

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent and Carer Engagement Policy



Reviewed: November 2024

Policy Ratified by the LGC: January 2025

Next Review Date: November 2027

Corsham Primary School **Parent and Carer Engagement Policy**

Parents/Carers play a vital role in education. When they are engaged and involved, everyone benefits - pupils, parents/carers, families, teachers, schools and communities – and our school is enriched as a positive place to teach, learn and grow.

Parental involvement in the form of ‘at-home good parenting’ has a significant positive effect on children’s achievement and adjustment even after all other factors shaping attainment have been taken out of the equation. In the primary age range the impact caused by different levels of parental involvement is much bigger than differences associated with variations in the quality of schools. The scale of the impact is evident across all social classes and all ethnic groups. (Desforges 2003).

At Corsham Primary School all Parents and Carers are equally valued as part of our school community. We promote the premise that Parents and Carers along with the school team, work in partnership to promote and ensure that their children, our pupils, are getting the best possible education. We therefore believe that communication, understanding and involvement has to be right on all sides. We wish to encourage an “open door” policy, wherever possible actively involving Parents and Carers in the life of the school.

Aims:

- To work with parents and carers to enable pupils of all abilities to fulfil their potential in every area of the curriculum and outside of it.
- For parents to understand their role within their child’s educational development
- To work with staff, parents and carers to ensure that children are safe and secure and their basic needs are met appropriately.
- To encourage parents and carers to participate in the wider life of the school and to support events to celebrate the achievement and success of their children and others.
- To encourage parents and carers of pupils to participate in the wider life of the school and to join our PTA which helps fund raise for Corsham Primary School.
- To help parents and carers of all pupils develop high aspirations and to empower to move towards a rewarding and fulfilling future.
- To promote effective parental engagement where parents/carers are involved in development of their child’s learning.
- To provide support and information for parents and carers about their child’s progress, attainment, behaviour, attendance and success.
- To work closely with pupils and families who may have additional support and, if necessary, to sign post accordingly.

* (Where ‘Parent’ is used please read ‘Parent/Carer’)

What We Know about Parent/carer Engagement:

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.

"Parent programs and interventions work best when the strategies respect the needs of families. When school staff engage in caring and trusting relationships with parents that recognise parents as partners in the educational development of children, these relationships enhance parents' desire to be involved and influence how they participate in their children's educational development."

Parents' engagement matters. Parents care about their children and want to be involved: they want their children to succeed in school and are willing to help in as many ways as possible. Commitment to our pupils' well-being is the driving force behind everything we do in education. Everyone - parents, families, administrators, teachers, support workers and the Trust have a commitment to this.

A true partnership takes sustained and intentional efforts on the part of all partners with commitment and action by all at every level of the education system. While parents can find it challenging to play an active role in their children's education, it is important to meet this challenge so that pupils at Corsham Primary School have the support they need to be successful in school and later in life.

The Parent/Carer Engagement Policy seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to parents. With work schedules, outside commitments and individual preference- it helps parents to have choices on how they want to be involved. Strategies need to be flexible recognising the diversity of our parents and their contributions.

Current Strategies:

There are currently many opportunities for parents to take an active role in school life and their child's learning. At Corsham Primary School we:

- Foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel supported, welcomed and valued.
- Maintain an 'open door' policy so that parents are able to communicate with staff involved with their child, both informally at drop and pick up time.
- Communicate with parents in a variety of ways including face to face; website, text, email, newsletter, telephone, letters, Seesaw, parental questionnaire or home visits if appropriate and respond to any queries raised within 48 hours.
- In the case of absence of a child, parents will be contacted by telephone if no contact is made
- Respond to any complaints in keeping with our complaints policy.
- Hold meetings at times and in locations that are accessible for parents/carers.

