

# **EARLSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Family-School Partnership Policy**



**SUCCESS *for* ALL**

<b>Written by</b>	B. Graham
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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

At Earlsmead Primary School we encourage all members of our school community to strive to be the best they can be and develop new skills that empower them for life-long learning in order to become confident, valuable, members of society.

We create an inclusive, supportive, safe and challenging environment where all contributions are valued.

Learning is motivating and independence is encouraged hence all become reflective, self-learning team members with a positive sense of wellbeing and a love of learning.

## **OUR VISION**

Working in partnership with children, parents, staff and Governors as a community we will achieve *Success for All* through:

*Securing resilience*

*Understanding values and respecting others*

*Committing to our learning*

*Community Involvement*

*Equality for all*

*Striving to do our very best*

*Setting high expectations*



## Earlsmead Primary School Family-School Partnership Policy

### 1. Rationale

At Earlsmead Primary School, we value parents, carers and families as a vital part of our community. We believe that children benefit most when there are partnerships between school and families. By fostering excellent relationships between home and school, we know that we are giving our children a solid framework in which to grow and learn.

Research tells us that the children of parents who take an active interest in their education make greater progress than other children. In the primary years, family influences have a more powerful effect on children's attainment and progress than school factors.

Parent: For the purpose of this policy the term 'parent' is used to indicate any adult who plays a significant role in a child's life.

Family: Those who share responsibility for the wellbeing of the child.

### 2. Aims

1. To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the life of the school and their children's learning.
2. To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils.
3. To provide a partnership between home and school, ensuring that families feel supported, valued, welcomed and heard.

### 3. Objectives

#### 3.1 Theme 1: Fostering Effective Family-School Partnerships

##### 3.1.1 Ethos

- Everyone in school values building trusting relationships with parents.
- Everyone in school believes that pupils will achieve more when we work closely with families and communities.
- Everyone in school makes an effort to understand the needs of families and the school community.
- Staff are welcoming to parents, greet them in a friendly way and, in general, acknowledge the presence of parents and other visitors.

##### 3.1.2 Environment

- Our school environment is informative and interesting for parents, including displays of children's work in and around all hallways.

##### 3.1.3 Policies

- Policies are shared on our school website so that they are accessible to parents:  
<https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=21>
- Parent governors are responsible for reviewing school policies as part of regular Governing Body meetings.

### **3.1.4 Staff & Leaders**

- Members of the Senior Leadership Team are visible and available to parents at the beginning and/or end of the school day e.g. front gate.
- Class teachers feel confident to build relationships with parents.
- Support staff feel confident to build relationships with parents.
- Teachers invite parents to visit their classrooms for events including open mornings, information sessions, parent-teacher meetings or sharing learning.
- Our Pastoral Lead is dedicated to working with parents.

### **3.1.5 Events**

- Our school has regular opportunities for parents to attend celebration events such e.g. exhibitions, Year 6 production, nativity, leadership awards, athletics events, End of Year 6 Assembly.
- Our school has regular opportunities for pupils to share their learning with parents and carers e.g. weekly class sharing assemblies.
- Our school holds regular community or fundraising events which bring people together e.g. Christmas Fair, Summer Fair.
- Our school provides opportunities for families and children to learn together e.g. Phonics workshops, Safeguarding seminars.
- When planning events our school takes into account the needs of :
  - Working parents.
  - Those with younger children.
  - Families who speak English as an additional language.

## **3.2 Theme 2: Communicating & Consulting Effectively**

### **3.2.1 Newsletters & Website**

- Our school has a newsletter which is distributed to all parents every half term.
- An annual calendar of events is made available to parents at the start of each school year and updated each term. This is also available on the school website: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5&pid=9&viewid=10>
- Our school website is easy to navigate and contains key information for parents and is updated regularly.
- Our school provides parents with clear information on school policies e.g. the Behaviour policy.

### **3.2.2 Processes for Contacting Staff**

- Senior Leaders and teachers communicate frequently with parents using a variety of means e.g. Class Dojo, letters, email, telephone, in-person, newsletters.
- Class Dojo is used for direct messaging to the class teacher. Teachers are also available at classroom doors before and after school.
- Concerns or complaints are directed to the class teacher in the first instance and then escalated through Phase Leaders, then the Senior Leadership Team if the concerns are ongoing.

### **3.2.3 Progress & Performance**

- Our school shares School Development Priorities with parent governors via Governing Body Meetings.
- Our school provides parents with pupil and school performance data and support them to understand it via face to face meetings to discuss written reports.

