



FEDERATION OF SAVILE TOWN CE (C) & THORNHILL LEES CE (VC) INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOLS

PARENT/ CARERS AND COMMUNITY POLICY 2023

'At our school we celebrate our faith diversity and provide a safe environment where our children are happy to learn. We are kind, caring and respectful to others. We aim to inspire future generations of our school and community to become lifelong learners.'

Introduction:

Schools are an integral part of the communities they serve. Involving parents and carers in school is a commitment to the community as a whole.

Aims:

- To raise the standards of children's achievement through active involvement in and support of their children's education.
- To value the partnership between home, school and the community.
- To recognise parent's rights – the right to choose, the right to be informed and the right to be involved.
- To help parents understand the aims of the school and the implications of these for the education programme their children follow.
- To encourage parental involvement so that parents gain a better understanding of what actually happens and are more likely to be sympathetic and supportive.
- To further develop two – way communication with parents.
- To encourage parents to share their talents broadening the range of skills available
- To work together at fund – raising activities to improve resource facilities which in turn enhance the learning opportunities for children.
- To develop an ethos of inclusion.

Safeguarding/ Attendance:

The school recognises the important role that the whole community plays in promoting the well being of all children. Guidance on attendance/ child protection procedures can be found in the appropriate policies and are reinforced in the school prospectus and newsletters where appropriate.

Behaviour

The School Behaviour Policy sets out clear expectations and guidelines to promote appropriate behaviour. The active support of parents is seen as crucial in its successful implementation.

Homework

Homework is part of our wider partnership between parents, carers, pupils and schools. Clear guidance is offered on appropriate routines, tasks and timescales. For further details please see Homework Policy.

Pre- School Liaison

We aim to provide a safe, caring and stable learning environment which allows children to make a successful transition from home to school by developing good home/ school links. (See Early Years Foundation Stage Policy and School Prospectus).

Parent Community Helpers:

- **Security:** On arrival in school parents/ community helpers are asked to sign in and out of the Inventory in the main entrance.
- **Health and safety/ Security:** All helpers will be asked to familiarise themselves with the relevant policies, especially procedures in case of emergency.
- **Safeguarding:** All helpers are required to apply for a disclosure from the DBS.
- **School Confidentiality:** The headteacher will discuss this issue with all volunteer helpers.
- **Toilets:** Visitors are requested to use the appropriate adult facilities.
- **Refreshments:** Parent/ Community helpers are welcome in the staffroom.
- **Recruiting parent/ community helpers:**

- Individual teachers can use the personal approach to recruit helpers.
- Parents are asked to help in another class to that which their child attends.
- Our staff recruits helpers for workshops.
- **Specific Instructions to helpers:** Staff must ensure that appropriate tasks are made clear to helpers. Parents will need to know what is expected of them and their children. Guidance will need to be given where necessary.
- **Training for parent/ community helpers:** parents will be made aware of any appropriate training opportunities by class teachers, School Business Manager or Headteacher. Parents will be encouraged to participate in on- site projects eg. workshops/ curriculum support as necessary. We also provide placements for students from local schools, colleges and Universities.
- **Possible range of tasks for voluntary helpers:**
 - Voluntary reading scheme support
 - Community reading
 - Literacy/ Numeracy workshops
 - In class support, working with a targeted group
 - Preparation of resources/ materials
 - Accompanying educational visits
 - Administrative tasks

Equal opportunities

Parents and carers of all children are offered support and advice through liaison with the school to enable them to play a more active role in their children's education, leading to higher standards for all children. (See other relevant policies).

Health and Safety

The school recognises its responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone who comes onto the school premises. Advice on administering medicine in school is also referred to in this policy, in the school's prospectus and in newsletters when appropriate.

Reporting to parents

Parents are informed of their child's progress and the school also informs them of the targets set between the class teacher and child.

Communication

We aim to consult with and listen to parents as well as keeping them informed so that they are involved in the development of the school through two-way communication built on mutual trust. We have the School Dojo which we use to communicate whole school messages including the monthly newsletter, as well as personal ones to individual parents. Class teachers can also post messages that are relevant to their individual classes. All relevant policies are available on the school website.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in line with the cycle identified in the School Development Plan.