

Parents and Schools in Partnership Policy

Reference Number	SO-0184
Version Number	5.0
Latest Revision	October 2024
Policy Owner	Education
Policy Lead	Operations and Projects Lead
Ratified	June 2021
Next Review	October 2026

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Purpose

To outline the NAS Education Directorate's policy for NAS schools' approach to working in partnership with parents.

Scope

This policy applies to all schools and all families / carers of our pupils

Legal framework

- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (2024)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2023) – England
- Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Reform Act 1988
- Education Act 1997
- Children Act 1989
- SEN and Disability Discrimination Act 2001
- Children & Families Act 2014
- DFE Home school agreements: Guidance for local authorities and Governing bodies (July 2013)

Approach

A home-school agreement is a statement explaining the school's aims, values, policies and procedures, its responsibilities towards its pupils, the responsibilities of the pupil's parents, and what's expected of pupils.

At Helen Allison School, we recognise each pupil as an individual and aim to give all pupils every opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, parents and pupils is essential if we are to achieve this aim.

The aim of our home-school agreement is to encourage consistency, equality and fairness in all matters pertaining to the school. This can be done most effectively when all staff, parents and pupils understand their responsibilities and work together towards the same goals.

The intention is to promote effective and meaningful partnerships between Parents/Carers and the school in respect of planning and reviewing the child's needs in consultation with the child as appropriate.

All schools will have a home-school agreement document which will be shared with parents. Parents will be asked to sign this document.

Operational delivery

School and parents /carers will enter into a Home/School Agreement built upon the following:

The school aims, values and responsibilities will be listed together with the responsibilities of the pupil's parents/carers and what the school expects of its pupils/young people.

This agreement will be produced in a format that is understandable, taking into account different needs.

The agreement will be reviewed as needed, taking into account the views of parents/carers and pupils/young people as appropriate.

The home/school agreement will form part of the admissions pack.

The home school agreement is morally binding and both parties should be held to account if agreement is breached.

No pupil will be excluded from school or suffer any adverse consequences on account of a parent's/carers failure to sign a home/school agreement.

All NAS Schools' home-school agreements will include the following statements:

- The parents/carers and school will work collaboratively, each respecting the contribution of the other in the development of a person-centred approach to learning.
- The school will endeavour to accommodate reasonable parental wishes relative to that person-centred approach, taking into account the needs of all pupils, the level of staffing and service purchased by the commissioning authority, and the facilities available to the school.
- Harassment, intimidation, threatening behaviour, physical violence and other forms of abusive conduct (including by way of social media like Facebook and twitter) will not be tolerated, and may lead to police involvement.
- The school will support parents/carers in understanding procedures, how to access support, and will be given documents to be discussed prior to meetings.
- Parents/Carers will be invited to attend their child's annual review/EHCP meetings, informal and formal school functions as appropriate.

- The school will respond positively to parental/carer input and regularly review the effectiveness of informal/formal home/school liaison.
- Parents/carers/schools are encouraged to raise any concerns with class or residential staff. Appointments can be made to meet with specific staff members at mutually convenient times.
- Regular liaison will be developed in appropriate areas. This could include home/school diaries, reports, visits, workshops, reviews, parents evening, telephone calls, literature, information, support groups, coffee mornings and social events
- Written reports will be provided in a clear professional style avoiding the use of jargon. Depending on the type of, and reason for the report reference may be made to academic and/or any other special achievements and progress, activities that have taken place, general health, food intake, reference to incidents/accidents and any other relevant information.

All parties will fulfil their obligations under home-school agreements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) that set out expectations of both sides.

Related documents

School Staff Making Home Visits Policy SO-0323