- Maintain an on-going dialogue with parents and other stakeholders with regards to progress, attainment, attendance, behaviour and the general running of the school.
- Ensure that all parents are able to access our website and other portals and where appropriate support parents in doing so.
- Regularly seek parental views and feedback via questionnaires. Recommendations are shared and reviewed and very often action taken.
- Provide regular and accessible assessment data for parents so that they are able to monitor their child's progress, effort and any barriers to learning – parents evening three times a year.
- Ensure that all parents receive an annual written report as required and the opportunity to discuss success or issues arising at parents' evenings.
- Take the opportunity to celebrate success with parents through letters or assemblies
- Ensure a multi-agency approach and share information with other professionals working with the child or family as appropriate (with permission from the family) so that an open and effective approach can be possible and we can draw on their expertise.
- Provide support to families who may experience difficulty or crisis through a range of outside agencies where possible.
- Ensure that parents are fully involved and are informed of any disciplinary concerns at the school and where action is taken they are a part of this process. Also, we support parents in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Support parents where possible in making applications to other agencies or bodies for family or financial support.
- Ensure that all of our up to date policies and news are available on the school website
- Provide opportunities for volunteering where a thorough induction is provided
- Host fundraising events which parents and carers can volunteer and/or support
- Provide workshops for parents of children in EYFS setting and year 1, on reading and phonics
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to be on the Local Governance Committee (LGC).
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to join Corsham Primary School PTA
- Provide a home/school agreement to make expectations clear
- Distribute a whole school newsletter monthly
- Distribute a class curriculum newsletter once a term
- Send reminder texts of events
- Ensure all parents can access the school building and facilities (See Accessibility Plan)
- Ensure parents have access to members of the Senior Leadership Team if needed.

Method of Communication with parents and carers:

Corsham Primary School will use a range of methods to communicate with our parents and carers. We endeavour to ensure that the way we communicate is accessible and inclusive for all. Although not exhaustive, please find below the ways we will communicate.

(see also 'communication for families/to staff document')

Communication Method	Why	Example
Email	Fast delivery of larger amounts of information.	Reminder of an event. Call for action (to complete permission slip). When a document needs to be sent home (newsletter).
Telephone	Urgent communication	Child unwell, welfare checks, no response to email or texts sent home.
Text	Fast delivery of small amounts of information	Reminder of an event
Letters	Slower delivery of large amounts of information	Normally a letter will be attached to an email, however a postal letter may be sent if a formal response to a question is required
Notice board at front of the school	Passive communication	Reminder of an upcoming event
Curriculum Newsletters	Informative information detailing the child's learning in class and homework for that Term	The spelling for the term
Newsletters (Beginning of Month)	Informative information for next term with a round up of what has happened in school.	Longer term upcoming events, photos and articles
Diary page on Website	An up and coming events page that you can subscribe too	Events that will be happening in school
Seesaw	Our academic app for sharing general class information and learning in the classroom	Sharing of learning, communicating directly with teachers, information about learning events.
Face to face at beginning of day	For quick message	To share info which may impact on how their child is feeling today.

Engagement

The Parent and Carer Engagement and Partnership Approach identifies a series of key strategies designed to support parents as partners so that parents and carers have the opportunity, skills, knowledge and tools to engage with all education partners in fulfilling our core priorities for education.

Strategy 1: School Climate

Foster and sustain a positive, welcoming school climate in which all parent perspectives are encouraged, valued and heard through adults being visible and available.

Strategy 2: Eliminating Barriers

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 pupils and communities, such as translated letters.

Strategy 3: Tools and Supports for Parents

Help parents support student learning at home and at school through workshops and online resources such as Seesaw and TTRS.

Strategy 4: Parent Outreach

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.

Success Criteria

1. That Parents and Carers feel fully involved in the life of the school.
2. That there is general harmony with the parent body – this will be monitored by the Local Governing Committee.
3. That Parents and Carers assist in the running of the school by providing organisational and educational support and for their child/ren – this will be monitored by the uptake of home school learning.
4. That we maintain and preferably increase the numbers of Parents and Carers attending school-based meetings – this will be monitored by noting attendance numbers.
5. That Parents and Carers continue to volunteer and support the school – this will be monitored using the Single Central Register.
6. That Parents and Carers receive regular written information regarding their child's progress in school.
7. That the information provided to Parents and Carers is up to date and relevant and can be accessed in a number of ways.

Equal Opportunities

When writing and reviewing this policy staff have completed an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment in order to ensure it complies with equality obligations outlined in anti-discrimination legislation. We believe the policy positively reflects the aims and ambitions identified in Corsham Primary's Single Equality Scheme.