

Braywood C of E First School



Parent Partnership Policy

'From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered and nurtured by God.'

Aims

Genuine partnership between teachers and parents which requires:

- respecting and supporting all parents as the primary educators of their children
- valuing one another's different but equally important roles
- listening to uncomfortable messages without defensiveness
- establishing joint aims and jointly setting the agenda
- putting time into developing the relationship

Parents can play many roles within the partnership - as co-educators of their children, as providers of additional support for their child, as decision-makers and as an important part of the school's community.

"Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. Parents who take on a supportive role in their child's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of education."
Curriculum for Excellence.

Home-School Links

Many links between Braywood and our parents already exist, and we are committed to extend and improve them continuously in conjunction with our families. We have an 'open door' policy where parents are not inhibited to come and talk to their child's teacher or the office if there is a problem.

These links include:

- A termly meeting with the class teacher to explain classroom structure, daily timetable and homework timetable. Information is given about what the children are studying, with the relevant learning objectives: this may be accompanied by suggestions on how these activities may be followed up at home. This session provides an informal opportunity to meet the teaching staff and ask questions.
- Use of parent-teacher consultations to set targets and agree actions on the part of the teacher, parents and child every term.
- Curriculum days and evenings, which offer parents explanations and hands-on experience of the curriculum, and which provide clear examples of ways in which learning can be extended and reinforced.

- Support and advice on parenting skills - for example, informal sessions on friendships, encouraging positive behaviour, managing aggression, encouraging concentration, listening skills etc.
- Our Home and School Association (HSA) offers parents opportunities to meet and work with other parents in supporting the school through social, fund-raising and educational events. Coffee mornings after family assembly etc. are welcomed.
- Newsletters and other items of information which are sent home via email or with the children in their book bags. All up-to-date information including our weekly newsletters are also to be found on our website. A learning platform is also available for increased communication between all our stakeholders. .

Working and Communicating Together

On entering school a children, their parents and teachers sign a home-school agreement which is part of a package of initiatives where we pledge a particular set of behaviours. We all expect things of each

Children can expect:

- to be listened to, and valued
- to take responsibility for their actions
- to be consulted on their education and involved in decisions
- to be responsible for making sure they understand their homework task, taking it home and giving it in on time

Parents expect:

- to feel valued and welcomed by the school
- information and guidance on supporting their children's learning
- clear feedback on their children's progress
- involvement in decision-making
- specific opportunities for familiarisation with the classroom routine
- to be informed of any recurring issues that arise during the school day which concern their child.

The School expects:

- parents to support children in taking responsibility for their actions
- that children are supported at home in their homework by parents who:
 - provide a suitable, reasonably peaceful place where children can do their homework (whether independently or sharing with an adult)
 - make it clear to children that parents value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help children's learning
 - encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed their homework
 - that parents make sure that children complete their homework
 - that parents will help their children to organise themselves to work at home

- that parents will ensure that their children are appropriately dressed in school clothing and equipped for their various lessons including PE
- that parents will be responsible for the prompt collection of their children after extracurricular activities and for the supervision of their children on the school site outside school hours
- that children are always healthy and alert when they come to school in order that they can cope with the physical and mental demands of the school day.

Homework

Homework has several purposes: to consolidate skills and understanding; to extend school learning and to develop the confidence and self discipline in pupils that is needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the requirements of secondary education.

At the start, and throughout Key Stage 1 (Foundation and Years 1 and 2), all homework will require the active involvement of a parent. The main focus will be on literacy and numeracy: reading to and with parents every day, together with activities of different kinds such as simple games, learning spellings and number facts.

Later on, in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4,) these regular activities, including daily reading, daily spelling practice and daily tables practice, will continue. They will be supplemented by homework of other kinds, gradually increasing in its demands, such as finding out information, reading in preparation for lessons, preparing oral presentations, written assignments and maths calculations.

Each class teacher will be responsible for organising the homework, and will provide guidance on parents' involvement. There will be a regular weekly pattern to the homework. More than one evening will be allowed for some homework to be completed to allow time for information to be collected or for any after-school activities, but the aim will be to keep the demands on pupils as even as possible.

See Home School Agreement and Homework Support Documentation