



The Garden School Policy
Parental Engagement

Written January 2014

THE GARDEN POLICY FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

RATIONALE

Parental Engagement

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children. Parents have a primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school and their learning. They care about their children and want to be involved. While they 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 The Garden School have the support they need to be successful.

Research shows clearly that schools improve when there is a strong connection with parents as part of the learning community.

At The Garden School we are committed to promoting parental partnership and involvement in children's learning and the life of the school. (Parent(s) is used throughout this document to mean those people who are the primary carers of children in our school and could include grandparents, foster carers and others)

The Parent Engagement policy seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to parents. We recognise that to be successful our strategies need to be flexible and recognise the diversity of our parents and their contributions. Fulfilling the school's vision of parental engagement requires commitment and action by all of our partners who work with us at The Garden School.

OBJECTIVES

- To foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel welcome, valued and heard.
- To maintain an 'open door' approach so that parents are able to communicate with staff on a regular basis, both formally and informally.
- To provide as much information as possible in timely, specific, targeted and accessible ways so that parents feel confident and



knowledgeable in supporting their children’s learning.

- To seek parents’ views and opinions and act upon them.
- To identify and provide support and encouragement for families suffering difficulties/crises, or barriers to involvement.
- To help parents support their children’s learning at home and at school.
- To work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school.
- To seek to provide a range of activities, resources, courses and workshops, to promote parental involvement in children’s learning, and also ‘lifelong learning’ for both children and adults.

The Garden School commits to:

- Actively exploring and utilizing opportunities to further engage parents at school and at home to support student achievement.
- Reviewing existing parent and community partnerships, seeking to expand upon these partnerships to reflect the diversity of our parents and the broader community.
- Implementing strategies to identify and remove discriminatory barriers that limit engagement by students, parents and our diverse communities.
- Informing students and parents about learning expectations and the student’s academic progress and make efforts to assist parents who do not understand English.
- Providing opportunities for parents to develop or extend skills and knowledge (e.g. workshops, various resources such as tips sheets, translation of materials) to support a positive learning environment.
- Working towards representation of diverse parent groups on governing body.
- Monitoring 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 and welcoming learning environment.



- Reviewing and establishing self- assessment processes to determine the effectiveness of their parent engagement strategies.
- Reporting progress to the governing body.

January 2014

