

**Partnership with Parents - a Home-School Policy**

**Rationale**

At St. Andrew's we are committed to working in partnership with parents. We believe it is vitally important to children's learning and development that their parents are supportive and understanding of what we are aiming to achieve at school. Parents need to feel confident that they are fully informed and involved in their child's education. We are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that parents are told honestly and accurately about their child's progress and achievements.

**Ways in which St. Andrew's School informs and involves parents**

1. **Home Visits:** these take place in the term before a child joins the Reception Class. Alternatively a meeting at school can be organised.
2. **New Parents' Welcome Evening:** this is an informal evening of getting to know one another, held towards the end of the Summer Term. All parents of children starting school during the following academic year are invited to attend.
3. **New Parents' Welcome Pack:** this booklet of information is presented to the parents of any child entering our school.
4. **Parental Consultations:** Parents are given a timed appointment to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. This formal opportunity is given twice a year (usually in January and July), but parents are also welcome to make an appointment to see a teacher at any time.
5. **Curriculum Information:** an outline of the areas of the curriculum to be taught and class routines is given in an evening meeting led by the class teacher in September. Information on forthcoming topics to be covered in each class and ways in which parents can support their child's learning, is included in Newsletters at the end of each term.
6. **Curriculum Evenings:** "Workshops" are offered to parents and governors giving more specific information on National Curriculum or educational developments when appropriate at any time in the year.
7. **Parent Teacher Association:** this is a very active body of parents who are involved in fund-raising, social events and generally raising the profile of the school, adding to its distinctive ethos and character. The P.T.A. has its own notice board in school and send out regular newsletters to all parents.
8. **School Newsletters:** these are sent out to all parents at least once a fortnight, giving vital information on forthcoming events and keeping everyone up to date with what is happening in the life of the school.
9. **Coffee mornings in school:** every Monday the Governors run a coffee morning in the Studio to which all parents are warmly invited.
10. **Annual Report to Parents and SATs information:** these are sent out in July and now include explanation of what the National Curriculum Levels of Attainment mean.

11. **Open Afternoons:** there are many occasions throughout the year when parents and other interested adults can view the school either in normal session or for special events.
12. **Parental Questionnaires:** occasionally a survey will be sent out to all parents seeking their opinions on school matters.
13. **Parents Involvement in Assessment:** parents are invited to comment on their child's progress in the Annual Reports and to discuss this further at Parents' evenings.
14. **Homework Tasks:** this is in line with the school's homework policy. Parents are informed and feel involved with their child's education through working with their children on reading, spelling and researching Topic Work. All pupils take home a "Reading Together" Record Book and parents are invited to record the reading which takes place at home, as well as adding any other comments they may wish to make. This has proved a valuable means of communication between home and school and comments do not need to be limited to reading alone. Year 6 use a daily planner.
15. **Parental Help in School:** parents are encouraged to assist in the classroom in any ways they can, as guided by the class teacher and the associated policy.

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