Parent and Community Partnership Strategy

Working Together for Every Child

Inspired by Gospel values and the belief that parents are the first educators of their children, we seek to work in partnership with families to support the formation of the whole person and the flourishing of every child.

At St Benet Biscop, we believe that young people achieve their very best when schools, families and communities work together in genuine partnership.

Parents and carers play a vital role in shaping their child's attitudes, aspirations and success. Our role is to work alongside families, providing support, guidance and opportunities that help every child to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Parental engagement is about more than attendance at school events. It is about building strong relationships and effective partnerships between home, school and community so that families feel informed, valued and empowered to support their child's learning, attendance, wellbeing and personal development.

Our Vision

To create a strong partnership between school, families and the wider community that enables every young person to thrive and fulfil their potential.

Our approach is built around three priorities:

1. Building Relationships

Every family feels known, welcomed and respected.

Strong relationships are the foundation of successful partnership.

We will:

- Build positive and trusting relationships with families.
- Communicate clearly, regularly and openly.
- Listen to feedback and involve parents in school improvement.
- Celebrate the achievements and successes of our young people together.

2. Strengthening Engagement

Every family is equipped to support learning, attendance, wellbeing and character development.

Families play a vital role in supporting young people to succeed both in school and beyond.

We will:

- Provide guidance to support learning at home.
- Share information and opportunities that help parents support progress and aspirations.
- Work with families to promote excellent attendance, wellbeing and positive attitudes.
- Provide additional support where barriers to engagement exist.

3. Creating Partnership

Parents, school and community working together to help every young person flourish.

Young people benefit from the opportunities, experiences and support created through strong partnerships.

We will:

- Develop partnerships that broaden opportunities, aspirations and experiences.
- Connect families with support and resources where appropriate.
- Promote a strong sense of belonging within our school community.
- Work with families and community partners to enrich the lives of our young people.

Our Partnership Commitment

Strong partnerships work both ways. We are committed to working with families in a spirit of trust, respect and shared responsibility.

What Parents and Carers Can Expect From Us

We will:

- Treat every family with dignity, respect and kindness.
- Communicate clearly, honestly and promptly.
- Listen carefully to concerns, ideas and feedback.
- Work collaboratively to support every child.
- Maintain high expectations alongside high levels of support.
- Put student wellbeing, safety and success at the heart of our decisions.

What We Ask of Parents and Carers

We ask families to:

- Encourage excellent attendance and punctuality.
- Support positive attitudes towards learning and behaviour.
- Maintain open communication with the school.
- Engage with events and opportunities to support their child's progress.
- Share any concerns that may affect their child.
- Work in partnership with us in the best interests of their child.

What Success Looks Like

Through this strategy, we aim to ensure that:

- Parents feel informed, valued and listened to.
- Families feel confident supporting learning and wellbeing.
- Attendance, engagement and inclusion improve.
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged families feel welcomed and supported.
- Young people benefit from greater opportunities, experiences and connections that help them flourish.

Education works best when young people see the important adults in their lives working together. By building strong relationships between school, home and community, we can create the conditions in which every child is able to flourish, develop their talents, serve others and become the very best version of themselves.

How to get in touch
Good communication between home and the academy supports success. There are several opportunities for you to communicate with the academy including:

- Parents' Evenings
- Student Planner
- Meet the tutor evening
- Email

School website: www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk
Key information about the school is posted on our website, including:

- School times and term dates
- School Blog
- Important events and announcements
- Curriculum information
- Important policies and procedures
- Important contact information

Parents should check the website before contacting the school.

Parent Bulletin
We share a fortnightly Parent Bulletin with information you need to know, upcoming dates / events and how to support your child.

If you are concerned about anything relating to your child's welfare, then please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. If you have any concerns about a particular subject your child is studying, please contact their subject teacher.

Please note that most of our staff also teach and are not usually immediately available to receive a telephone call. We also try to keep our telephone lines free during the day for emergency and urgent calls, but there are many other ways you can contact the school. Please refer to the "**Contact Us**" information on the next page for the best way to contact us. We will always endeavour to respond as soon as possible and within two working days.

Please ensure that the academy is kept up to date with any changes of address or telephone number. It is crucial for us to be able to contact a parent/carer should the need arise**.**

I'm not receiving emails or texts – what should I do?
First, please contact us to check that we have the correct information.
If you are not receiving emails, it may be that our messages are going into your Spam or Junk folder. You will need to change your mailbox settings to ensure your provider accepts our emails.

How do I change my child's contact details?
Any changes to named contacts, addresses and any other contact details should be notified to Student Reception. Please ask your child to request a data form from Student Reception for you to complete and return to the academy.

Contact Us

Topic	Contact by
Attendance – Absence (daily)	attendance@stbb.org.uk 01670 822795 (option 1)
Attendance - Leave of absence requests	attendance@stbb.org.uk
Attendance - Notification of Appointments	attendance@stbb.org.uk Student Planner
Arbor account queries	admin@stbb.org.uk
Finance	finance@stbb.org.uk 01670 822795 (option 2)
General Enquiries	admin@stbb.org.uk www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk
Meetings in school - by appointment only	Student Planner admin@stbb.org.uk
Messages for Form Tutors	Student Planner admin@stbb.org.uk
Messages for Subject Teachers, Subject Leaders, Student Support Managers, Heads of Progress	Student Planner admin@stbb.org.uk
Microsoft Teams queries	admin@stbb.org.uk
Parent Portal or Ipay queries	admin@stbb.org.uk
Urgent response/emergency	**01670 822795**

Accessibility
It is important to us that everyone in our community can communicate easily with the school.

Parents with additional communication needs
We aim to make communications accessible to all.

We have taken the following steps to achieve this:

- All communications are written as clearly and concisely as possible
- Accessibility is considered when designing/updating the school website

Parents who need help communicating with the school can request reasonable adjustments, such as:

- School announcements and communications in accessible formats
- Sign language interpreters for meetings

Please contact the school office to discuss these.

Parents with English as an additional language (EAL)
We know that some of our parents and carers speak a language other than English at home. To understand what support would be most helpful when parents receive information from school, we ask that they inform us of their preferred language through a simple questionnaire or phone call.

Parents who need help communicating with the school can request the following support:

- School announcements and communications translated into additional languages
- Interpreters for meetings or phone calls

Please contact the school office to discuss any of these.