Policy on Parental Involvement

Farnborough Road Infant School.

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“Learning, Caring and Achieving Together’

Introduction
This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant passages in:

- the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, regarding adults working in school;
- the Human Rights Act (October 2000);
- The School Improvement Plan;
- Equal Opportunities Policy;
- Monitoring and Evaluation Policy;

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. At Farnborough Road Infant School we are fortunate to have many parent helpers with a wide range of skills. The time and support they give to the school is very much appreciated.

Aims and objectives
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.

Involvement in the life of the school
Our school is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times.

Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the parent–teacher association. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success.

Regular newsletters are sent home, and each family receive a copy of the school prospectus on admission to school.

Parents can view much of this written information on the school website.

Involvement in children's learning
Parents and carers can talk with teachers after school on an informal basis. Problems in the morning are dealt with (when possible) by staff on entrance doors.

Appointments to see a teacher or the Headteacher can be made through the school office, and can be set up as soon as required in most instances.

There are opportunities for parents to have formal and informal discussions with their child's teacher each term. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.

In the Autumn term parents are given a brief indicator of their child's attitude to learning. This can be discussed further at parents’ evening in the Spring term.

A report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the Spring and Summer term.
Stay and Play/Share/Learn sessions are organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child's learning.

Curriculum News is sent to each family at the start of each term, detailing the aspects of learning that each child will undertake, and how families might support that learning, e.g. by visiting museums, galleries, websites, etc.

Weekly curriculum news is sent home with homework books.

Reception parents are encouraged to share what they have done at the weekend in their 'Our News, Your News' books.

Reading bags, containing homework and reading books are sent home daily.

We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks, many of which contain guidance for helpers. We encourage parents to enter into a dialogue by commenting on and signing reading record diaries and homework.

Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also readily available, as appropriate, to each child.

Parents and carers are invited to concerts at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms.

Parents/carers are encouraged to attend courses in the Children’s Centre to develop their understanding and help their child’s learning.

**Types of help at school**

**Curriculum**

We invite parents and carers to offer their services at school. They are asked to support various activities (e.g. listen to children reading, playing maths games).

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.

**School Trips**

Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits.

**Governors**

The governing body will seek parents who are willing to serve as members of the school governing body. These will be elected by other parents. Parent governors represent the views of parents.

**PTA**

We value the work of the PTA. This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school. They organise adult and child friendly events throughout the year.

**Organisational arrangements**

It is necessary to organise a personal background check with the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.

Insurance cover regarding parents' and carers' work at school is organised through the Local Authority.

All helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting and wear a visitor’s badge, for security reasons.

All helpers are asked to complete a Volunteer Record Sheet, read the Staff and Volunteer Handbook before commencing work in school and adhere to the school policies and procedures.

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.

All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.

All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school. Parents will work in the classroom or in sight of the teacher.

Parents/carers are actively encouraged to use the facilities in our parent/meeting room.
**Consultation**

Our 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 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.

The school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual parent questionnaire.

After an Ofsted inspection, parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings, including any action points.

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

**Updated January 2018**

Signed: ___________________________ Date: _________  Headteacher

Signed: ___________________________ Date: _________  Chair of Governors