

Woodnewton- a learning community

Parental Involvement Policy



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| Approved by: Governance |
| Last reviewed on: 1 st September 2023 |
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| Date: 1 st September 2023 |

Woodnewton- a learning community Parental Involvement Policy

At Woodnewton- a learning community we believe that fostering positive and nurturing partnerships between parents/carers and the school are key to getting the best outcomes for our children. Collaboration is key;

Together, our Parental Involvement Policy aims to help all parents and families to be:

- fully involved in their child's education and learning
- warmly welcomed as active participants in the life of the school
- confidentially able to support their child's learning at home
- actively encouraged to express their views on education and work in partnership with the school

We believe and operate an open-door policy where the voice of the parent/carer plays a key role in ensuring each child's educational experience is full of fun and exciting opportunities that enables them to become well-rounded, life-long learners.

Principles of Parental Involvement:

- parents, pupils and all staff are partners in the education process, as well as the social and emotional journey of each child and together have a vital role to play.
- real parental involvement can only take place when everyone commits to developing an ethos of trust and respect.
- parents and families are the most important influence on their child's attitudes, behaviour and achievement - good parental involvement will influence this in a positive way.
- all parents will be encouraged to take part in parental involvement and consultation.

Our Values:

At Woodnewton, our school ethos and vision underpin all that we do. Working in collaboration with Parents/Carers, we believe it is essential to educate our pupils against six key values which are discussed and reinforced regularly through the whole curriculum. These are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Friendship
- Compassion
- Trust
- Hope

Here's what parents told us:

- 91% of parents/carers felt that their child/ren were happy at school.
- 93% of parents/carers said their child/ren felt safe at school.
- 72% of parents/carers felt well informed about the curriculum.
- 78% of parents/carers felt that when concerns had been raised they were dealt with effectively (or they had never needed to raise a concern).
- 82% of parents/carers felt the school had high expectations of their child/ren.
- 88% of parents/carers felt that their child/ren achieves well at school.
- 71% of parents/carers felt well informed about how their child/ren was progressing.
- 81% of parents/carers would recommend the school to other parents/carers.

(January 2022 – percentages based on 181 responses)

Becoming involved

We warmly welcome the support and help of parents/carers at Woodnewton and if you would like to get involved in supporting children's learning at Woodnewton, we encourage you to speak to our Headteacher; Kim Kemp or our Office Manager; Anne Russell. They will happily give you details of how you can get involved.

If you are unable to commit to a regular time slot but would still like to get involved, there are still many ways you can do this to support the overall life of the school by:

- becoming a parent helper.
- helping out with trips or other school events.
- sharing your skills with the school.

- sharing your ideas with the school.

Our pupils and your child/ren will always benefit from any involvement you are able to commit to.

The Woodnewton – a learning community Promise:

We will work in partnership with parents to ensure that our pupils have every opportunity to enjoy, achieve and learn together. We will continuously promote positive partnerships with parents, founded on effective, honest and open communication, on mutual respect and the shared aspirations that each child reaches their potential whilst at the school.

We acknowledge that parents are as individual as their children and that their needs, hopes and priorities will vary over time and from one set of parents to another. Therefore their level of involvement with the school is also likely to vary during their child's school career, as is the type of involvement.

We hope that parents will want to be actively involved in their child's school life, both educationally and socially and that they will feel able to contact the school to discuss any worries, concerns or uncertainties that they might have. We will encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education by following up and extending the work carried out in school, by sharing new or different ideas and approaches and by keeping us informed about how their child behaves when out of school. We hope that school and home will work collaboratively together to achieve consistent results across all areas of development by sharing each other's skills and knowledge. We also hope that parents will want to let us know about significant events that happen outside of school which relate to their child so that events and festivities can be celebrated in school alongside their peers.

We recognise the isolation that our parents often feel and the desire to acquire further information and advice about a wide range of issues and subjects. We have access to a variety of courses / workshops within school, run by our own staff, as well as outside agencies. Some of these are general courses and others are targeted for specific parents. We can also sign post parents to other services. We have a commitment to our parents'/carers' development and strive to upskill them in the same way that we are committed to our pupils' development.

We welcome voluntary help from parents with classroom activities and with other tasks that contribute to the smooth running of the school. In most cases where parents or family members are acting as regular volunteers we would not expect them to be working in their own child's class or year group. (This is for a number of reasons including possible jealousy from other pupils or the child expecting the undivided attention of the parent.) However, parents may be asked occasionally to help in their own child's class for specific events or trips.

