



Great Marsden St John's  
Primary School  
Church of England Academy

# Parent Partnership Policy

April 2016

## **Aims of the Policy**

1. To support pupils to achieve the highest standards through closer partnerships between home and school.
2. To ensure that all staff, governors and parents/carers are able to support the pupil's development effectively at all stages of their school life at Great Marsden St John's Church of England Academy.
3. To inform, clarify and communicate the breadth of work between families and the school.

## **Introduction**

Both home and school want the best for children in our care. Parents want them to have the best opportunities so that they can become successful and happy members of the community. School wants to provide pupils with the environment and support they need to achieve all their ambitions.

Effective partnership between home and school is key to these aspirations. Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life, and the school needs to listen to and communicate with parents more effectively to build the trust and understanding needed for pupils to achieve their best. The school needs to be a resource for the community it serves.

This Policy seeks to inform and broaden the further development of home/school links at Great Marsden St John's Church of England Academy.

## **Ways in which effective partnerships can support pupils:**

### *Being a welcoming and friendly school for parents/carers*

- Making sure our Reception service is able to respond to the needs of the visitor
- Asking parents/carers whether they felt welcomed
- Making the school a safe and vibrant environment
- Providing clear signs around the school to help parents/carers/visitors.

### *Providing an enrichment programme for all pupils, involving parents where possible*

- Providing a regularly updated programme of events to parents covering, eg trips, family learning opportunities, work experience, sports and arts activities.

### *Providing good induction for all groups of new parents*

- Provide opportunities for all prospective parents to find out about the school by visiting the school website.
- Provide opportunities for parents to discuss all transitional decisions
- To ensure information is produced and distributed appropriately, taking account of parental needs and views.

### *Providing high quality information to parents/carers*

- Providing a regular and up-to-date information service through the newsletter and school web site, on site external and internal notice boards and our visible staff presence before and after school. Our open door policy means that parents are able to pop in and see both the

Headteacher and Inclusion Manager if they are free or make an appointment if they are unavailable.

- Providing parents with advance notice of all school events and dates, with up-dates as appropriate
- Actively involving parents/carers in the celebration of pupil success
- Promoting systems of active communication between home and school.

*Ensuring that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read by parents*

- Making relevant school policies available to parents and ensuring appropriate procedures are clear
- Regularly reviewing the Home-School Agreement to take account of parental views, and communicating it regularly and clearly. This is no longer a statutory requirement, but it is one that ST John's has decided to maintain as it sets out clear expectations for all stakeholders.
- Having up-to-date and accessible policies on:
  - Behaviour
  - Administration of Medicines
  - Anti-Bullying
  - Attendance
  - Child Protection
  - Complaints
  - Equal opportunities
  - Homework

*Providing support resources to help parents make informed decisions about choices and transitions to other institutions*

- Identifying the Inclusion Manager as the link to other agencies and resources
- Providing impartial guidance on transition routes to parents and pupils.

*Parent training*

The school seeks to ensure all groups of parents/carers connected with the school are aware of training and enrichment opportunities available in the school and in the community, by:

- Delivering Family Learning courses
- Informing parents about adult learning courses
- Offering Positive Parenting programmes
- Responding wherever possible to parental needs for training opportunities.

**Getting parental feedback**

The school will regularly seek parental views on a range of topics affecting pupils' education through questionnaires, surveys and verbal discussion. Feedback is valued, and responses will be seriously considered and actioned where appropriate and in pupils' best interests.

**Approved : April 2016**

**To be reviewed : April 2017**