



OLD BEXLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love God ♦ Love Each Other ♦ Love Learning

*Happy Children and Limitless Learning in an Anglican Christian School
A place where everyone can flourish*

Reviewed	Agreed by Staff	Agreed by Governors	Review Date
September 2023	September 2023	September 2023	September 2024

Parental Engagement Policy

We Love God, Love Each Other and Love Learning, celebrating all our children as unique and made in the image of God. We strive for the mountain top ensuring everyone can flourish in their learning and live life in all its fullness. We also seek to produce the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

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Parental Engagement and Partnership:

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

Vision

Parental engagement has a positive impact on student achievement. At Old Bexley CE Primary, 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 Parental 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 recognize, 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 recognize 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 Parental Engagement:

The Parental 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 Parental 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 parental engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children's learning and to reflect the diversity of our pupils and communities.

Strategy 3: Tools and Supports for Parents

Helping parents support student learning at home and at school. For example parental workshops, coffee mornings with outside agencies, surgeries with staff and outside agencies

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 parental engagement in schools

Parental Engagement Action Plan:

Fulfilling the school's vision of parental engagement requires commitment and action by all of our partners at every level of the education system.

Foundations for Parental Engagement:

Parental 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' wellbeing is the driving force behind everything we do in education. Everyone - parents, families, administrators, teachers, Trust leadership, 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 Old Bexley CE Primary have the support they need to be successful in school and later in life.

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 barriers that limit engagement by pupils, parents and our diverse communities;
- Actively explore opportunities to further engage parents at school and at home to support pupil learning;
- 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 pupils and parents about learning expectations and the pupil's academic progress;
- Actively encourage and support pupil voice and parents to share their ideas for improving pupil achievement to help inform school improvement plans;
- Support opportunities for parents and pupils to develop or strengthen skills and knowledge (e.g. workshops, various resources such as tip sheets) to support a positive learning environment;
- Work towards representation of diverse parent groups on all school committees including Governors and Parent Forum;
- 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;
- Report progress to the governing body and Trust Leadership.