

Family Partnership Policy

Sutton Green Primary School.

Together Helping Every Child

Review May 2016

Introduction and rationale

An important dimension of effective schooling for children is family involvement. Families are an essential resource in children's learning. Research indicates conclusively that family involvement at home in supporting their children's learning improves their achievement and attitude towards learning.

The term 'family' refers to any adult who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, step-parents.

Family Partnership Lead staff members

The Family Partnership lead is our Pastoral Lead and Governor Mrs Payne. She works alongside our Assistant HT Mrs Allmand, SENCO Miss Dunning, Mrs Carter our specialist TA for Speech & Language, and Pupil Premium Coordinator Mr Perry, to support all our families within school. They are the first point of contact if families wish to raise any concerns or queries relating to how the school works in partnership with families. Their work is fully supported by Governors and staff.

Family partnership working in this school is everyone's responsibility, and professional development for teachers and support staff in this aspect of the school's work is given a high priority. This is linked to the priority we place on Safeguarding and PSHCE. We promote active partnership working, and are fully committed to an inclusive approach.

Principles of family partnership working

- Families are the prime educators of their children.
- The school welcomes and acknowledges the valuable contributions that families make in helping their children to learn and be happy.
- The extent of family involvement in a child's education is more important to a pupil's success than family income or education.
- Family support for a child's learning is most effective when it is long-lasting and well-planned.
- Families are viewed as equal partners in the education of their children.
- A child's education is a shared responsibility between their family and the school.
- Families, like the school, want the best for their children and for them to be successful.

School Responsibilities/Provision

In order to support families, we have the following facilities available

- Space for designated family learning groups to take place

- Small meeting rooms for individual discussions with staff
- Regular Parent/Toddler session on Tuesday morning in the hall
- Link Club for before and after school care that uses the school hall and facilities
- Range of before and after school activities run by staff with parent volunteers, outside providers
- On site Pre-school Nursery that offers wrap around care

The school aims to develop strong and effective family partnership working in order to:

- Help families develop good parenting skills and the confidence to support their child through periods of change in their school life; e.g. through transition meetings at EYFS and end of KS2. We also invite parents in to an autumn term information session to help them settle into their new classes.
- Promote two-way communication between home and school; e.g regular parent evenings in the autumn and spring term, home school diaries and opportunities to discuss any concerns with staff at the start or end of the school day, drop in to meet HT, Family Forum, text messaging service, website, regular newsletters, parent Governors, PTFA
- Keep families informed about their children's progress and achievements; eg. through parental consultation evenings, reports, websites, special assemblies, newsletters, information sessions
- Involve families in appropriate family learning opportunities and other positive family activities; e.g. Family Learning opportunities, PTFA activities, support in school with classroom activities such as reading, opportunities to develop their CPD by training as TA, working as care worker/MDA,
- Provide families with practical strategies and approaches to enable them to support their children's learning, behaviour and well-being at home; e.g. sharing curriculum information and policies, home school link books, After school training in curriculum areas such as maths, E Safety training, literacy
- Encourage families to actively participate and contribute to school decision making and develop their leadership skills in governance and advocacy; e.g. through Family Forums, drop ins with HT, consultation on major policies changes in conjunction with Governors, completion of specific surveys on aspects of school policy and practice, discussion with pupil groups
- Provide families with the information and skills to access community activities and events Eg. promoting PTFA activities, noticeboard about local activities
- Provide families with the information and help for all families to access family services. Eg, and support for vulnerable families and children, strong links with school health, EWO and specific therapists who work with individual children, LA outreach work

Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing family partnership working

- The Family Partnership Pastoral lead, working with the HT and Assistant HT Mrs Allmand, and SENCO Miss Dunning, will review family partnership working within the school on an annual basis.
- A report on the work of the Family Partnership will be presented to the Personal Development, Health, Welfare & Safeguarding Committee in the

summer term that will be fed back to via committee minutes to all Governors in the summer term.

- The School Council, along with other nominated children referenced to the work of the Partnership, will work alongside the Family Forum to address actions raised , e.g Eco officers, Junior Safety officers, Play leaders, Charity Workers, Rights Respecting Steering Group pupils,
- This policy is reviewed and updated each year with the Personal Development, Health, Welfare & Safeguarding Committee