

## HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 required all schools to have a home-school agreement. This should be drawn up in consultation with parents and should apply to every pupil in the school. The introduction of the home-school agreement was based on the premise that parents play a crucial role in helping their children learn. It was envisaged that it would provide the framework for an effective partnership.

The DfES's *Home-School Agreements: Guidance for schools* says:

“The home-school agreement is a statement explaining the school’s aims and values; the school’s responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age; the responsibilities of the pupils’ parents; and what the school expects of its pupils.”

It points out that governing bodies need to take reasonable steps to make sure that parents sign the agreement, unless there are special circumstances which would make that inappropriate. However, parents are not obliged to sign the agreement and should not be discriminated against if they refuse. Pupils can also be asked to sign if the governing body feels they have sufficient understanding of the content as it applies to them.

The guidance goes on to say that before adopting or revising the agreement the governing body should consult all registered parents of pupils at the school who are of compulsory school age. It includes some examples of agreements, together with two sample questionnaires designed for gathering the views of parents on a proposed agreement and a survey to be used with teachers to check their views on the value/relevance of the agreement. It also states that the agreement should define:

- the school’s aims and values
- the school’s responsibilities in relation to pupils of compulsory school age
- parents’ responsibilities
- the school’s expectation of its pupils
- the standard of education
- the ethos of the school
- regular and punctual attendance
- discipline and behaviour
- homework
- the information that schools and parents will exchange.

The policy should also commit the school to providing good nutritional standards, where this is relevant.

## **Status**

Statutory

## **Purpose; Who was consulted?**

This agreement encapsulates our belief that parents are a child's first and most important educators. It is designed to help achieve the highest possible standards of achievement through close communication and effective partnership with parents. In drawing up this agreement we surveyed parents and carers to clarify their expectations of the school. In addition, the staff reviewed current practices in communicating with parents and pupils. Pupils were invited to comment on the extent to which the school council provides an effective vehicle for consulting them and involving them in decision-making.

## **Relationship to other policies**

This agreement relates most closely to the homework, pupil discipline and registration policies. It impacts on our approach to the prospectus and the annual report to parents. It is also relevant to many other school policies such as assessment, nutritional standards, racial equality, target-setting, and teaching and learning.

## **Roles and responsibilities of the headteacher, other staff, governors**

The **headteacher** will ensure that the home-school agreement and other significant communications with parents and pupils are reviewed at least every two years in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and governors. Methods of consultation will include:

- parent forums and informal discussion at open evenings
- surveys
- school council meetings and circle time
- telephone contacts
- staff meetings.

In addition feedback will be sought from parents on the effectiveness of:

- the prospectus
- the annual report to parents
- the annual parents' meeting
- newsletters
- reports of pupil achievements.

Where parents do not read English, translations will be produced or the contact will be oral.

With guidance from the headteacher the **governing body** will be involved in the consultation process, such as by helping to draft, carry out and collate surveys.

### **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

The Community/Communications Committee of the governing body will receive summary reports of the consultations and surveys and will report annually to the whole governing body. Where appropriate, action points will be carried forward to the school improvement plan.

**Date established by governing body**

**Date for full implementation**

**Date for review**

## Home-School Agreement Example

Pupil's name:

Tutor Group:

### The Parent/Guardian

I acknowledge I have received a copy of:

- the school prospectus
- the school's Service Standards
- the school's welcome document for new students and their parents/guardians

I understand that the official end of the school day is 3.00pm and I give my permission for the school to dismiss my son/daughter 15 minutes early at 2.45pm providing his/her conduct and work have been acceptable throughout the day. I understand that the school will not authorise holiday leave for students during their Key Stage 4 phase of education (i.e. Year 10 and Year 11).

I will:

- see that my child goes to school regularly, on time, properly dressed and properly equipped
- make the school aware of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's behaviour
- support my child with his/her homework and home learning opportunities and ensure my child completes his/her homework on time
- attend parents' evenings and discussions about my child's progress
- support my child in responding positively to the general expectations and regulations of the school.

Signature:

Date:

*Parent/Guardian*

### The School

We will:

- care for your child's safety and well being
- promote high standards of work and behaviour, and provide clear guidelines for pupils and parents
- ensure your child is given every opportunity to achieve their full potential as a valued member of the school community
- provide a balanced curriculum to meet your child's individual needs
- contact you if we have any concerns, and keep you informed about your child's progress and how you can help them at home
- be open and welcoming at all times

Signature:

Date:

*Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher - Pastoral*

### The Pupil

I will:

- attend school regularly and on time and with any necessary equipment
- wear school uniform and be tidy in appearance
- do all my class work and homework on time and to the best of my ability
- tell a member of staff if I have any worries or concerns
- be polite and helpful
- observe the school's rules and regulations.

Signature:

Date: