



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Agreed by Governors on; 23/01/2017

Sally Birdebock

Statutory policy NO

Frequency of review period; Annually

Document History

Date	Description
21/03/16	Agreed by Governors
01/03/17	Review due
23/01/17	Agreed by Governors

Parental Engagement Policy

The use of parents includes carers

At Delius we value and acknowledge the vital role that parents and families play in children's all-round achievement.

When parents are engaged and involved with their child's learning everyone benefits - pupils, parents, families, teachers, schools and communities. At Delius we believe that our ethos of 'safe, happy, learning' should be continued at home and we work hard to support all of our families in achieving this.

Aims of the Policy

1. To enhance and widen our children's education through the involvement of parents and the community when possible.
2. Foster and promote a two way partnership based on mutual respect between parents, children and all those working within our school.
3. Ensure that Delius Special School is a culturally appropriate environment that values parents and carers and is sensitive to family needs
4. Recognise that parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life and that school is most effective when there is partnership between parents, children and school
5. Delius Special School seeks to provide helpful communication with parents about how their child is doing

Our Parents Forum asks that Delius Special School supports children and their families by:

- Sharing good news and progress with parents as soon as it happens
- Telephoning families as well as using texts, letters and the school diary, to share information
- Make sure that all important information is translated into home languages
- Providing a warm welcome to families who attend for events and other visits

Parental Engagement in the life of the school and the children's learning

- We are committed to on-going communication to improve our knowledge of the needs of children and to support families.
- The Business Support Team are based in the main office, and are available throughout the school day and before and after school to see/support parents. The Parents Involvement Officer can be called , and when available will ring parents back
- Parents can make an appointment to see the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Governors or Teaching staff. If it is urgent and staff are immediately available, they will see and /or contact parents as soon as possible
- We encourage and support parents to play an active part in the governance and management of the school. Our parent governors welcome the views of parents and can be contacted via the school office or email
- Parents are encouraged to share their child's development and support learning at home

- Parents are shown how to complete homework with their children. Families are given ideas on the website and in a newsletter which is updated each half term. These ideas support the class topic
- We welcome parents into school to help with trips, reading, spelling or sharing their skills in the classroom. Regular helpers have a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS)
- Through regular letters and other mailings we keep parents informed. This can be by pupil post, email or through accessing the school website
- When children are poorly for over 5 days or have a planned operation, we provide home tuition. Sometimes this may be an offer of support to families, or we will help the children to continue to learn and socialise from home
- We invite parents into school to 'meet the team days', each with a different focus, such as helping with homework, or watching their child within a lesson
- All children have a home school diary which is completed most days
- We inform parents on a regular basis about their child's progress through Individual Education Plans, Individual Intervention Plans, Meet the Team days and through phone calls
- We arrange and hold meetings with other professionals if families need more support, and offer Early Help in a variety of ways, such as Team Around the Child Meetings
- All parents have Annual Reviews and Education Health and Care Plan meetings, where formal requests can be made and invite translators to these meetings if at all possible
- Ofsted ask for electronic feedback about the school from parents using Parent View
- During an inspection, parents will be asked for their views. After the inspection parents and carers will receive a report or letter on their findings, and later on they will be sent a summary of the action plan written in response to the report.
- The school values regular feedback and will make every effort to act on parents' and carer's views, wherever possible
- Teachers (including the head teacher) can be approached informally before and after school, and will always take careful account of any information forwarded to them.
- Periodically the school will seek parental views more formally, through an annual survey, or a questionnaire on a particular theme
- Parents sign a Home School Agreement and this sets out both what school expects from them and what parents can expect from school
- We offer a range of activities just for parents, including personal development and lifelong learning, such as On line safety, First Aid, literacy and numeracy
- By working in close partnership with parents we nurture the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self-esteem and the desire to learn. We provide quality learning experiences with the expectation that all will have the opportunity to achieve their full potential
- Parents are welcomed and encouraged to be active members of the Friends of Delius (FOD) and other Engaging Family events
- Named Governors for Engaging Families are Jodie Crabtree and Rehana Rehman and all governors are available to support Engaging Families events
- Parents will be supported to improve their children's attendance (see Pupil Attendance Policy)