annual Review or Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) meeting in which parents are invited to review their child's EHCP.
- An Annual Report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached to encourage a parental response to the report.
- Policy documents, schemes of work are readily available for parents and carers to view. Much of this can be found on the website.
- Homework is distributed according to the homework policy. We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks, which should include clear guidance for helpers.
- Assessments, records of progress and achievement are readily available, as appropriate, to each child. These are shared with parents during the Annual Review and at Parents Evenings.

## **7. Involvement in the school community**

- A school newsletter is sent out each term to share pupils' successes and update parents on events in school.
- Parents, carers and their families are invited to a number of events throughout the school year including:
  - Celebratory Events e.g. Awards Evening, Christmas and Summer Concert
  - End of year shows – art & design and technology
  - Special assemblies, e.g. Year 11 & 14 leavers Assembly, Christmas Carol Service, harvest and Easter Assemblies
  - Open Day
  - Key Stage 3 Social Evening
  - Christmas Faye
  - Community Carol Singing
  - Christmas Coffee Morning
  - Friends of Elms Bank social evenings e.g. Easter Bingo, Movie Night
- In addition, the school encourages and supports parents to play an active role in the governance and management of the school. We have a number of parent governors who represent the views of the parents on the governing body.
- The school values the work of The Friends of Elms Bank. This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school and provide a forum for discussion of issues related to the school. They run many successful events throughout the year which are well attended by pupils and their families.

## **8. Communication with Parents**

We aim to be as open as possible with parents and offer the following communication channels:

- Home school diaries - These are filled in/ signed on a daily basis by class staff.
- SMS messages - texts are sent to parents to promote school events and to give reminders.
- Telephone – messages can be taken and left for specific staff.

- Email – Many members of staff make use of their school email address to communicate with parents. This is left to the staff's discretion as to whether it is a channel to pursue.
- Newsletter – Produced termly. This showcases termly events and reports on school news and information.
- Curriculum Long Term Plans – used to explain the curriculum content for the half term to come.
- Homework trackers – teaching staff are responsible for distributing homework according to the homework policy. This is signed by subject staff, form staff and parents.
- Letters – usually sent home via the home-school diaries. In certain cases, these may be posted out.
- Website – a huge repository of news, information, policies. Updated regularly.
- Twitter – Twitter is updated daily to showcase learning and share important information.

## **9. Consultation with Parents**

- The 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 are asked to keep the school fully informed about any health concerns, 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.
- Teachers (including the SLT) can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.
- The school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.
- Parental surveys are conducted during Parents' Evenings in order to gauge levels of concern/satisfaction with school
- Following an Ofsted inspection, parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings. School will then produce a summary action plan in response which will be shared with parents via one or more of the methods identified above.