



ARROW VALE HIGH SCHOOL PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Recommended by: AFO
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Signed:

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Policy Tier (Central/Hub/School): SCHOOL
(Arrow Vale)



Parental Engagement Policy

Overview

At Arrow Vale High School we recognise the importance of, and value parental involvement in the life of the school. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving amongst others, parents, staff, children and young people. As a school we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home.

The guiding principles for this policy can be explained by the following:

“It’s what parents do rather than who they are that counts.”

(Charles Desforges)

“At the age of seven parental influence on learning is six times that of the school. At the age of eleven or twelve parental influence on learning is 30 per cent greater than that of the school.

After the age of twelve, children – as they grow and mature – become their own greatest influence. At no point does the school have the greatest influence.”

(Charles Desforges)

“Where child learning becomes family learning, and where educators understand that they cannot meet the needs of children and young people alone, true engagement and shared understanding are developed”

(NCLSCS 2010)

It is known that: -

- Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child’s life. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is a partnership between parents, children and providers.
- Parents want their child to succeed.
- Children need educational and emotional support if they are to succeed. Parents need to be able to provide this effectively.
- Many parents have missed the opportunity of furthering their education and training.
- The school is a resource for the community it serves.



Aims

- a) To make school a genuinely welcoming place for parents and carers.
- b) To develop effective communication, which will include making the best use of information and communications technology to enhance parent partnership and keep them fully informed about what is happening in school.
- c) To actively support parents and carers to enable them to engage with their child's learning.
- d) To plan and organise events and activities to engage parents and carers.
- e) To increase parental engagement in the context of the safeguarding agenda.
- f) To make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life.
- g) To engage with parents/carers in order to establish their views and opinions and act upon these where it would be appropriate to do so.

We will endeavour to meet these aims by working to:

- a) Make school a genuinely welcoming place for parents and carers. We will ensure that:
 - We have an open door policy for parents to visit the school
 - A robust induction programme is in place
 - The aims of the school are prominently displayed
 - The school environment is welcoming, recognises linguistic diversity, and includes high quality display of students' work and other materials throughout the school
 - The school's systems respond effectively to the communication needs of the parent/carer, using a range of media
 - We hold an annual 'Open Evening' for prospective Year 9 students, and a separate evening for prospective Year 12 students
 - Where appropriate we attend the Year 7 & 8 parent consultation evenings of our main feeder schools.
- b) Develop effective communication, including making the best use of information and communications technology to enhance parent partnership and keep them fully informed about what is happening in school. To meet this aim we will:
 - To supply each parent with an Edulink account so that they can monitor, support and communicate with the school re the performance of their son or daughter.
 - To send parents e-mails and messages via Edulink to keep them informed
 - To use Microsoft Teams to support meetings with parents
 - Make all written communications via Edulink "user friendly", useful and informative
 - Send regular whole school newsletters (Arrow News) containing information about upcoming events and celebrating school and student successes
 - Make appropriate use of automated systems to ensure the consistency of communication with parents.



- c) Actively support parents and carers to enable them to engage with their child's learning. We will:
- Offer an annual parent/carers consultation evening for each year group
 - Provide an annual report for each student
 - Provide a termly key assessment report to parent/carers
 - Hold information evenings to inform and empower parent/carers
 - Meet with every parent to discuss curriculum upon entry into the school
 - Meet with parents/carers outside of the above events at pre-arranged, mutually convenient times
 - Use the Academies Website to host learning materials to allow parents/carers to become actively involved in home school learning.
 - To provide Academy information for parents including virtual tours and virtual meet and greets with key staff
- d) Plan and organise events and activities to engage parents and carers. We will endeavor to:
- Offer events at key points in the academic year. These may be information sharing events, settling in events pre and post transition or social activities such as 'quiz nights'
 - Instigate a parent/carers forum.
- e) Increase parental engagement in the context of the safeguarding agenda. We will:
- Publish the 'Safeguarding' policy on the school website and use the induction process to signpost this.
 - Inform parents/carers of appropriate technological advances to support them in safeguarding their child/children
 - Signpost parent/carers to support services available both locally and nationally
 - Signpost parents/carers to significant websites for information and support
 - Hold information evenings as and when appropriate
 - Inform parents/carers of local and national concerns as appropriate
 - Ensure parents/carers are aware of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school
- f) Make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life. To endeavour to meet this aim we will encourage parents/carers to:
- Attend induction days and celebration events linked to these, when requested to do so
 - Attend induction evening on transition into Year 9
 - Attend tutor evenings
 - Attend celebration assemblies
 - Attend drama and music performances
 - Attend school sporting fixtures



- Become involved in school projects
- Participate in family and adult learning events organized by the school
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members
- Become parent governors

g) Engage with parents/carers in order to establish their views and opinions and act upon these where it would be appropriate to do so. To do this we will:

- Ask parents to complete 'Parent View' annually
- Consult with parents in the development of policies or on key strategic decision making
- Ask parents to complete evaluation forms for key events
- Ask parents for feedback via exit questionnaires
- Involve parent governors in departmental reviews

Appropriate Conduct in Communication

It is recognised that at times, it is necessary for staff, parents and students to raise issues or concerns. In the first instance, we will work to address these proactively and secure the best outcome for each student. When a sensitive or emotive issue is raised, it is important for all parties to model polite and respectful behaviour at all times.

Where a parent is unsatisfied with a decision made by the school and this cannot be rectified, we will signpost them to the complaints policy to ensure a transparent and fair hearing of the issue.

Abusive, threatening, aggressive or violent behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances, whether in person, through a phone call or in writing.