

<b>Parental Involvement Policy</b>	
Policy Ref:	Educ 017
Status	
Purpose	To set out a clear approach to encouraging parental involvement in school
Committees	Staff and Pupil Well Being
Other linked policies	Data Protection, Anti Bullying, Safer Recruitment, Safeguarding Information for Parents, E Safety,
Issue date	June 2017
Review Date	June 2019

### **Parental Involvement Policy**

1. At Discovery Academy all parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Children benefit most when we work in partnership with their parents or carers and their wider family. We are therefore committed to ongoing dialogue with parents, and carers, to improve our knowledge of the needs of their children and to support their families.

### **Aims**

2. The Academy aims through Parental involvement:
  - To support parents, and carers, as their children's first and most important educators.
  - To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the life of the Academy and their child's learning.
  - To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils.
  - To provide a partnership between home and the Academy, ensuring that families feel supported, welcome and valued.
  - To ensure that maximum use is made of all these adults' skills to enrich learning opportunities.

### **Involvement in the life of the Academy**

3. The Academy is open to parents and carers at all reasonable times.
4. Families are invited to regular events, activities and celebrations that are organised by the Academy or the parents. These occasions provide an opportunity to celebrate success, and to view a lot of the pupils' work. Wherever possible, we encourage a 'hands on' interactive approach to Parents sharing activities with pupils.
5. We encourage Parents to view information on the Academy website, which we aim to keep updated regularly and can be found at [www.discoveryacademyhyde.org](http://www.discoveryacademyhyde.org)
6. We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance of the Academy, through Parents Governor elections, as and when vacancies arise.
7. To ensure parents and carers are kept up to date with school news, newsletters are sent home, and each family receives a copy of the Academy prospectus when their child starts at the school.
8. Parents and carers are invited to our regular 'sharing assemblies', when children have the opportunity to talk about their work to those present.

### **Involvement in children's learning**

9. Parents and carers are encouraged to talk with teachers before and after school, on an informal basis, to share brief information. Where more time is required, parents and carers can make appointments to see a teacher, Associate Principal or the Executive Principal, through the Academy office; appointments are arranged for as soon as required in most instances.

10. Parents and carers are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to have a formal discussion with their child's teacher during parent consultations, which take place in the Autumn and Spring terms. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate successes, review learning targets and listen to parental views.
11. Termly class letters are sent home and posted on the website. These outline the curriculum for each class.
12. Each half term all children will receive a target report. This will inform parents of the child's new targets and if they achieved their previous target.
13. An annual report on each child's academic and personal development is provided to parents and carers each Summer term. An acknowledgement slip is attached, and parents are welcome to request a meeting with the teacher if they wish to discuss the contents of the report.
14. National Curriculum assessments as well as records of progress and achievement are also available, as appropriate, to parents.

#### **Types of help at school**

15. Each year, we encourage parents and carers to help in the Academy with groups and activities in class (e.g. listening to children read, or helping with practical activities) other than their child's class.
16. Parents and carers are encouraged, where possible, to visit classes and groups of children to give talks or demonstrations on areas of interest in which they are experts.

#### **Organisational arrangements**

17. For legislative reasons, it is necessary to organise a personal background check with the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) on any person who will be working with children in the Academy, prior to that person's involvement.
18. For security reasons all helpers are asked to sign in and sign out of the Academy when visiting.
19. To ensure helpers maximise their contribution to the children's learning, they are asked to check the purpose and details of any activity, before commencement, by talking with the teacher.
20. All helpers are asked to inform the Academy, in advance if possible, should they be unable to attend the Academy at a prearranged time.
21. All helpers should be mindful of the confidential nature of their work in the Academy.

#### **Consultation**

22. Our home-school agreement, signed by pupils, parents and the Academy, details the responsibilities and expectations of all parties.
23. The Academy will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives.
24. Parents or carers of a child with a disability are encouraged to keep the Academy fully informed about any relevant issues, so that the school can make all reasonable efforts/adjustments to meet the requirements of their child.
25. The Academy values regular feedback, and will make every effort to act on Parents' and carers' views, wherever possible. An annual questionnaire will be provided for every parent to share their views about the academy.
26. Teachers can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.

27. Periodically the Academy will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme.
28. After an OFSTED inspection parents and carers will receive a copy of the report and given information via newsletters.

**Monitoring and review**

29. The Executive Principal and Associate Principal will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will submit periodic evaluation reports on its effectiveness to the Local Governing Body.
30. This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.