

WESTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

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Policy for involving Parents and Carers

At Westerton we endeavour to make all parents, carers and families welcome, and works hard to build and maintain strong relationships and a productive dialogue. We aim to provide parents and carers with a range of opportunities to have a genuine say in, and be an active part of, the life and work of the school. We are sensitive towards and supportive of, the varying backgrounds, needs and circumstances of all pupils and their families.

What do we mean by parents?

This is a wide definition which may, by way of example, include:

- Carers who can be parents
- Others with parental responsibilities, e.g. foster carers, relatives and friends who are caring for children under supervision arrangements
- Non-resident parents who are liable to maintain or have parental responsibilities in respect of a child
- Close relatives, such as siblings or grandparents caring for children who are not looked after or are under home supervision arrangements

Why involve parents?

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

When parents and schools work together, children do better. A relationship of mutual trust and respect can enable effective communication that supports both parents and teachers. The better the information that schools provide to parents, the more parents can support their children's learning and the school. Information that parents share with the school can assist teachers in adapting their teaching to suit the learning styles of pupils and take account of any particular issues that may exist.

Activities at Westerton to enhance home-school links

Open-door policy
Home-school agreement
Learning mentor
Reading record books
Parent/Carer consultation evening twice a year in October (sharing targets) and February which record the views of parents/carers
Year group curriculum meetings for parents/carers in autumn term
Nursery and Reception welcome meetings
Open evening in July
Open days in Foundation Stage
Library day in Nursery
Coffee mornings
End of year reports
Newsletters and e-mails
Questionnaires on areas about school such as school dinners, homework, starting school
PTFA
Parent governors
Vision setting group
School website
Parent workshops on learning topics
SHARE group
SENCO evenings
Assemblies every Friday for different phases
Musical evening
Plays
Parent helpers
Reading volunteers
Parent courses on helping in school
Gala day
Parent consultations on sex education