We want teaching time to be used for the direct benefit of the children. Our staff are always willing and available to help with any questions or concerns, however, we would ask all parents and carers to arrange for any lengthy discussions to take place before or after teaching time (8:45 - 3.15/3:20/3:30). Telephone messages can be left with the office, however, please feel free to email your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have any questions or concerns. Meetings can be arranged in school time but need to be planned in advance. The Headteacher, Deputy Heads, Assistant Head and/or SENDco offer an open door policy and are generally available to talk to parents and can be contacted by telephone throughout the day, however, this is not always possible. If they are unable to be contacted they will always endeavour to get back to parents/carers as soon as possible. We will ensure that the school is a welcoming and caring environment and that parents are kept fully informed about their child's activities and achievements.

We will conduct an annual parent survey during the Autumn Term and again during the Summer Term to gather the valued views and opinions of parents and carers and to give them the opportunity to feedback on a range of school issues. We also take opportunities throughout the year to gather feedback and views from parents.

Parental Involvement with the school includes the following:

Early Years

Home Visits (TYOP, FS1 and FS2)

We believe getting to know your child/ren and building positive relationships is key in pupils being successful at our school. With this in mind, staff will ensure a home visit is carried out prior to your child joining the school, giving you and your child the opportunity to meet key adults and ask any questions you/they may have.

New Entrants Evenings

To ensure parents/carers have a good understanding of our Early Years settings, new entrants evenings are run yearly to allow parents to gather additional information about their child's upcoming school experience. Parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet key staff, ask questions and explore the setting in readiness for their child/ren to start.

Visits and Tours/Settling-in sessions

We welcome the opportunity for you to come and see our Early Years environment in action and to experience first-hand the opportunities that will be available to your child/ren. Before starting in any of our Early Years settings, your child will be invited to a number of settling in sessions, which they will attend with a family member so they can familiarise themselves with our environment alongside a trusted adult. This supports them to feel more settled when attending by themselves after a couple of weeks.

Year 1 – Year 6 Meet the Teacher Information Evening

Early in the Autumn term, parents will be invited to an information evening during which they will get the opportunity to visit their child's class and meet the staff. Parents will be given more information about class routines.

Parent Consultation Evenings

For FS1 – Year 6 children, these take place during Autumn and Spring term and give parents the chance to discuss with the class teacher their child's progress and review their targets. For children in our TYOP, regular opportunities will be given for parents to discuss their child's progress alongside their child's key worker.

Where children have an Additional Support Plan (ASP), parents will have a separate opportunity to discuss and review their child's targets alongside the class teacher during our ASP parent review days.

Parent Workshops

Workshops and seminars for parents are arranged on a regular basis and may cover a wide range of topics such as Phonics, KS1 and KS2 SATS and the Year 4 Timetables check.

Social Events and class activities

Parents and families are regularly invited to visit classes throughout the year and for whole school events such as Christmas Performances, Sports Day and the Year 6 leavers' assembly where their support and participation are much appreciated. In addition to these larger events, we encourage parents and families to join us for other special events throughout the year such as NSPCC Number Day and school discos.

Website

This contains a variety of factual information about the school, staffing, term dates etc as well as information from individual year groups; including useful links and resources. It is continuously being added to and updated.

Half Termly Newsletter

This is sent home every half term via School Comms and is an electronic pathway containing school news, future dates, prior events and other general information for parents and families. We feel it is important to promote the celebration of individual successes and to share the things our children are enjoying and learning about in school on a regular basis.

Annual Review of Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

These meetings take place once per year. Parents will meet with their child's class teacher, the SENDco and any other professionals involved with the child. Parents will have the opportunity to contribute their views and opinions of their child's progress.

Additional Support Plans (ASPs)

These documents are set and reviewed three times a year and are sent to parents towards the end of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. They are closely linked to the outcomes identified for individual pupils and are broken down into termly targets and linked to specific areas of the curriculum.

Curriculum Newsletters

A year group curriculum newsletter is provided to parents at the start of each new project (4 times a year) and is posted on the year group page on the school website. This provides both staff and parents with an overview of the learning activities that their child will undertake during that term which can be followed up at home.

Home learning activities

The school is committed to meeting the individual 'homework' needs of each pupil and teaching staff will consult with parents at the start of the academic

year on home learning opportunities for their child. There are some key ways parents/carers can help support children's learning at home. One key way is reading daily with your child/ren. There are two key elements to reading with your child - one is for them to read to you to help them practice decoding and be able to develop into fluent readers. The other element is reading for pleasure and enjoyment. Every child (FS2- Y6) will bring home a Reading Ramble each week which we encourage parents to contribute to by adding comments. Staff keep their own record of your child's reading in books held in school, therefore, parents and carers will not see additional comments written by their child's class teacher in these books. There are also many other ways you can support your child at home. Times tables are a key skill and building block to future success in Mathematics. Children have login details for these services and use them regularly in school so why not make the most of them at home?

