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Lanesend Primary School

Family Involvement Policy School Families Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: March 2018 (Every 3 Years)
Reviewed By: Teaching and Learning Group, Aunt FLO.

Lanesend Primary Family Involvement Policy

Engagement of Families

Families play a vital role in the development and education of their children. Families have a primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school and their learning. They care about their children and want to be involved. While they can find it challenging to play an active role in their children's education, it is important to meet this challenge so that children at Lanesend Primary School have the support they need to be successful.

Research shows clearly that schools improve when there is a strong connection with families as part of the learning community.

At Lanesend Primary School we are committed to promoting partnership with families and involvement in children's learning and the life of the school. Family is used throughout this document to mean those people who are the primary carers of children in our school and could include grandfamilies, foster carers and all types of family units.

The Family Involvement Policy seeks to identify and break down barriers to parent involvement and proactively reach out to families. We recognise that to be successful our strategies need to be flexible and recognise the diversity of our families and their contributions. Fulfilling the school's vision of family engagement requires commitment and action by all of our partners who work with us at Lanesend Primary School.

Objectives

- To foster an ethos and atmosphere where all families feel welcome, valued and heard.
- To maintain an 'open door' approach so that families are able to communicate with staff on a regular basis, both formally and informally.
- To provide as much information as possible in timely, specific, targeted and accessible ways so that families feel confident and knowledgeable in supporting their children's learning.
- To seek families' views and opinions and act upon them.
- To identify and provide support and encouragement for families suffering difficulties/crises, or barriers to involvement.
- To help families support their children's learning at home and at school.
- To work with families in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school.

- To seek to provide a range of activities, resources, courses and workshops, to promote parental involvement in children's learning, and a 'love of learning' for both children and adults.

Lanesend Primary School commits to:

Actively exploring and utilising opportunities to further engage families at school and at home to support their child's achievement.

Reviewing existing family and community partnerships, seeking to expand upon these partnerships to reflect the diversity of our families and the broader community.

Implementing strategies to identify and remove discriminatory barriers that limit engagement by children, families and our diverse communities.

Informing children and families about learning expectations and their child's progress, both academically and emotionally and make efforts to assist families who do not understand English.

Providing opportunities for families to develop or extend skills and knowledge (e.g. workshops, various resources such as tips sheets, translation of materials) to support a positive learning environment.

Working towards representation of diverse parent groups on governing body.

Monitoring school climate (e.g. through surveys, focus groups) to help identify barriers to family involvement or issues that should be addressed to foster and support a safe and welcoming learning environment.

Reviewing and establishing self- assessment processes to determine the effectiveness of our family engagement strategies.

Reporting progress to the governing body.

Actively seeking family voice through Parent Council, coffee mornings, Headteacher's forum, Headteacher's Afternoon Tea, Pupil / Parent Meetings, Celebration Days, consultations.

We will use technology to communicate with our families and actively seek responses and engagement i.e. Tapestry and class dojo.

LEAF (Lanesend Active Families) support the school in extra-curricular activities for the children and families and raising monies for the school. See separate LEAF Policy.

We recognise and value any involvement from families, but we actively seek to develop new approaches to increase family involvement in learning as well as community events.