

## **Policy for Parental and Community Involvement**

Woodland Grange has a strong commitment to involving parents and the community in the life of the school, and the school in the wider community, whenever appropriate.

Involving parents and carers is one of the three main aims of the school which are :

- to develop the whole child.
- to provide a quality education.
- to work in partnership with our families and the community.

We facilitate this partnership by:

- being open in dialogue.
- being welcoming and accessible.
- informing and updating parents on educational matters.
- providing opportunities for children and parents to work together.
- working with, and respecting the expectations and aspirations of parents and children.
- involving community groups and individuals in the work of the school.

Since the opening of the school in 1991, parents have always been encouraged to become as involved as they wish and are able, in their child's education, and in the social activities of the school.

We meet our objectives in the following ways:

### **Creating a welcoming, non-threatening environment,**

- by: - being friendly and approachable.
- being available to see parents after school.
  - keeping parents informed through newsletters, booklets, notice boards.
  - inviting parents to family assembly, concerts and other events.

### **Consulting and valuing parents knowledge of their children,**

- by: - inviting parents to complete a profile on their child on entry.
- holding formal parent/teacher meetings.
  - keeping on-going records of parents comments following parent Meetings.
  - keeping records of individuals medical needs/ home circumstances / disability etc.

### **Informing parents of their child's progress.**

- by: - talking informally day to day.  
- holding formal parent/teacher meetings.  
- providing annual written reports.

### **Developing a close working relationship with parents of children with Special Needs,**

- by: - responding to parents concerns.  
- consulting parents at all relevant stages.  
- seeking parents permission before contacting other agencies.  
- meeting termly to discuss IEPs.

### **Promoting parents knowledge and understanding of the school's ethos and curriculum.**

- by: - providing a school prospectus for potential parents.  
- showing potential parents around school.  
- providing new parents with an information folder.  
- providing information leaflets/booklets about specific areas/aspects of the curriculum.  
- holding annual year group curriculum presentations.  
- holding 'hands on' curriculum evenings for parents and children.  
- holding 'open morning / afternoon' weeks for parents to work alongside their child.

### **Involving parents in the education of their child.**

- by: - providing reading diaries for home/school dialogue about individual progress.  
- requesting parents help with homework activities:  
- holding open mornings / afternoons.  
- having informal discussions if parents or teachers have specific concerns.

### **Involving parents in the daily life of the school.**

- by: - encouraging parents help in the day to day life of the school e.g. in class, for swimming, on trips.  
- utilising help for annual and other events e.g. Decorations Day, Sports Day, sponsored events etc.  
- inviting parents to class assemblies.

**Capitalising on parents skills and interests to enrich the curriculum.**

- by: - utilising parents and family members particular skills e.g. music, sport, needlecrafts etc.  
- drawing on parents knowledge of festivals, traditions, occupations.

**Requesting feedback on school procedures and practices.**

- By: - including a questionnaire on the induction process in the admissions pack.  
- surveying parents about different aspects of school life.  
- providing anonymous 'comment pads' at parents evenings.

**Working with parents to raise funds for the school.**

- by: - working with the Friends of Woodland Grange to organise and run social and specific fund raising events.  
- being involved in free school offers and voucher schemes, by collecting tokens with the help of children, parents and their families.

**Involving the school in the local community.**

- by: - inviting local community figures into school to talk to the children.  
- inviting local clergy and religious leaders to take assembly.  
- hiring the school premises to local groups  
- visiting local places of worship, shops and businesses.

Additionally, we want the children to understand that they are part of the wider community. We encourage this by annually identifying charities to support and involving the children in fund raising activities with the emphasis on each child playing a part, whether as an organiser or participant.

The community spirit which permeates Woodland Grange is one that has been built on in successive years since the school opened. For several years the school had a named member of staff responsible for parent and community development. It is now felt that this is so inherent in the philosophy of the school that such a position is no longer necessary though the head teacher still takes a lead role in fostering and furthering the role of parents and the community in the life of the school.

Woodland Grange Primary School

Parent and Community  
Policy

(Revised March 2014)