

Dykehead Primary School

'Determined Pupils Succeed'



Parental Engagement Strategy

Rationale

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act places a duty on schools and local authorities to promote the involvement and engagement of parents in their child's learning. It recognises the important benefits of involving parents in the wider life of the school. Parents should be encouraged to express their views and have these taken into account, not just on the education of their children, but also the school's arrangements for promoting parental involvement and engagement, as well as other matters or issues of interest to parents. (*Education Scotland, 2017*).

Parental engagement can be considered as active involvement in learning. Family Learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Family learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning (*Family Learning Network, 2016*).

At Dykehead Primary School we have created this Parental Engagement Strategy, in order to provide an overview of how we involve parents in the life and work of the school, and in support of their children's learning.

Communication

Effective and accessible communication is key to partnership between home and school. Our main means of communication with parents is email, and this is how we issue our monthly school newsletter, as well as key information. We also have:

- A school X (twitter) account @DykeheadPrimary

- A school Youtube channel
- A school website www.dykehead.n-lanark.sch.uk

Parent Annual Overview

We have created and shared a parent annual overview, to provide an accessible note of key dates for parents over the school session, and support working parents with managing their diary commitments in order to plan in advance.

**Dykehead Primary School
Parent Year Planner Session 2024/25**

| WB | MON | TUE | WE | THU | FRI | WB | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | WB | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | WB | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | |
|---------------------|---------|--------------|----|-----|-----|--------------|---------|------|-----|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------|-----|-----|----------------|---------------------------|-----|------|---------|----------------------|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | Oct 28 | | | | | | Jan 20 | | | | | | Apr 14 | | | | | | |
| Aug 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aug 12 | Inset 1 | Inset 2 | | | | Nov 4 | | | | PC Meet 1 | | Jan 27 SSE 3 | | | | | Dress Down Day | Apr 21 | | | | PC Meet 3 | Dress Down Day | |
| Aug 19 | | | | | | Nov 11 | | | | Parent Night | | Feb 3 SSE 3 | | | | | Come & Learn 3 | Apr 28 | | | | | | |
| Aug 26 | | | | | | Nov 18 SSE 2 | Inset 3 | | | | | Feb 10 | | | | | | May 5 SSE 4 | | | Inset 5 | | | |
| Sept 2 | | | | | | Nov 25 SSE 2 | | | | | | Feb 17 | | | | | Inset 4 | May 12 SSE 4 | | | | | | |
| Sept 9 | | Come & Learn | | | | Dec 2 | | | | Inset Show Morning | Inset Show Morning | Inset Show Morning | Feb 24 Attend C&L pt | | | | | May 19 | | | | Parent Night 1 | | |
| Sept 16 | | | | | | Dec 9 | | | | | | Mar 3 | | | | | | May 26 Attend C&L pt | | | | | Dress Down Day | |
| Sept 23 SSE 1 | | | | | | Dec 16 | | | | | | Mar 10 | | | | | | June 2 | | | | Come & Learn 1 | PC Meet 4 | |
| Sept 30 SSE 1 | | | | | | Dec 23 | | | | | | Mar 17 | | | | | | June 9 | | | | Church Service | PC Disco | |
| Oct 7 Attend C&L pt | | | | | | Dec 30 | | | | | | Mar 24 | | | | | | June 16 | | | | P7 Prom | | |
| Oct 14 | | | | | | Jan 6 | | | | | | Mar 31 | | | | | | Sept 16 Parent 2 SS above | | | | Dress Down 100 Staff | | |
| Oct 21 | | | | | | Jan 13 | | | | | | April 7 | | | | | | June 23 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | June 30 | | | | | | |

Parent Council Events
 Holidays and In-Service Days
 Attendance Checkpoints
 Parental Engagement events
 School Self Evaluation Weeks
 Dress Down Day

I would like to speak to my child's teacher...

Should you have a query that you would like to speak to your child's teacher about, please always contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Conversations in the playground at pick-ups or drop-offs do not provide confidentiality or protect children's privacy and dignity. We ask that parents only enter the school for appointments via the main office door. Again, this is for the safeguarding of pupils and staff.

