

John Fletcher of Madeley
——— *Primary School* ———

Parental Engagement Policy

Date approved: 4 May 2018

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

Vision

Parent engagement has a positive impact on student achievement. At John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School, pupils are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations in which parents:

- Are welcomed, respected and valued as partners by the school community in their children's learning and development
- Have a full range of choices and opportunities to enable them to be involved and support student success
- Are engaged through on-going communication and dialogue to support a positive learning environment at home and at school
- Are supported with tools which enable them to participate in school life

What We Know about Parent 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 involvement programmes that are effective in engaging diverse families recognise, respect, and address cultural and class differences.”

“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.”

Henderson & Mapp, 2002

Fulfilling the Vision of Parent Engagement

The Parent Engagement Policy recognises that parent involvement is multi-dimensional and that parents have a role to play in fulfilling each of our core priorities for educational excellence.

Strategies for Success

The Parent Engagement Policy identifies a series of key strategies designed to support parents as partners so that parents have the opportunity - and the 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.

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 pupil and communities.

Strategy 3: Tools and Supports for Parents

Helping parents support student learning at home and at school.

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

Foundations for Parent Engagement

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 local authority- shares this firm commitment.

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 John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School have the support they need to be successful in school and later in life.

The Parent 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.

School Actions

- Establish and sustain a positive learning culture and welcoming climate where parental input is welcomed, respected and valued;
- Implement strategies to identify and remove discriminatory barriers that limit engagement by pupil, parents and our diverse communities;

- Actively explore and utilise opportunities to further engage parents at school and at home to support student achievement, including the introduction of frequent face to face meeting with parents of the most vulnerable or minority groups, such as parents of children on free school meals, English as an additional language, carers of Looked After Children and parents seen as previously 'hard-to-reach';
- Review existing parent and community partnerships and seek to expand upon these partnerships to reflect the diversity of our parents and the broader community;
- Inform pupil and parents about learning expectations and the student's academic progress and make efforts to assist parents who do not understand English;
- Actively encourage and support School Councils and parents to share their ideas for improving student achievement to help inform school improvement plans;
- Support opportunities for parents and pupil to develop or strengthen skills and knowledge (e.g. workshops, various resources such as tips sheets, translation of materials) to support a positive learning environment;
- Work towards representation of diverse parent groups on all school committees including school councils;
- Monitor school climate (e.g. through surveys, focus groups) to help identify barriers to parent involvement or issues that should be addressed to foster and support a safe welcoming learning environment;
- Review and establish self-assessment processes to determine the effectiveness of their parent engagement strategies;
- Report progress to the governing body.

Approval and Review

Date approved: 4 May 2018.

Next review: May 2021.