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# **FAIRVIEW SCHOOL**

**Family Engagement Policy**

Updated March 2022

Review March 2024

**Family 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’ well-being is the driving force behind everything we do in education. Everyone‐‐parents, families, administrators, teachers, 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 Fairview School have the support they need to be successful in school and later in life. This Family Engagement policy seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to parents. With work schedules, outside commitments and individual preference‐ it helps parents to have choices on how they want to be involved.**

*Parent 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***

*Family engagement has a positive impact on student achievement. At Fairview School, 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*

***Focus for Family Learning***

* *Parents are supported to be actively and meaningfully involved in their child’s learning and life at school.  Staff work with parents to reduce potential barriers to engagement.*
* *By offering a wide variety of groups to parents and children including yoga, reflexology, workshops etc. parents who felt isolated previously now have both professional and peer supports in place.*
* *Family Learning workshops which offer activities for family members to learn together through intergenerational learning can increase confidence and foster positive attitudes to learning that might lead both adults and children to engage in further educational opportunities*
* *By working together with a clear focus and shared understanding we improve our chances of achieving our* goals.

***Improvements***

* *Provide more opportunities for families to attend workshops that are relevant and meaningful*
* *Celebrate wider achievement and family success.*
* *Offer an iPad workshop to families*
* *Build confidence*
* *Develop networks*

***Success***

* *Family engagement using social media and Seesaw has considerably increased in comparison to last year.*
* *Start of family activities e.g., Airthrill, horse rising and boating*
* *Positive Feedback*
* *Successful funding to support this area*
* *Wide range of activities and options to support families taken into account feedback recieved*

***Aims 2021***

* *Makaton Training*
* *Allied Health Professional Open Sessions*
* *Online Get Togethers*
* *Communication via Seesaw*
* *Online TAC PAC sessions*

***Aims 2022***

* *Online TAC PAC*
* *Airthrill*
* *Horse Riding*
* *Boat Trip*
* *Sleep Workshop*
* *iPad workshop*
* *Book Club*
* *Mindfulness*
* *Knit and a Natter*
* *Coffee and a Catch Up*
* *Crafting sessions*
* *Ladies Group*
* *Early Years Family Engagement Officer in place*
* *Signposting newsletter on website*

*Aims 2023*

* *Back to school*
* *Family Learning side by side with pupil e.g. family cook sessions, family biking activities, family swim sessions, family storytelling*
* *Continuation of network building activities*
* *Continuation of speakers at parent council events*
* *Restarting the information fair at parents evening*

***Why Is Family Engagement Important?***

*We Know that Family Engagement plasy a vital role in the development and education of our 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 Family Engagement***

*The Family Engagement Policy recognises that family involvement is multi-dimensional and that parents/carers have a role to play in fulfilling each of our core priorities for educational excellence.*

***Strategies for Success***

*The Family 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 fosters and sustains a positive, welcoming school climate in which all parent perspectives are encouraged, valued and heard.*

***Strategy 2:***

*Eliminating barriers - Identify and remove barriers to family 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/carers support student learning at home and at school.*

***Strategy 4:***

*Parent Outreach - Review and expand communication and outreach strategies such as workshops, presentations, signposting and resources, to share information and strategies to support learning at home and parent engagement in school.*

***Family Engagement Action Plan***

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

***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 discriminatory barriers that limit engagement by pupils, parents and our diverse communities*

*· Actively explore and utilize opportunities to further engage parents at school and at home to support pupil achievement*

*· 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 student’s academic progress and make efforts to assist parents who English is not their first language*

*· Actively encourage and support the Pupil Council 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 core words, translation of materials) to support a positive learning environment*

*· Work towards representation of diverse parent groups on all school committees including school councils*

*· 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*

*· Review and establish self‐ assessment processes to determine the effectiveness of their parent engagement strategies*

*· Report progress to the Parent Council*

***To help us get it right for parents we have established several ways to engage:***

* *An updated web page for parental involvement* [*https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/pk/FairviewSchool*](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/pk/FairviewSchool)
* *Engagement with the Parent Council*
* *Family Involvement and Engagement Strategy*
* *Parental Communication Policy*
* *School Handbooks (Council and school support information)*
* *Seesaw*
* *Parent Council Facebook page*
* *Twitter*
* *Newsletters*
* *Surveys*
* *School Improvement Plan*

***Fairview will support the work of pupils and parents by****:*

* *All members of staff ensuring that they treat parents as partners in the education of their child(ren).*
* *All members of staff have a responsibility to help to realise the potential of each individual child and to work in partnership with each child’s parents/carers to achieve this.*
* *The Headteacher will ensure that an effective school Family Involvement Policy is in place and that it has been developed in conjunction with the views of parents and is reviewed*
* *The Headteacher will encourage parents’ participation in school policies and involve them in the development of their School Improvement Plan*
* *Fairview will encourage the involvement of pupils (Pupil Councils) and consider their views on Parental Involvement and Engagement.*