Understanding Learning & Teaching

Come and Learn

Every term we offer a 'Come and Learn' morning, where parents and carers come into the school and listen to a brief presentation about an aspect of the work of the school, before visiting their child in their classrooms to take part in the learning.

Themes range from curricular areas such as Literacy or Numeracy, to wellbeing initiatives in school such as Growth Mindset. These events are popular and well-attended. As a result of feedback from working parents, we will now share copies of the information presentations after each event.

Learning Letters

We issue a termly Learning Letter, which shares with parents and carers the planned learning for their child's class for the coming term. Feedback from parents indicates that this is helpful in promoting conversations with children at home about their learning.

Digital Support

We operate a school Youtube channel where we upload videos celebrating successes in our school community, and sharing useful information. To assist parents in supporting their children's learning, we will upload video demonstrations and instructional videos, and well as video presentations from our Come and Learn events, to support working parents who may not be able to attend during the school day. Please note that any of our videos which feature pupils, will not be searchable through your web browser. For pupil safeguarding, privacy levels are set such that you must have the link provided by the school to view some videos.

Understanding Your Child's Progress

Reporting to Parents

Dialogue with the class teacher is the best way to understand your child's progress in learning. We report formally to parents each term, in the form either of a written report or parent consultation meetings with the teacher. As a result of feedback from parents we always aim to maximise appointment times to allow discussion with the teachers. The number of appointments available depends on the number of children in classes each year.

Home Learning

Homework is one of the other main ways in which parents can monitor their child's progress in learning. Parent feedback has indicated that although children enjoy digital activities, parents find paper and pencil activities easier to access. As such, we will provide a variety of homework activities, which will reflect what your child has been learning in class and support their progress. This will be marked by the class teacher.

Snapshot Jotters

Parent feedback has told us that parents would like to fully understand their child's progress in learning, in between formal parents nights or reports. To further illustrate for parents their child's strengths in learning and next steps, once per term we will send home a 'snapshot jotter'. This will contain all their

work for that school week, as well as a discussion sheet with their personalised learning targets for your comments and feedback.

[Engaging with School Improvement](#)

[School Self-Evaluation](#)

Feedback from parents is extremely important to support our school improvement processes. It can be a catalyst for meaningful change. Each term we will invite parents to participate in School Self Evaluation (SSE) fortnight. We will issue invitations to join focus groups, and an alternative survey for those who cannot attend a focus group. We will then share a 'You said, we did' report, letting you know what the main findings were, and what actions we are taking in response.

[Parent Council](#)

The Parent Council is an elected group of parents, who stand to represent the views of the wider parent forum, in matters of school improvement.

[What is the Parent Council? | Parent Councils | Getting involved | Parentzone Scotland | Education Scotland](#)

[Volunteering](#)

We always appreciate parent volunteers! If you would like to chat through the opportunities we can offer, please contact the Head Teacher. No special skills are required, and parents do not require a formal PVG check if they are supporting children alongside school staff. The Head Teacher will provide you with a handy information leaflet and answer any questions you might have.

[Out of School Hours Learning](#)

The school run a variety of after school clubs, thanks to staff contributing their time to do so. We invite parents and carers to join us at these clubs as often as we can. We also welcome parent volunteers to assist at any clubs on offer. Please contact the school office if you would be willing to help out at a school club.

[Parent Volunteering](#)

We regularly invite parents on school trips. You can volunteer to support on any trips, whether or not these are for your child's class. We also seek parent volunteers for local area walks, such as to Sports Day or to the church.

[Queries or Concerns](#)

At Dykehead Primary School we value the positive relationships we have with parents and our wider community. Should you have any queries about the work of the school, or any concerns, these should in the first instance be raised with the Head Teacher. This may then be dealt with informally through a discussion over the telephone, or in some cases it might be more appropriate for a meeting to be arranged and specific supportive or remedial actions to be agreed.

In the vast majority of cases, a mutually satisfactory agreement can be found. However, in the event that the matter cannot be resolved at school level, North Lanarkshire have a complaints process which can be accessed via their website at [School complaints | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Further information on parental engagement in schools can be found at [Parentzone Scotland | Education Scotland](#)