



Manor Park CofE VC First School

Parental Engagement Policy

October 2021

Revision date: October 2023

At Manor Park CE First 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.

Aims

It is our aim that through engaging with parents we will be able to:

- Support parents and carers as their children's first and most important educators
- Encourage and provide opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in the life of the school and their child's learning
- Provide general approaches and strategies that parents and carers can use to encourage and support children with their learning as parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress
- Develop a partnership between home and school, ensuring all families feel supported, welcomed and valued
- Ensure that best use is made of adults' skills to enrich children's learning opportunities
- To provide more intensive support or programmes for families in crisis

Involvement in the life of the school

We seek to involve parents and carers in the life of the school through the following:

- The school is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times
- Members of the SST and WellBeing Team are out and about on the playground and the school gates at the beginning and the end of the school day
- Families are invited to events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or the PTA. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success and view pupils' learning
- Parent Workshops are run throughout the year
- Informal Stay and Play and Coffee and Connect Sessions are held half termly
- Wherever possible, we encourage a hands on, interactive approach to sharing activities between pupils and parents
- We support and work closely with our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) which supports the school through fundraising and organising fun events for children and families
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance of the school through our Parent Governors and other governors who may be parents of pupils
- We ensure that parents and carers are kept in touch with school news via our newsletter, Parenthub, website, remote learning platforms (Google Classroom and Tapestry) and social media sites.
- Manor Park TV has a Parent Support Channel which is a new initiative to support parents with learning at home

Involvement in children's learning

We seek to engage parents and carers in children's learning through the following:

- Parents are encouraged to leave messages with Teaching Assistants on the classroom doors before and after school to share brief information. Where more time is required, parents and carers can make appointments to see staff through the school office
- Parents and carers can also message Teachers about home learning using our remote learning platforms - Google Classroom and Tapestry
- Parents and carers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have a formal discussion with their child's teacher twice a year during the Autumn and Spring Terms at parents' consultations. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate success, review learning targets and listen to parental views
- Parents and Carers are encouraged to view Google Classroom, Tapestry and the school website for specific year groups and for curriculum areas. Curriculum Expectations, Topic Leaflets and Knowledge Organisers all give parents the opportunity to follow children's learning and discuss this with their children
- We hold regular parents' information sessions, focussing on various curriculum areas, year groups, phases or aspects of school life. We hope these will offer parents further insight into teaching and learning
- An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is provided to parents and carers each Summer Term. An acknowledgement slip is attached and parents are welcome to request a meeting if they wish to discuss the content of the child's report

Parent helpers

We seek to involve parents as helpers by inviting them to:

- Help in school with reading or other small group activities in a class other than their own child's
- Join us on school trips or educational visits
- Give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they have expertise, knowledge or experience

Regular Parent Helpers will:

- Be checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and will be required to undertake an induction process
- Be required to ensure that the confidential nature of anything they might see or hear in school does not leave the school building

Consultation

We want to listen to the views of parents and carers and seek to consult with them through:

- Formal and informal ways of seeking views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives
- Asking parents to keep us fully informed of any medical needs, special educational needs or disability so that we can make any reasonable adjustments required to meet the needs of the child
- Receiving regular feedback from parents and carers, acting on it, and letting parents and carers know what we have done
- Inviting parents and carers to complete formal questionnaires, which may be online or paper based, and encouraging parents to use Parent View
- Ensuring that parents and carers have the opportunity to provide feedback to Ofsted via their parents' questionnaire; and that parents and carers receive information about any Ofsted inspections of our school
- Our parent helpers, PTA and parent governors