



pathfield
SCHOOL
Inspiring interaction

Parental Partnership Policy

Adopted by Governors	Avril Burrows
Date	01.10.15
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Policy/Procedure checked by/date	Pat Herman Claire May Avril Burrows September 2015

Pathfield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This policy will support, promote and be applied with due regard to the requirements of the **SENTIENT TRUST**

inspire • empower • enable

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Rationale

At Pathfield School we believe the relationship between parents of our pupils and the school has a critical bearing on the children's education, progress and the effectiveness of school based action.

Professionalism can seldom be wholly effective unless it builds upon parents' capacity to be involved, and consider that professionals take account of what they say and treat their views and anxieties as intrinsically important.

School should encourage parents to recognise that they have a responsibility towards their children and that the most effective provision will be made when they are open and confident in working partnership with the school.

The school must make every effort to encourage parents to be involved in the education process at whatever level parents feel most comfortable.

The school now has a Parent & Community Liaison Officer and 3 parent link workers, one for lower, middle and upper school, who will work alongside parent groups and individual families, etc.

Pathfield School operates an 'Open Door Policy' to parents and families of our pupils. We aim for a true partnership with parents, developing genuine dialogue and interaction. We share a common purpose and we are working towards a more participative approach for those parents who wish to be engaged in school matters at whatever level.

Our aim is to be flexible in our response to individual parents in order to meet their particular needs.

For some parents involvement in the education process may include:

- regular telephone calls to school
- writing in the home/school diary
- attending open evenings, governors' meetings, parent information meetings
- lobbying parent governors
- holding parent governor office
- helping/visiting classroom
- helping /visiting school
- attending medicals/medical appointments
- helping during out of school activities
- being a member of the Friends of Pathfield School (PTFA)
- parent support group
- family art sessions
- supporting events and celebrations through the year including holiday clubs

Definition of Terminology

Parent = Parent or guardian with parental responsibility as defined in The Education Act 1996 as amended by the Children Act 1989

Pathfield School Parents' Teachers' & Friends' Association (P.T.F.A.) - a group with charitable status whose purpose is to hold events etc. to raise money to enhance the educational opportunities available at Pathfield School and to provide social opportunities for families.

Aims

From our whole school vision, our aims for parents are:

- maximise involvement of parents in the school community
- demonstrate the recognition of parents as partners in the education process through an involvement in individual education programmes, assessment recording and reporting, annual reviews, open nights, P.T.F.A., parents' support group etc
- ensure a two way communication process which benefits pupils well being and educational attainment
- ensure the continuing development of the school's relationship with parents
- ensure parents are encouraged and welcomed into the school community
- ensure parental involvement in the teaching and learning process at all times through individual education programmes, annual reviews, assessment, recording and reporting open nights and visits to the classroom
- ensure a flexible response to parents in order to meet individual need

Objectives

Our objectives for our parental partnership policy are:

- to liaise with each other in order to pass on relevant pupil and school information
- to offer support to all parents and their family
- to collate and share information concerning resources, organisation and agencies which may be beneficial to the pupil
- to offer appropriate training to support independence and progress
- to ensure up to date information is available on the website

Strategies

Parental involvement at Pathfield School tends to fall into 3 main categories although these may often overlap:

Individual Parents

- home visits - to see the children in their home surroundings
- to meet the family
- to answer questions about the school

- to demonstrate teaching and learning strategies
- regular written reports and the opportunity to discuss them at annual review
- home/school diaries
- visiting/or working in the classroom
- copies of individual education programmes and topic sheets - sometimes including recommendations for home activity
- telephone contact
- help given to parents in selecting books, equipment and toys for use at home
- parents attending Person Centred Reviews/Team Around the Child (TAC) Meetings/case conferences

Groups of Parents

- open evenings. formal meetings, special events, assemblies
- open sessions in the classroom or part of school
- coffee mornings and other social events
- assisting on education outings and any other special activities
- courses available to Parents such as 'Makaton'
- Parents support group
- P.T.F.A.
- book and resource exhibition
- annual transition event

Parent to Parent

- parents befriending new and/or prospective parents
- parent governors
- offers of transport to meetings/events

Arrangement for Monitoring

Parental attendance at events, annual review, open nights, annual parental questionnaires, home/school books and email/website provide evidence of involvement by parents in the education process.

Arrangements for Evaluation

Parental feedback on Annual Parental Questionnaires, after support groups, courses and open evenings are recorded to provide evidence of school effectiveness in establishing parental partnership.

Parents written responses to annual review and involvement in person centred planning process, provide evidence of school teaching and learning effectiveness.

Evidence of purchase of resources provides success of PTFA at fund-raising.

Governors

Governors will ensure that:

- Parents/carers are an integral part of the planning and review process for each pupil.
- Regular facilitation is given for parents meetings/open evenings.
- All parent support activities at Pathfield school are adequately resourced and supported by staff.
- Decisions made by the PTFA are supported by governors as appropriate, as long as there is no conflict with priorities identified in the School Development Plan.
- Support from the Governing Body is made available for all PTFA fund raising and support activities.
- Formal and informal feedback from parents is collected by the head teacher and reported to governors, at least annually.
- All parental correspondence to the Governing Body is responded to as soon as practicable and normally within 20 working days, unless such correspondence is in the form of a complaint, which will be dealt with in the laid down complaints procedure.
- All complimentary feedback from parents directly to governors is passed back to the staff and pupils via the head teacher.