**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY - PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

**June 2015**

**BELLSQUARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Parental[[1]](#footnote-1) Involvement Policy and Strategy**

**THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

At Bellsquarry Primary School, we believe in working in close partnership with parents. We believe there should be regular communication and consultation between our children’s homes and the school.

All parents of children who attend Bellsquarry Primary School and Bellsquarry Nursery School are a valued part of our school community and Bellsquarry teaching staff welcome opportunities to discuss children’s learning, achievements and parental concerns; and to listen to parent’s and children’s views.

We recognise that some parents cannot participate in the life of the school as a result of their other commitments. We understand that this does not mean that such parents are disinterested in their child’s education or the school. The school values all support it receives from parents, whether this is on a regular or occasional basis.

The aims of our Parental Involvement Policy are:

* To enhance the learning experience and outcomes of all children;
* To encourage parents and other family members to be involved in the children’s learning;
* To provide an effective partnership between home and school, and
* To ensure that families feel welcome and that their contributions are valued and respected

We will achieve these aims by putting into place the following Parental Involvement Strategy. Both the Policy and the Strategy will be monitored to assess and improve their effectiveness.

**THE BELLSQUARRY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

**Day to Day School Life**

* Parents will be able to contact the school in person via the school office, via telephone 01506 410777 or by email wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk.
* Parents will be able to read about the life of the school on the school blog – <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/bellsquarrypsblog>
* Regular newsletters will be sent home via email or by paper copy
* The school handbook will be made available to each family via the school blog, in writing or by email.
* Regular letters will be sent home advising parents of forthcoming events and learning opportunities for children
* Groupcall messages will be sent to make parents aware of immediate emerging issues or to remind parents of imminent school events.

**Our Children’s Learning**

* Twice in every school year, there will be an opportunity for parents to have a formal discussion with their child’s teacher or teachers. P4-P7 children are encouraged to accompany their parents.
* An annual report on each child’s progress and achievement will be made available at the end of the summer term. An acknowledgement slip will be attached to each report for parents to comment. Teaching staff will make themselves available to discuss the contents of the report.
* The school will arrange curriculum updates to assist parents’ understanding of the Curriculum for Excellence, and to support their child’s learning at home.
* Parents will be invited to share their children’s learning during (at least) one class assembly per school year
* Curriculum information will be sent to each family at the start of the term detailing the aspects of learning each child will undertake.
* The school will encourage parents and pupils to share their children’s successes and achievements with class teachers.

**Helping out at School**

The school will:

* Invite parents to help with tasks within the school. Parents who are able to assist will be able to contact the school via telephone 01506 410777 or by email wlbellsquarry-ps@westlothian.org.uk.
* Invite parents to visit the school to talk to the pupils about relevant topics.
* Put a Parent Helper policy into place that ensures that:
	+ Parent Helpers hold a Protection of Vulnerable Group Certificate prior to helping out at the school
	+ Appropriate insurance cover is in place with regard to Parent Helpers’ work within the school.
	+ Parent Helpers appreciate the need for school security and for confidentiality
	+ Parent Helpers are aware of the school’s child protection policy.

**School and Parent Partnerships**

The school will:

* Provide opportunities for parental involvement in a number of ways so that all parents no matter what their circumstances are able to participate.
* Seek comments and views from parents on certain matters relating to the school.
* Ensure parents have an influence on decisions and are part of the decision making process by promoting the Parent Forum and the Parent Council.
* When appropriate, devolve power and control to parents.
* The school will invite parents to become members of the
	+ Parent Forum or
	+ The Parent Council

**A note about how the Policy and Strategy were developed**

Our parental involvement has been developed using existing good practice and with reference to:

* The principles and ethos of the Curriculum for Excellence
* Getting it Right for Every Child (known as GIRFEC)
* The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement Act) 2006
* West Lothian Council’s values re customers’ needs
* West Lothian Council’s policy – “A Strategy for Parental Involvement”
* The School Improvement Plan
* Comments from the Education Scotland (formerly Her Majesty’s Inspector of Education) Report on our school dated June 2011

**Monitoring and Review**

The Parental Involvement policy and strategy will be monitored to assess its effectiveness.

*This policy was adopted on the 13th November 2015 and will be reviewed in a year using the self-evaluating guidance on parental involvement set down by Education Scotland.*

**Further Information:**

Information on the Curriculum for Excellence is readily available for parents to view on the Parent Zone website [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp)

1. In this document the word “parents” includes all mothers, fathers, carers, parents who do not live with their child but who have contact with the child and play a part in their life. This also includes foster parents and step-parents. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)