*****Cardross Primary School and***

***Early Learning Centre***

**Parental Engagement and Home Family Learning Strategy**

**Introduction**

Our vision, set out in our *Our Children, Their Future* is that we want Argyll & Bute to be the best place to grow up. We want young people and families to remain in this area, and be attracted to live here. A key part of that vision is to strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement.

We recognise that most of a child’s development takes place outwith our schools and early years’ establishments and therefore the role of families and carers is critical to ensuring our children and young people succeed. We want to support families to engage meaningfully in their child’s education.

**What is Parental Engagement?**

* Parents/carers, families and professional working together to support children’s learning.
* Opportunities for parents/carers, families to be part of their children’s learning.
* Opportunities for parents/carers, families to be involved in school improvement and policy making
* A partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued

**Statement of Aim**

Parent engagement has a positive impact on pupil achievement. At Cardross Primary and ELC, pupils and young children are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations in which parents are welcome, respected, and valued as partners by the school in their children’s learning and development. Parents have a full range of choices and opportunities to enable them to be involved and support pupil success. Parents are engaged through on-going communication and dialogue to support a positive learning environment at school and home.

**Why is Parental Engagement important?**

**Did you know that…**

Around 80% of the difference in how well children do at school depends on what happens outside the school gates (Rasbash et al, 2010; Save the Children, 2013).

Cardross Primary and ELC values the important part that parents/carers play on their children’s education and sees partnership with parents/carers as an effective way of enhancing children’s achievements and promoting better school ethos and communication.

**Partnership**

At Cardross Primary and ELC we promote an open door policy and believe working in partnership with parents enables all children to succeed in their education. Working in partnership allows the school to identify potential difficulties and opportunities and address at an early stage.

Opportunities for parent engagement include:

Sharing in learning activities in ELC – P3 through Shared Starts and Soft Finishes

Sharing in learning activities in P4 – P7 through Open afternoons

Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspects of the school curriculum

Volunteering opportunities: reading library/ Supervising lunchtime clubs/Golden time activities

Family learning events that create opportunities for building relationships

Consulting parents formally and informally about their views of school life, children’s learning and new initiatives through formal and informal meetings and questionnaires.

Consulting parents on school improvement plans through online surveys

Ensuring that school improvement plans include opportunities to improve parents involvement in their child’s learning

**Communication**

We are committed to providing timely and useful information about children’s learning and communicating effectively with parents:

* Termly curriculum bulletins detailing what classes are learning
* Daily/Weekly learning and teaching updates on Seesaw
* Twice yearly parent/teacher meetings
* Yearly written report on pupils progress
* Termly Newsletters and Bulletin updates

**Learning at Home**

The Scottish Government defines learning at home as “Learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. It can take place through everyday activities that families already do and can overlap with aspects of organised or active learning activities.” (Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network, 2018)

We would like parents/carers to be well-informed of their child’s learning focus. We continue to develop critical, creative, curious thinkers and motivate children to develop a lifelong love of learning. We aim to empower parents/carers to support and challenge their child at home and to be a part of their child’s learning journey. We hope that by taking the “work” out of learning at home that we promote a positive and encouraging attitude to life-long learning. It is well evidenced that when children, school and families work together, children’s learning improves. We feel that our approach to learning at home fits better with the ethos and culture of our school as we aim to develop independent and successful learners.

**Parent Council**

Parent Councils are established in all Argyll and Bute primary and Secondary schools. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that parents/carers play in supporting their child’s learning.

Parent Councils are parent led and school supported with all parents/carers automatic members of the ‘Parent Forum’ and the Parent Council representing their views.

At Cardross Primary we have a very active and supportive Parent Council known as the CPSA – Cardross Primary School Association.

**Complaints**

A complaint is ‘an expression of dissatisfaction about the Council’s action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by or on behalf of the Council’.

Complaints can be notified in person, by phone, by email or in writing to the Head Teacher.  If Parents/carers have cause for complaint they should contact the school in the first instance to make an appointment to meet with the Head Teacher or member of the management team.

If any parent is not satisfied with the way their complaint has been responded to, parents can make a formal complaint in terms of the Argyll & Bute Council complaints procedure which can be accessed at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/do-it-online/comments-and-complaints>.