- Parent-Teacher meetings are held at least twice a year with follow-ups as needed at times when parents can attend.

#### **3.2.4 CPD**

- Our school supports staff to build positive relationships with parents via Phase Meetings.

#### **3.2.5 Parent Voice**

- Our school conducts an annual survey of parent and carers, the results of which are shared with all stakeholders via staff meetings, Class Dojo and the School website: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=What+People+Say&pid=484>

#### **3.2.6 Tailoring Approaches**

- Communication is modified for non-English-speaking or low-literacy parents and those new to the British Education System e.g. children or staff translating.
- Where parental responsibility is shared all communication is sent to both parents.

### **3.3 Theme 3: Enabling Parental Engagement in Learning**

#### **3.3.1 Attitudes & Impact**

- Our school believes that all of our parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.

#### **3.3.2 Curriculum Assessment and Progress**

- All parents are given information each year on the content of the curriculum, including curriculum maps which are also available on the school website: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Maps&pid=40>
- All parents are given information each year on pupil progress e.g. written reports, parent-teacher meetings, Annual Reviews.

#### **3.3.3 Home Learning**

- All parents are given information each year on home learning expectations through Autumn 1 parent-teacher meetings and Class Dojo.
- Parents are given information each year on activities which can support learning at home.
- Teachers have a regular schedule of interactive homework that requires children to demonstrate to and discuss with parents what they are learning in school e.g. holiday home learning projects.

#### **3.3.4 Workshops**

- There are opportunities for parent to engage in workshops and activities which help them develop the skills needed to support home learning e.g. phonics workshops, eSafety, reading workshops.

### **3.4 Theme 4: Empowering Parents and Carers to Develop their own Skills**

#### **3.4.1 Ethos**

- Our school believes that building parents' knowledge and skills is important to supporting children's achievement.

#### **3.4.2 Volunteer Opportunities**

- There are regular opportunities for parents to volunteer in school such as:
  - Parents can help in the classroom e.g. listening to children read, changing readers, supporting lessons.
  - Parents accompany classes on trips.
  - Parents share their skills, knowledge and talents by talking to classes or running activities e.g. Black History Month, STEM week, Careers Day.
- Our school has systems for ensuring all parents have the opportunity to volunteer if they want to and selection processes are fair: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Parents&pid=9>
- Volunteers receive necessary training including safeguarding.

#### **3.4.3 Parent-Teacher Association**

- Our school has a parent staff association or similar which is accessible and actively recruits new members and welcomes new families: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Parents&pid=9>

### **3.5 Theme 5: Supporting Successful Transitions**

#### **3.5.1 Entry to School**

- Prospectus Packs are provided to all parents who are considering enrolment at Earlsmead School.
- Our school provide opportunities for parents to come into school both before and after children have been offered a place.
- Home visits or individual family meetings are carried out for children in the Early Years, where possible.
- Our school provide information; workshops and induction events for parents to support their child's transition into school e.g. Stay and Play events in the Early Years, open mornings in all classes.

#### **3.5.2 Within School**

- Our school provide opportunities for parents to share information about their child early in the academic year.
- Our school provide information and support to parents to enable successful transitions between Key Stages and year groups.

#### **3.5.3 Leaving School**

- Our school provides advice, information and workshops for parents whose children are transferring to High School especially those who need additional support and assistance.

### **3.6 Measuring Impact**

#### **3.6.1 Reach**

- There are school wide processes for recording attendance at parent events.

- Where possible information is provided in a variety of ways e.g. Slides are shared on Class Dojo after a Parent Information session so that the information is available to those who could not attend.
- Parental engagement via surveys and attendance at events is tracked.

### **3.6.2 Impact**

- Our School Development Plan details how parental engagement will contribute to key priorities.
- Parental engagement and opinions via events and surveys is regularly reported to staff and the Governing Body.

### **3.6.3 Celebrating Success**

- Our school collates and shares examples of parental engagement and evidence of its impact regularly and with all stakeholders.
- Parental opinions are shared publicly via the School website: <https://www.earlsmeadprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=What+People+Say&pid=484>

## **4. Review**

The head teacher is responsible for reviewing the policy every two years in consultation with the staff, governors and parents.

## **5. Roles & Responsibilities**

Barbara Graham (Headteacher), Jackie Stangroom (Pastoral Lead) and Parminder Kaur (PTA) are responsible for the implementation of the policy. The Earlsmead Governing Body are responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the policy.