



Parental Involvement Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 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.

2 Aims

- 2.1 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.

3 Involvement in the life of the school

- 3.1 School is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times.
- 3.2 Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parent-teacher association (Friends of Heacham Junior School). These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and a viewing public for a lot of the pupils' work.
- 3.3 Regular newsletters are sent home, parents can choose to have newsletters sent home by e-mail.
- 3.4 Parents can view much of this written information on the school website www.heachamjuniorschool.co.uk or via our facebook page; search 'Heacham Junior School.'

4 Involvement in children's learning

- 4.1 Parents and carers can talk with teachers before and after school on an informal basis on most days.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 There are opportunities for parents to have a formal discussion with their child(ren)'s teacher in the autumn and spring terms. Teachers value these

opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.

- 4.4 An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents may request a meeting with the teacher to discuss the contents of the report.
- 4.5 Curriculum workshops will be organised as required to assist parents and carers in supporting their child(ren)'s learning.
- 4.6 Policy documents, schemes of work and National Curriculum guidance are readily available for parents and carers to view via the school website or in written form by request.
- 4.7 Topic Maps are sent to each family at the start of each term, detailing the aspects of learning each child will undertake. Parents may be invited to open mornings to share the learning journey with their child. Parents are invited to an assembly at the end of each term when classes share what they have been learning.
- 4.8 Homework is set on a daily basis from Monday to Thursday. We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks, many of which contain guidance for helpers.
- 4.9 National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also readily available, as appropriate, to each child.

5 Types of help at school

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 As vacancies arise, the governors will seek parents, elected by other parents, to serve on the governing body.
- 5.4 We value the work of the Friends of Heacham Junior School. This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school and to provide enrichment activities such as external visitors, workshops, theatre groups etc.

6 Organisational arrangements

6.1 The school will comply with the necessary vetting and barring checks required for any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 All helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting, for security reasons.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.
- 6.6 All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 Our home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.
- 7.5 Teachers (including the headteacher) can usually be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.
- 7.6 Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme. Governors, including parent governors attend parent evenings and canvass opinion about school issues from the parent body.
- 7.7 After an Ofsted inspection parents and carers will receive a copy of the report as well as a letter addressed to the pupils.

8 References

- 8.1 The school will endeavour to ensure that all reasonable adjustments and supportive measures are considered to allow equality of access and opportunity regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, faith or religion, gender identity, pregnancy or marital status.

9 Monitoring and review

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

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Signed:

Date: 20/11/2014 Review Date: Autumn 2016