- TT Rockstars – Login to your child's account and spend some time practising your times tables. We would recommend 3 short 15 minute sessions or more a week instead of one full hour session at a time. <https://trockstars.com/>
- Numbots – similar to TT Rockstars but designed specifically for our children in EYFS and KS1. Once again, we would recommend 3 short 15 minute sessions or more a week instead of one full hour session at a time. <https://numbots.com/>
- WhiteRose Maths Hub – This resource will support mathematical learning in a fun and engaging way. Children can watch the video and work through the questions for the day's lesson. <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Governing Body Parent Members

Nominated members of the Governing Body represent parents' views of the school and work closely with the school and parents in addressing issues and leading on key projects. If you would like to get involved and become a school governor, please contact our Headteacher, Kim Kemp.

Working in partnership to improve attendance

Children attending school is paramount and we love having your children in school as every day and minute counts. Our school attendance for 2020 to 2021 (excluding lockdowns, isolations and positive cases) was 96.1% which is in line with the national (96% pre-Covid) and is therefore really positive. We wish to maintain and strengthen this to achieve our whole school target of 97%. We can only achieve this if everyone works together and brings their child/ren into school. Government guidelines, which came into effect on 1st September 2013, prevent schools from granting any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. To this end, family holidays during term-time do not fall under exceptional circumstances and therefore we will not be able to authorise them. Please be aware, that if a holiday is taken during term time, then the Local Authority may issue a fixed penalty notice (FPN) to parents.

Woodnewton and all the schools within the IFtL Trust, believe regular attendance and punctuality are key to support your child to become the best they can be and ensure the highest possible outcomes for all children. We believe in everyone taking responsibility for attendance and punctuality and can only achieve this if every member of the Woodnewton family strives to achieve this as a united goal. To support children getting to and from school, we offer daily wraparound care in the form of Breakfast and Teatime Club

Appendix A

Woodnewton's Home-School Agreement

Woodnewton- a learning community will:

- communicate with you regularly, keep you informed about your child's achievements and encourage you to plan and work with us.
- suggest work or programmes for you to follow at home if requested.
- share information with you about your child's health, attendance and behaviour.
- in the event that there are serious concerns about your child's welfare and well-being outside of school, pass these on to your child's class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team.
- offer opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress and send home Additional Support Plans (ASPs) every other term when a child has a Special Educational Need.
- tell you about the curriculum we offer.
- encourage and support you to take part in the life of the school.

The Family will:

- share successes and concerns with the school.
- contribute to plans and discussions for their child.
- respond to letters and queries.
- keep school up to date regarding appointments and any changes to contact details.
- try to share in the wider life of the school.
- ensure that their child attends school when fit and healthy and with all the right equipment.
- respect and value all members of the school community; staff, governors, parents, pupils and other professionals working in partnership with the school.

Appendix B

| <u>September</u> | <u>October</u> | <u>November</u> | <u>December</u> | <u>January</u> | <u>February</u> |
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| Home Visits (TYOP, FS1, FS2) Curriculum Newsletter sent out Meet the teacher evenings (Y1-Y6) Languages Day (26 th) | Parental Questionnaire sent out and completed. Attendance Panel End of term Newsletter School Discos (Y1-Y6) | Parent Consultation Evenings Curriculum Showcase Evening | ASP Reviews Christmas Performances Attendance Panel End of Term Newsletter | Curriculum Newsletter sent out 30 th to 6 th Feb – National Storytelling Week – Parents/Carers share a story | 3rd – NSPCC NumberDay SATs information Evening Attendance Panel Early Years Big Read School Discos (Y1-Y6) End of Term Newsletter |
| <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>August</u> |
| 3 rd – World Book Day Y4 Timestables Check Information Evening Science Week 11 th -20 th Parent Science 21 st – World Poetry Day – Choral Repetition Performances Curriculum Showcase Evening ASP Reviews Parent Consultation Evenings End of Term Newsletter | Curriculum Newsletter sent out Y2 SATs Information World Book Night Attendance Panel Maths Mastery Information Evening | Maths Numeracy Day 7 th Phonics Screening Information Evening Curriculum Showcase School Discos (Y1-Y5) End of Term Newsletter Early Years Rhyme Time Challenge | Curriculum Newsletter sent out Sports Week Attendance Panel End of Year Report Parent Open Evening ASP Reviews | Parental Questionnaire sent out and completed. Curriculum showcase evening Year 6 Leavers Performance/Assemblies School Summer Fayre End of Term Newsletter | Holiday Clubs/Events Recruit New Volunteers |

Ongoing throughout the year- Reading Ready Club FS2/Y1, Phonics Videos available online, Reading Volunteers, Trip Volunteers, Book and Biscuit Mornings, Day-to-day communications, Homework tasks (Times tables, Reading, Spelling), Success postcards home about achievements/behaviour

Further Ideas:

SEND Parent Coffee Mornings x3 a year, Facebook/Twitter pages, School PTA