

**ST MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PARENT PARTNERSHIP POLICY



'Growing Together in Faith & Love'

October 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

“Growing together in faith & love”

As a Christian community school life is based on the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church and consequently to fostering a commitment to justice and the equality of all people in the eyes of God. Every child is encouraged to high ideals and equal opportunity is given to all pupils to develop their talents to the full.

INTRODUCTION

At St Mary Magdalene School all parents and carers are valued as part of our school community. Children benefit most when we work in partnership. We are therefore committed to ongoing dialogue with parents, and carers, to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families and the pupils.

AIMS

The school aims through Parental involvement:

- To support parents, and carers, as their children’s first and most important educators.
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the life of the school and their child’s learning.
- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils.
- To provide a partnership between home and school, ensuring that families feel supported, welcome and valued.
- To ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults’ skills to enrich learning opportunities.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- The School is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times.
- Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or Friends Association. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and to view the pupils’ work. Wherever possible, we encourage a ‘hands on’ interactive approach to parents sharing school activities with pupils, particularly in our “Stay and Learn” sessions and curriculum evenings.
- We encourage Parents to view information on the school website, which we aim to keep updated regularly and can be found at:- www.stmarymagdalenmk.co.uk
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance of the school, through Parents Governor elections, as and when vacancies arise.
- To ensure parents and carers are kept up to date with school news, newsletters are sent home, and each family receives a copy of the school prospectus when their child starts at the school, the prospectus is also on the school website
- Home visits are arranged for children starting nursery and full-time school. This is to find out as much as we can about our pupils, to support their needs and ensure smooth transition. It is also an opportunity for parents to talk to staff about their child in confidence or about any worries/anxieties they may have. Induction evenings are also arranged for nursery and reception parents to provide curriculum information and share school expectations.
- Parents and carers are invited to our regular achievement and class assemblies, when children have the opportunity to talk about their work to those present.
- We hold half termly SEN drop-in sessions for parents

INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING

- Parents and carers are encouraged to talk with teachers before and after school, on an informal basis, to share brief information. Where more time is required, parents and carers can make appointments to see a teacher, or the headteacher, through the school office; appointments are arranged for as soon as required in most instances.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have a formal discussion with their child's teacher during parent consultations, which take place in the Advent and Lent terms. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.
- The school holds curriculum evening for parents as appropriate to the key stage their child is in. This is to give parents an overview of teaching and learning at their child's key stage within school.
- Termly curriculum letters are sent home and posted on the website. These outline the curriculum for each class from nursery to Year 6.
- An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is provided to parents and carers in Pentecost term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents are welcome to request a meeting with the teacher if they wish to discuss the contents of the report.
- National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also available, as appropriate, to parents.
- We also offer 'Den Building Day' in nursery and 'Bring your Dad/Mum/Grandparents to School Day'. This gives parents and carers an opportunity to work alongside their children in school and helps them to better understand the curriculum and the standards expected.

TYPES OF HELP AT SCHOOL

- Each year, we encourage parents and carers to help in school with groups and activities in a class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities) other than their child's class.
- Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits.
- Parents and carers are encouraged, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.

ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- For security reasons all helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting. To ensure helpers maximise their contribution to the children's learning, they are asked to check the purpose and details of any activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.
- All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.
- All helpers are asked to sign a Parental Contract which covers the confidential nature of their work in school.

CONSULTATION

- Our home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents and the school, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.
- The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.
- Parents or carers of a child with a disability are encouraged to keep the school fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts/adjustments to meet the requirements of their child.
- The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on Parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.
- Teachers can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.
- Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The headteacher and deputy headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will submit periodic evaluation reports on its effectiveness to the governing body.
- This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

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Role Description – Parent Representative

Purpose of your job

To represent the parents of the class you are assigned to. This will include communicating views, questions and proposals at parents' representative meetings twice a term and supporting events and new initiatives as required. To promote links within school community and beyond.

Ethos

A parent representative will work in the school community as a support and communicator for parents in their assigned class. They will provide a link between parents and the school. In our school we have an open door policy for parents.

Parents are encouraged to share information or issues with the school staff as soon as is possible. Parent Representatives are **not** in place of this important link.

Area of Responsibility

1. To attend meetings once/twice termly.
2. To contact the office 48 hours before meeting with agenda items.
3. To discuss issues at the meeting in a professional manner.
4. Contribute items for our newsletter, updating parents with information.
5. To promote procedures, policies and the ethos of the school.
6. To adhere to any decisions taken by the Headteacher.
7. To share any issues raised of a confidential or personal nature with the Headteacher confidentially.
8. To support and co-ordinate school functions, e.g. Parent coffee Mornings / Summer Fair.