



Witchampton CE VA First School Parental Involvement Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1** All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents and carers, and their wider family. We therefore believe in close cooperation with all families, and in regular consultation between the home and the school.

2 Aims

- 2.1** Our aims through parental involvement are:

- to enhance the learning experiences of all pupils;
- to encourage parents and carers to be involved in the children's learning;
- to provide a partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued;
- to encourage maximum use of adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

3 Involvement in the life of the school

- 3.1** School is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times.
- 3.2** Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the school or by the Friends of Witchampton School. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and a viewing public for a lot of the pupils' work.
- 3.3** Regular newsletters are sent home, and each family should receive a copy of the school prospectus.
- 3.4** Parents can view much of this written information on the school website.

4 Involvement in children's learning

- 4.1** Parents and carers can talk with teachers before and after school on an informal basis on most days.

- 4.2 Appointments to see a teacher or the headteacher can be made through the school office.
- 4.3 A class meeting for parents is held early in the Autumn Term. Individual parent/child consultations are held in the autumn and spring terms. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and share views so that child, teacher and parents can work to give each other mutual support.
- 4.4 An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is made available in the summer term. A response slip is attached for parents' and children's comments.
- 4.5 Regular curriculum workshops are organised to assist parents and carers in supporting their child/ren's learning through sharing the current thinking, methods and resources being used in school.
- 4.6 Policy documents, schemes of work and National Curriculum guidance are readily available for parents and carers to view.
- 4.7 Curriculum outlines are sent to each family at the start of each term, detailing the aspects of learning each child will undertake, and how families might support that learning, for example by visiting museums, galleries, websites, etc. Expectations for homework and support with reading will also be shared with parents at the beginning of the year.
- 4.8 National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also readily available, as appropriate, for each child and will be shared with parents at consultations or on request.

5 Types of help at school (refer to Adult Volunteer Policy)

- 5.1 At the beginning of each year – or as new opportunities arise - we invite parents and carers to help in school.
- 5.2 This may be to help on a half-termly basis with groups and activities in class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities).
- 5.3 Parents and carers offer valued support when they respond to invitations to accompany school groups on educational visits, including, in some instances, assisting with transport arrangements. Requests for help may be made to specific parents rather than general invitations where this enables the best support for the children or maintains required police clearance for volunteer helpers.
- 5.4 Parents and carers are invited to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.
- 5.5 We value the work of the Friends of Witchampton First School. This body of parents and school staff works voluntarily to raise money for the school.
- 5.6 We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. We strongly believe that all children have the right to feel safe and to be

protected from physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect. The school expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

6 Organisational arrangements

- 6.1** Dependent on the level of intended support it may be necessary to organise a personal criminal records bureau check (CRB) on any person who will be working with children in school, prior to that person's involvement.
- 6.2** Insurance cover will be organised regarding parents' and carers' work at school, but those involved in transporting children in private vehicles during school hours will have to check their own insurance to ensure they have business use.
- 6.3** All helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of school when visiting, and to wear a badge, for security reasons.
- 6.4** All helpers working with children in class are asked to check the purpose and details of the activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.
- 6.5** All helpers are asked to inform the school, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend school at a prearranged time.
- 6.6** All helpers will be reminded of the confidential nature of their work in school.

7 Consultation

- 7.2** The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.
- 7.3** Parents or carers are asked to keep the school fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts to meet the requirements of that child.
- 7.4** The school values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on parents' and carers' views, wherever possible.
- 7.5** Teachers (including the headteacher) can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.
- 7.6** Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through a survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.
- 7.7** The governing body publishes its Annual Report to Parents.
- 7.8** Also, if desired by a sufficient numbers of families, the governing body will hold an annual meeting at which issues of interest and concern can be raised by parents and carers.
- 7.9** After an Ofsted inspection parents and carers will receive a summary of the findings, and later on they will be sent a summary of the action plan written in response to the report.