



Policy for Working with Families

Person Responsible: Head teacher

Date Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2029

Aims

The staff, governors and parents at Oaklands School work together to provide a high quality education in a safe, caring and stimulating environment. We want the children to reach their potential and to enjoy their work in all areas of the curriculum. We know that our pupils find it very difficult to transfer the skills they learn from one environment to another and we understand the importance of working closely with families and other care providers to ensure that all are working together to support our pupils.

Values

At Oaklands we believe that our pupils are the most important members of our school community and that it is our role to support them in becoming more independent.

Parents are experts in their child's needs and their contribution is essential to the education of their child.

We recognise that a professional committed team of staff and governors is essential and we value the contributions and skills each person brings to the school. We aim to provide the necessary resources and training to support everyone.

To achieve this, Oaklands welcomes parents to participate in school life and provides information and guidance which encourages their involvement and promotes the important link between home and school learning.

In working with parents, we aim to create a relationship based on shared responsibility, mutual respect and trust so that we are able to;

1. Develop a shared understanding of our pupils needs and the strategies which will help them to learn.
2. Encourage parent's participation in their children's learning at school and at home.
3. Communicate to parents the skills their young people are developing at school so they can be given the opportunity to use these skills at home and in other environments.

There are many aspects to our work with parents which contribute to these aims. These include: -

- Home school communication using a book, email and regular telephone contact regarding day-to-day issues. The class teacher will usually write in the book once a week. Other members of the team will write any practical issues. *Please let your class team know if you want more or less information.*
- Fortnightly newsletters
- The Oaklands Website which also has a parents' area
- Weekly family support drop in morning for parents and carers
- Advice on local services and support to enable families to access those services
- Advice for families who need help managing their child at home
- Parents evening twice a year in the Autumn and Summer Term
- Annual Review meetings which can be attended in person or remotely
- Specific meetings as required to address individual pupils' issues
- Regular training events for parents on a range of strategies used in school delivered either by our staff or by visiting speakers
- Invitations to school festivals, performances and sports events

What we ask parents to do to support their child's education

- Write in the communication book about day-to-day issues
- Respond to questions written in the home school book
- Inform us if they are not able to read the communications sent from school so alternate arrangements can be made
- Read information sent home from school
- Attend parents' evenings and Annual review meetings
- Complete our annual questionnaire
- Keep us informed of issues that arise between meetings regarding their child's care and development
- Inform us about any changes in medical care after medical appointments
- Sign a home school agreement
- Support their child with any homework which is set for them to do at home
- Attend to support their children at school events

How we plan to address parents' concerns

- From time to time there may be concerns over a child's education or welfare. To support working together it is important that both school staff and families feel able to raise issues in a timely manner. It is important to us that we respond to reasonable requests made by parents.
- Parent concerns can be raised either with the class teacher or with the relevant Assistant Head teacher as soon as possible. If concerns are not dealt with within a reasonable time the schools complaints policy may be used.