



Ogmore Vale Primary School



Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Ogwr

'We all say we can and we do'

# Family Engagement Policy (FaCE)

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## Parental Engagement

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*“Together we soar to success”*

**This vision embraces Parents as Partners in their child’s education.**

We believe that in order to support our pupils in reaching their true potential we need to acknowledge the vital role parents have to play in this. When parents are engaged and involved, everyone benefits - students, parents, families, teachers, schools and communities – and our school is enriched as a positive place to teach, learn and grow.

At Ogmore Vale Primary School, pupils are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations in which parents:

- Are welcomed, respected and valued as partners by the school community in their children’s learning and development
- Have a range of choices and opportunities to enable them to be involved and support student success
- Are engaged through on-going communication and dialogue to support a positive learning environment at home and at school

Research clearly indicates that good schools become better schools when there is a strong connection with families as part of the learning community. Families have a primary influence on their child’s attitudes towards school, their learning, and their future success.

*‘We all say we can and we do’*

The work of Professor Charles Desforges tells us that at the age of seven parental influence on children’s learning is six times that of the school, and by the age of eleven it is still a third greater. Working effectively with parents and carers to help them to support their children’s learning and development is crucial, right through from reception to Year 6.

**“Parent involvement in a child's early education is consistently found to be positively associated with a child's academic performance”**

**Hill and Craft, 2003.**

**‘Parent’ refers to any adult over the age of 18 who is caring for the child whether this be a Grandparent, Foster Carer, or any other appropriate adult.**

## **Our Commitment**

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The Governors and Senior Leadership Team at Ogmores Vale Primary School acknowledge the benefits of recognising Parents as Partners and as such our whole school attitude and ethos reflects this. Engaging parents in contributing to and realising the vision of school leaders has led us to the offer of a unique, holistic approach to children *and* their families. We maintain a commitment to developing effective management strategies to build a sustainable approach to parent partnership across the school.

The role of our Family Engagement Team includes:

- Working in cohesion with *all* members of the family to obtain a holistic view of all Strengths and Needs. Strategies are put in to place to address any specific areas of support required
- Signposting and referring to other agencies, further education and support services.
- Liaison between the families and other agencies.
- Planning and delivering an assortment of Family Learning and enrichment opportunities based on parental input and feedback with the aim of increasing engagement and attainment, therefore life chances
- Availability of Family Support Team members throughout the school day to offer a listening and supportive ear e.g drop-in clinics with FEO and individual staff.
- Engaging our Parent Forum to enhance communication and involvement of parents including the more vulnerable, less confident parents.
- Gleaning parent/carer feedback on all areas of school life including Curriculum Workshops, Homework Support, Transition, Policy Consultations and Family Learning.
- Evaluating, adapting and introducing new initiatives in line with feedback received and informing parents of said findings
- Safeguarding duties in line with Local Authority statutory requirements
- Supporting parents to ensure each child to attend school *every* day by offering practical advice and guidance and a clear understanding of the benefits of regular attendance on their child’s attainment.
- Liaise with Link Governor for FaCE.

## Our actions

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We relish the opportunity to engage parents in their child's learning whilst empowering and respecting each adult's own personal spiritual, moral, social and cultural beliefs.

In order to do this as a school we:

- Establish and sustain a positive learning culture and welcoming climate where parental input is welcomed, respected and valued
- Actively explore and utilise opportunities to further engage parents at school and at home to support pupil achievement
- Encourage the use of a wide range of communicating strategies, from weekly 'drop-in's' with class teachers the online newsletter, texting to parents, Schoop and Class Dojo.
- Review existing parent and community partnerships and seek to expand upon these partnerships to reflect the diversity of our parents and the broader community
- Monitor school climate (e.g. through surveys, focus groups) to help identify barriers to parent involvement or issues that should be addressed to foster and support a safe welcoming learning environment

## We will raise awareness of this policy via

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- the School Prospectus
- the school Website
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Head teacher reports to the Governing Body
- Information displays in school.

## The role of the Head Teacher

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- The Head Teacher will ensure the school ethos in relation to parental engagement is consistently carried out by *all* school staff
- The Head Teacher will oversee all monitoring of impact in terms of increased educational outcomes as a result of parental engagement.

- The Head Teacher will oversee the delivery of the Curriculum in parent friendly, accessible formats to improve support within the home environment
- The Head Teacher will liaise with the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body to ensure strategic decisions made are in the best interests of the child.

## The role of Staff

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- Communicate regularly with parents in a clear and friendly manner, in the variety of ways available (see Communication Policy)
- View parents as partners in the success of their child.
- Provide a welcoming atmosphere which encourages and builds parental confidence.
- Promote and support Family Learning in different formats.
- Communicate with parents on the progress of their child, ensuring parents are well-informed of areas of strength and development.

## The role of Parents

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- Successful engagement with parents is as a result of a two-way, positive, collaborative relationship which is clear in expectation on both sides and open to comments and consultations throughout.
- Parents are welcomed into school in any capacity and valued as integral partners in the educational success of their children.
- Parents are encouraged to feedback to the appropriate persons any comments/thoughts that may alleviate any concerns or issues they have.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in Family Learning programmes and be fully supportive of school life and our mission statement.

## The role of Governors

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- The Governing Body/FaCE Link Governor are updated and informed regularly of the strategies and undertakings of the school in relation to engaging our parents
- Members of the Governing Body will monitor the Family Engagement Team in relation to outcomes and impact

## Monitoring

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- Strategies and outcomes of parental engagement will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis e.g on a contextual tracker, to identify areas of strengths and needs. Gaps in provision will identified and actions taken to address these.
- Impact of parental engagement on a child's attainment will be monitored and fed back to the teaching staff, Head Teacher and Governors to reflect successful outcomes and achieved objectives.

## Review

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The governing body reviews this policy every two years. They may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the government introduces new regulations, or if the governing body receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved

Parents will be consulted on this policy every two years to support clarity, consistency and improved outcomes for parents/carers and their children.

Ogmore Vale Primary School

March 2016

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