Introduction

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 collaboration with all families, and in regular consultation between home and the school.

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 their 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 times.
- Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school.
• Parents are invited to workshops and coffee mornings organised by the Family Worker
• Half termly newsletters are sent home
• Parents and carers can view information on the school website and children’s assessment on our ‘Evidence for Learning’ page
• Parents can keep up to date with events in school through our ‘Woodlands Special School Harrow’ Facebook page.

Involvement in children's learning
• Appointments to see a teacher or the head teacher can be made through the school office, and can be set up for as soon as required in most instances.
• There are opportunities for parents and carers to have a formal discussion with their child(ren)’s teacher through the Annual Review of the Educational Health Care Plan. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.
• An ‘outcomes’ report on each child’s academic and personal development is made available in the autumn and summer terms as well as termly reports which outline the children’s curriculum coverage. Parents are welcomed to comment online on our ‘Evidence for learning’ assessment website and add their own updates from home too in the form of photo or video sharing.
• Regular curriculum workshops are organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child(ren)’s learning.
• Policy documents and curriculum coverage each term is available for parents and carers to view on the school website www.woodlands.harrow.sch.uk
• Curriculum letters are 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.
• Home–school log books detail specific daily requirements.
• Home–learning sheets are sent home to all families to complete every half term and individual homework tasks are set for children where appropriate. We value parental support regarding the completion of these tasks, many of which contain guidance for helpers.
• The pupils’ ‘Learning Journals’ are also readily available at our parents’ evenings twice a year and as appropriate, to each child.

Transitions
• The school will provide support and resources to help parents make informed decisions about choices and transitions to their child’s next stage of education
• We will provide impartial guidance on transition to parents and pupils
• We will support parents with the procedures, for example by hosting transition information meetings at Woodlands.

Types of support we need at school
• The ‘Friends of Woodlands’ are a charity which is run by parents and staff of Woodlands. This parent, teacher association plan various fundraising and social events for the school community throughout the year to raise funds for our school and provide additional opportunities/experiences for our children.
• Parents and carers offer valued support when they offer to volunteer within the school, working with a range of children, not just their own.
• 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 and carers. Parent governors represent the views of parents and carers, and can contribute how parents may feel about any particular issues.
Consultation

- Our home-school agreement, signed by parents/carers and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.
- The school will consult parents and carers through a Parents’ Questionnaire at least annually, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives. These will be analysed and feedback given to parents. Any outstanding issues will be addressed.
- Parents or carers 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 values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.
- Teachers (including the head teacher) can be approached through an appointment system, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.