



## ***Parental Partnership***

### ***Introduction***

*It is the goal of Laurel Avenue Community Primary School to continue to develop strong partnerships with the home. Parents/carers and schools working as partners increase pupil achievement and help pupils develop positive attitudes about self and school.*

*The key factor in the home-school partnership is the relationship between the teacher and the parent. Teachers are professionals who manage a variety of instructional resources. Parents/carers are an essential resource in the learning process of their children.*

*We are already active in fostering the home-school relationship. The intent of this policy is to result in consciously doing those things already in practice in a more efficient, consistent and effective manner, as well as generating new ways of strengthening the partnership.*

*We have a commitment to providing a secure, happy and caring environment which meets the needs of all the children intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural. By working in close partnership with parents/carers we nurture the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self esteem and the desire to learn. We provide quality learning experiences with the expectation that all will have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.*

### ***We aim that:***

- ◆ *Every aspect of the school climate is open, helpful, and friendly.*
- ◆ *Communications with parents/carers (whether about school policies and programs or about their own children) are frequent, clear, and two-way.*
- ◆ *Parents/carers are treated as partners in the educational process, with a strong complementary role to play in the children's school learning and behaviour.*
- ◆ *Parents/carers are encouraged, both formally and informally, to comment on school policies and to share in the decision making.*
- ◆ *The school encourages volunteer participation from parents/carers and the community at large.*
- ◆ *The school encourages parents/carers and the community to raise funds for the good of the pupils and local and national charities to develop pupils' awareness of citizenship.*
- ◆ *The school recognises its responsibility to forge a partnership with all families in the school, not simply those most easily available.*

### ***To fulfil these aims, we at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School shall:***

- ◆ *Create opportunities for parents/carers to come into the school on a regular basis, e.g. information and reporting evenings, health promotion events, school assemblies, open days, school concerts and shows.*

- ◆ *Ensure all policies are available in school and parents/carers are made aware of this in the School prospectus. Particular policies, e.g. those connected to Safeguarding, are available in the School Entrance Red Safeguarding File.*
- ◆ *Create clear and positive communication links with parents/carers, where they know they can approach the school with a problem and it will be positively and promptly acted upon.*
- ◆ *Share responsibilities for implementing school policies e.g. promoting positive behaviour, healthy snacking, homework and school uniform.*
- ◆ *Establish mechanisms e.g. questionnaires, suggestion box and discussions, for seeking parents'/carer's view*
- ◆ *Encourage the use of the school for local activities which provide social opportunities for the pupils and encourage family learning e.g. youth club, football.*
- ◆ *Issue regular letters of information and newsletters which showcase pupils' work.*

*We operate an 'Open door' system in that all members of the teaching staff will make themselves available to parents/carers at the beginning and end of each day for informal discussion and day to day communication. We ask parents/carers to be aware that our first and primary care is for the children and exercise discretion in their requirements at these times. Staff are always happy to make appointments for longer interviews at a mutually agreed time. The Headteacher's office is quite literally 'open' (unless a private meeting is already taking place) and parents/carers are always welcome to call in. The Headteacher is always around the school between 8.30 and 9.00 for informal contact.*

*Parents/carers are welcomed into the school at all times, although we have a plethora of formal and informal opportunities throughout the year to meet together and get to know each other. These include a weekly Star Assembly open to all parents/carers, and opportunities for parents/carers to work in classrooms with their child, such as decorating Easter eggs or during Happy in School events so that they can become actively involved in school life.*

*We have a variety of systems which we use to communicate with parents/carers. The most used is text messages, Marvellous Me texts and letters by pupil post. To ensure maximum effectiveness, these letters are always given to children as they leave the classroom. Any child who is absent has the named letters put into the 'Going Home Box' in each classroom, to await their return to school. Texts are often used to inform parents/carers that a letter or newsletter will be coming home that night. The school website also has up to date information of events on the diary, all newsletters and other useful forms, guidance, helpful links, information about the curriculum and a wide range of school life such as uniform and school meals.*

*All letters sent out to parents/carers from the school office are copied to a central file which is kept in the school office so that any interested parents/carers can check that all communications have been received. Text messages are stored on the Teachers2Parents site.*

*Regular newsletters and lists of dates are sent out with updates on events and advance notification of forthcoming events. Events are also publicised on the schoolwebsite and via texts, with reminders sent closer to the date.*

*Parents/Carers are given regular opportunities to be involved in the commenting and sharing of decisions with respect to school policy. These include:*

- ◆ *Questionnaires*
- ◆ *Parent View, via school website*
- ◆ *Consultation with regard to whole school policies in PSHE, including Sex and Relationship Education, packed lunches*
- ◆ *Consultation with regard to the organisation of events, such as Open Evenings and Sports Day*
- ◆ *Parents' Suggestion Box always situated in the entrance of school and checked regularly*
- ◆ *Interest Groups with parental representation, including Happy in School Interest Group (Anti-Bullying) and SNAG (School Nutrition Action Groups)*
- ◆ *Parents involved with Friends of Laurel Avenue Association hold meetings at least once a half term where they have a clear voice in all school issues*

### ***Friends of Laurel Avenue (FOLA) Association***

*We have a very active Friends of Laurel Avenue Association, which seeks to encourage and extend involvement in a wide variety of activities. Membership is open to all who are interested and actively supports those who prefer to offer help on a more informal or sporadic nature for individual events. We hold fayres every term which the Friends of Laurel Avenue Association play an instrumental part as well as charity events.*

*The Friends of Laurel Avenue Association is chaired by an elected parent each year. Its main function is to promote the social dimension of the school by running extra curricular activities for pupils. It is also a medium for raising funds for the school and fulfil the aims of the school.*

### ***Monitoring***

- ◆ *Through the level of attendance of parents to school events, including Parents Evening*
- ◆ *Through parental questionnaires*
- ◆ *Through the number of parents involved in FOLAS, attendance at meetings and events*

*Signed: G Davison*

*Headteacher*

*Date: September 2015*

*Signed: C Linfoot*

*Chair of Community and SMSC Committee*

*Date: September 2015*

*Review: September 2018*