

West Twyford Primary School

Family/ School Partnership Policy



Last reviewed on:	Spring 2023
Next review due by:	Spring 2025
Approved by:	Teaching and Learning Committee

1. Rationale

At West Twyford Primary School all parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children benefit most when we work in partnership with their parents or carers, and their wider family. We are therefore committed to ongoing dialogue with parents, and carers, to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.

2. Aims

- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the life of the school and their child's learning
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils
- To provide a partnership between home and school, ensuring that families feel supported, welcome and valued
- To encourage parents to contribute to their child's education by sharing achievements and events at home.
- To increase parents' understanding of their child's education and provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning.
- To present a set of consistent attitudes/standards of work and behaviours between home and school
- To encourage parental involvement in classrooms and around school
- To ensure that parents and carers are consulted, that their views are heard, and taken into account in decision-making and school improvement
- To ensure that use is made of all adults' skills and cultural knowledge to enrich learning opportunities and contribute towards the cultural richness of the school community

3. Objectives

3.1. Theme 1: Fostering effective family-school partnerships

3.1.1. Ethos

- Everyone in school values building trusting relationships with parents
- Everyone in school believes that pupils will achieve more when we work closely with families and communities
- Everyone in school makes an effort to understand the needs of families and the school community
- Staff are welcoming to parents, greet them in a friendly way and, in general, acknowledge the presence of parents and other visitors
- Our school makes a special effort to encourage families that are not normally involved to engage in school life
- Everyone works actively to build relationships and engage with fathers and male carers

3.1.2. Environment

- Our school environment is clean, easy to navigate, and engaging for parents (i.e. displays children's work in the hallways)
- Locked entries have a clear way for parents to gain access

3.1.3. Policies

- Our school has a home-school agreement, which is signed by all parties when the child is registered at the school
- Parents know where to find policies and who to ask for support to understand them
- Our school involves parents when reviewing school policies or introducing new ones

3.1.4. Staff & Leaders

- Members of the Senior Leadership Team are visible and available to parents at the beginning and or end of the school day (e.g. on gates or in playgrounds)
- Class teachers and support staff feel confident to build relationships with parents
- Teachers invite parents to visit their classrooms
- Our school has a Governor with responsibility for parental engagement

3.1.5. Events

- Our school has regular opportunities for parents to attend celebration events such (e.g. end of year shows or class performance assemblies)
- Our school has regular opportunities for pupils to share their learning with parents and carers (e.g. through assemblies, open evenings)
- Our school holds regular community or fundraising events which bring people together
- Our school provides opportunities for parents and carers to learn how to support their child
- When planning events our school takes into account the needs of :
 - Working parents
 - Those with younger children
 - Fathers or male carers
 - Families who speak English as an additional language

3.2. Theme 2: Communicating & consulting effectively

3.2.1. Newsletters & website

- Our school has a regular parents newsletter which is distributed to all parents
- School governors communicate through letters to give updates on school matters
- A timetable of events is made available on the school website
- Our school website is easy to navigate and contains key information for parents and is updated regularly
- Our school provides parents with clear information on school policies for example the Behaviour policy on the school website

3.2.2. Processes for contacting staff

- Senior Leaders and teachers communicate frequently with parents using a variety of means (i.e. letters, email, telephone, in-person, newsletters, etc.)
- Clear information is provided to parents so they know how to reach teachers directly and know how to make an appointment with the class teacher
- Clear information is provided to parents so they know how to make appointments with the headteacher or other senior leaders
- There are clear processes for parents to voice concerns or complaints and parents receive prompt responses

3.2.3. Progress & Performance

- Our school shares School Development Priorities with parents
- Our school provides parents with pupil and school performance data and support to understand it
- Home school agreements between the school and each parent clarify expectations for how everyone will support pupil progress
- Our school encourages parents to let them know how events in the home may affect their child in school
- Parents evenings with every parent are held at least twice a year with follow-ups as needed at times when parents can attend

3.2.4. Parent voice

- Our school conducts an annual survey of parent and carers, the results of which are shared with all stakeholders including agreed actions

3.2.5. Tailoring approaches

- Communication is modified for non-English-speaking or low-literacy parents and those new to the British Education System where possible
- Where parental responsibility is shared all communication is sent to both parents and accommodation is made to ensure that both parents can attend parent/ carer consultations.

3.3. Theme 3: Enabling parental engagement in learning

3.3.1. Attitudes & Impact

- Our school believes that all of our parents have the capacity to support their children's learning
- Our school lets parents know how important they are to their child's learning

3.3.2. Curriculum assessment and progress

- All parents are given information each year on the content of the curriculum
- All parents are given information each year on expectations for pupil progress (end of year assessment goals)
- All parents are given information each year on how progress will be measured or assessed

3.3.3. Home learning

- All parents are given information each year on home learning / homework expectations
- All parents are given information each year on activities which can support learning at home
- We provide opportunities to access web based programmes to support home learning including Education City, Mathletics and Times Table Rockstars.

3.3.4. Wider impacts on learning

- All parents are given information each year on other ways they can support their children (i.e. sufficient sleep, nutritious food, a suitable place to do homework etc.)

3.3.5. Workshops

- There are opportunities for parents to engage in workshops and activities which help them to practice the skills needed to support learning and development at home

3.4. Theme 4: Empowering parents and carers to develop their own skills

3.4.1. Ethos

- Our school believes that building parents' knowledge and skills is important to supporting children's achievement

3.4.2. Adult learning

- Our school offers on-site opportunities for parents to develop their knowledge and skills based on their needs (e.g. ESOL, Parenting Skills)
- Our school offers on-site opportunities for parents to develop their knowledge and skills

3.4.3. Volunteer opportunities

- There are regular opportunities for parents to volunteer in school such as:
 - Parents volunteer to improve the school environment
 - Library book exchanges

- Parents helping in the classroom
- Parents accompanying classes on trips
- Parents sharing their skills, knowledge and talents by talking to classes or running activities
- Our school has systems for ensuring all parents have the opportunity to volunteer if they want to and that selection processes are fair

3.4.4. Parent Association (Parents Association of West Twyford School (PAWS))

- Our school has a parent association which is accessible and actively recruits new members and welcomes new families and contributes to whole school community events.

3.5. Theme 5: Supporting successful transitions

3.5.1. Entry to school

- Our school provide opportunities for parents to visit school both before and after children have been offered a place
- Our school provide information; workshops and induction events for parents to support their child's transition into school
- Our school provides additional support for those families with children entering the school outside standard admission times
- Our school provides additional support for those families with children entering the school who are new to the British education system

3.5.2. Within school

- Our school provides opportunities for parents to share information about their child early in the academic year
- Our school provides information and support to parents to enable successful transitions between key stages and year groups

3.5.3. Leaving school

- Our school provides advice, information and workshops for parents whose children are transferring to secondary school especially those who need additional support and assistance

4. Evidence of impact

- Our school measures impact by monitoring attendance and through parent evaluations following events and our parent/ carer survey.
- We share success with the whole school community through newsletters, website and assemblies.

Adopted by Governors (Teaching & Learning Committee): Spring 2023

Next Review: Spring 2026