



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

(For the purpose of this policy parents also refers to foster parents and carers.)

Every child is unique with his or her own needs. Parents as the first educators of their children may need to be affirmed of the great importance and value of their role as parents.

At The Shrubberies School parents are valued for the skills and abilities they have to offer in enhancing the intellectual, spiritual, emotional and physical programmes offered by the school.

Policy statements can largely be addressed under the following headings:

- 1. Prospective parents**
- 2. Parents in school**
- 3. Support for parents**

Prospective Parents

We welcome visits from prospective parents to meet with staff and children, and will provide all the necessary information and support to enable parents to make an informed choice.

Parents are always advised to discuss their wishes and intention with their Local Authority at the earliest opportunity.

A place cannot be offered by the school until a formal request has been made by the Local Authority.

When a place has been accepted, the school will encourage the parents to bring the child into school, to participate in his or her prospective class' activities, to facilitate ease of transition.

Parents in School

Parents should always be made welcome to visit at any reasonable time. All staff share the responsibility of welcoming parents and encouraging them to take and maintain interest in all aspects of their child's school life.

Letters home to parents should always go through the office and parents should be notified well in advance of events and activities, with permission sought in the case of residential trips and 'out of school' activities.

Parents should have access to their child's file giving reasonable notice to the Headteacher.

Home/School books for all children provide the opportunity for good communication channels between school and parents. Parents should be notified in advance if a child is going to move class or have a new class teacher.

Parents are to be sent a full report every year that reports the progress of their child. Parents are an integral part of the Annual Review and the Education Health and Care Plan process and are invited to all meetings.

Support for Parents

The Shrubberies School recognises that just as each child has his or her own unique needs, our parents too have needs unique to their family. It is the responsibility of all staff to support parents by valuing their knowledge, insight, skills and abilities, and to try to understand the emotion and turmoil which may be experienced by parents who have a child with learning special educational needs and disabilities (SEN D)

Our school's expertise with learning difficulties and care should be shared with those parents who experience difficulties confronted by multi-disciplinary teams of professionals. We should offer non-judgemental support, and jargon free statements in a caring, understanding environment.

The school will discuss with parents, aims and objectives in curriculum subjects. We have an open door policy and an on-site parent support advisor who available to parents. This aims to facilitate support and meet the needs of the student and family.

The school will support and prepare parents, and ease the transition of pupils who are integrating into any other educational or training establishment. Meetings of all professional parties will be called, visits will be planned and records will be shared to ensure that the parents and pupils make the same informed choice.

Parents are:

- **Invited to Annual Reviews**
- **Involved in the development of their child's individual education and care plans**
- **Sent regular Weekly Newsletters**
- **Invited to various social functions held during the year**
- **Invited to special celebratory events such as special assemblies**
- **Regular email contact with parents to inform them of regular events in and out of school that might be of interest**
- **Host local authority parent meetings**
- **Able to meet with staff**
- **Invited to join the Parent Teachers' Association (PTA)**

'A Partnership of Equals'