



Parental engagement strategy statement

'We don't just aim to be outstanding, we aim to be World Class'

Our Parental engagement strategy is being created ultimately to enable all our children to achieve their potential. Parental engagement requires collaboration with parents and communication should always be a two way process with the active participation of all parents.

We want to empower parents and we strive to be sensitive to all families' circumstances. We are aware that each family is different; some have access to many types of technology and some don't. Some parents have lots of time to get involved, whereas others do not. Some are nervous of engagement with school, others less so and we want to reach out and work with everyone.

Aims of the parental strategy;

- Higher progress and attainment in all subjects
- Higher attendance and punctuality
- Increased completion of homework
- Positive behaviour and attitude to learning
- Better relationships between children and teachers and parents
- Reduced parent-teacher conflict

What we have done so far:

Communication

We have recently updated our website to make it more parent friendly. We send out weekly paper newsletters in all year groups and a monthly 'Chronicle' by email. We also have a YouTube account whereby we can share events and practical home learning tasks

2 way Communication

We have increased our two way communication options to include; phone, text, email, Facebook messenger and Twitter and we are always seeking to improve this further. The parent council have an email group whereby their thoughts, opinions and feelings can be shared.

Learner led conversations at parents' evening

All parents are encouraged to bring their children to parents' evening so that a three way conversation can be had that is learner led. This meeting covers not just academic achievement but attitudes to learning, attendance and presentation and gives the child opportunity to take responsibility for their learning and development.

Parent Governors

We have a full and secure allocation of committed parent governors.



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Parental Questionnaires

We send out bi-annual questionnaires to parents to receive valuable feedback on how we can improve.

Family support worker appointment

Mrs Wilkes is our Family Support Worker and she liaises with families in need and signposts them to other services where possible.

Parental Engagement lead

Mr Newitt is our parental engagement lead for the school and he coordinates events and works on implementing the strategy.

FAST programme

We have run 2 weekly courses for parents after school with great success.

Friends of Chestnuts

We have a great fundraising group who work tirelessly to raise vital money for the school.

Parent Council

We have an email Parent council whereby questions can be asked and views sought.

101 things to do at Chestnuts

We have our 101 challenge which encourages parents and children to complete the 101 tasks together as well as in school. These tasks are child focused and involve activities such as playing in leaves and making snow angels.

Tapestry in EYFS

Our tapestry tool in EYFS enables regular communication with parents, sharing achievements in Reception Class

Open afternoons and volunteer days

We regularly hold curriculum open afternoons and invite parents in to come and share the learning. We also request volunteer parents to come and help us with the allotment maintenance and projects such as the plastic bottle greenhouse!

Volunteers

We are always open to and requesting parents to come and help in classrooms and read with our children and we even provide basic training to support this.

ParentPay and school uniform ordering

We now have an online pay system to assist parents in paying for trips and uniform.

What we need to do next?

We need to listen. We need to ensure parents feel valued and that they recognise the role they play in their child's education. Parents are extremely valuable in supporting a child outside of the classroom. Research has shown that the strongest support for learning comes through positive parenting styles, nightly reading and setting expectations for homework and grades. We need to communicate this to all parents effectively and get them to understand



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that they are a key part of their child's education. We need to provide detailed guidance on how to help and what to help with. We need to ensure that parents have the confidence to teach and support their own children. As they support their children more, the greater the bond between parent and child.

We also need to identify the barriers. Parents can become disengaged or may never feel engaged at all. We need to recognise the obstacles and understand the impact. We need to give parents the freedom to choose how they want to engage and we need to be aware of potential personal obstacles that are preventing engagement – these could be; school open hours, language, transport, bad experiences of school or anxiety.

Ultimately, we need to work together. We need to create a plan and review it regularly with all stakeholders, especially parents and we need to evaluate the impact of our actions. We need everyone on board with this to ensure that we make decisions that are in the best interests of the child.