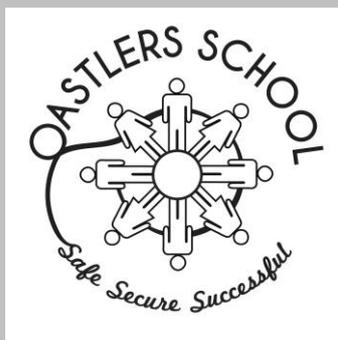


Parent/Carer Partnership Policy



Oastlers Policy

Updated on March 2015

Approved by Governing Body On	April 2015
To be Reviewed On	April 2018
Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body	Robert Fairbairn 

Parent/Carer Partnership Policy – making sure all our learners are safe, secure and successful.

OVERVIEW

At Oastlers School we endeavor to develop a close relationship with our parents/carers. The success of the partnership is at the heart of what we do in school as we believe it supports and encourages learners to achieve their full potential.

The school has the benefit of an active 'Friends of Oastlers' parent/carers group who are always keen to recruit new members. The Friends of Oastlers Group have been involved in adult learning opportunities, organising school events and helping at numerous school events. They are an active feature of the school community.

We very much value the unique insight that parents/carers can provide about their child, indeed we fully agree with Alan Johnson (Every Parent Matters 2007) who wrote *'parents/carers and the home environment they create is the most important factor in shaping their children's well-being, achievement and prospects'*. To this end we recognise that the relationships forged between home and school is critical because it:

- Improves levels of achievement for every learner
- Influences positive learner attitude and behavior
- Enriches the school community
- Tackles misunderstandings and problems at an early stage

Parents/carers are key partners in their children's learning and the school will ensure it has systems in place that involves and responds to them.

AIMS

- To communicate fully with Oastler Community to ensure that parents/carers, school based staff and our learners all share a common purpose.
- To ensure the effective partnership meets the needs of every individual capturing individual needs both in terms of learning and emotional well-being.
- To involve parents/carers fully in school life and the school community.
- To work in close co-operation with parents/carers in order to ensure high standards of care and academic achievement for all.
- To provide an environment inclusive for all parents and their children, regardless of need, background or culture.

STRATEGY

Parents/carers are welcome at school any time. We operate an 'Open Door' policy. This means that our parents/carers can attend school to discuss any aspect of their child at any time. If we are not able to guarantee a meeting with the person of choice immediately, an alternative will be sought so the matter can at least be aired.

However, the school also operates a flexible system of arrangements for parents/carers to get into school as outlined below.

Formal Events/Meetings

- Welcome meetings for parents/carers of children starting their school life at Oastlers School.
- Parent Consultations for each year group where parents/carers are invited into school to discuss progress with the form tutor and specialist teachers.
- Meetings to discuss evaluate and update Individual Education Plans for children with special educational needs.
- Year 9 Options Events.
- Year 11 Post 16/Transition Events.
- Individual meetings with staff e.g. Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Behaviour Manager, Class teacher as appropriate to provide support and address and areas for concern.
- Attendance meetings.

Informal Events/Meetings

The school offers constant informal opportunities to include parents/carers. Below are examples of what is available currently.

- Attendance at any of our daily assemblies.
- Attendance at our Friday celebration assembly.
- Christmas/Easter/Summer Fayres.
- Join the Headteacher at the monthly Cost Coffee Event.
- Attendance at any of our STEM Days.
- Joining the schools' Friends of Oastlers' parent/carer group
- Attend the annual school sports day.
- Join us on our annual summer 'Family Trip'.
- Parent/carer adult learning opportunities.
- Weekly update telephone calls from Heads of Key Stages.

Communication

We are continually updating and improving our communication systems. Currently, parents receive regular updates from the school including:

- Texting messages
- Weekly newsletters and information letters.
- Annual progress reports on children's academic progress.
- Attendance letters.
- The schools website – www.oastlers.com
- Home school agreement.

Opportunities and Support

The school is able to offer a variety of additional services that may be of interest to our parents/carers. Services currently provided include 1-1 counselling and Therapeutic Play. Parents/carers are able to refer their child for those services and are welcome to attend the sessions if that is appropriate. Parents/carers also have the opportunity to link with the school Education Psychologist. We are looking

forward to being able to offer hypnotherapy in school from September 2015.

The schools Education Social Worker is always on hand to:

- Signpost parents/carers to adult learning courses in other venues.
- Offering leaflets, guidance and workshops on specific areas of interest to parents/carers.
- Supporting and signposting to other agencies.
- Supporting attendance.
- Link families with other agencies.

We also seek to support those parents/carers who would like their child to benefit from extended school, provision, for example

- After school clubs.
- Residential opportunities.
- Summer clubs.

Policies

We seek to ensure that all the relevant policies are effective and easy to read by parents/carers. All the schools policies are available on our website.

Home/School Partnership

We believe that a strong home/school partnership is an essential element to ensure all our learners enjoy optimal opportunities for continued emotional well-being, academic progress and physical development. We enter into that partnership with our parents/carers as soon as the child is on roll.

Parent/carer Feedback

The school will regularly seek parent/carer views by telephone consultation twice per year. Feedback is valued, and responses shape the schools offer.

We are committed to the highest possible level of Partnership with parents/carers and are always open to new suggestions on how we can improve.