



Heronsbridge School

Policy: Parental Partnership

Coordinator: S Hall

As a Rights Respecting School, we are committed to embedding the principles of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This policy enables our pupils to access and enjoy the following articles of the convention.

Article 1- Every child under the age of 18 has all the rights in the convention.

Article 2 -All children have these rights.

Article 3- the best interests of the child must be top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 28- Every child has the right to an education.

Article 29-Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Article 42- Every child has the right to know their rights

Introduction

At Heronsbridge School we feel that we have a strong obligation to the parents of our children. Parents are seen as being of great value and assistance to teachers. They have a broader view of their *child* and no one knows their child better. It is important to build trust and friendship between school staff and parents. It is important and worthwhile to take time to establish good relations and foster communications between home and school, particularly with children such as ours who have very special needs. If parents are well informed and have confidence in the school and its staff, then this will manifest itself in increased support for each other in many ways.

Aims

1. To involve parents as much as possible in the daily life of the school.
2. To develop and maintain an effective two way process of communication between home and school.

Home/school communication may take *several* forms. At Heronsbridge we hope to achieve these aims through several means:

- a.) Each *class* operates a home/school book (with one class using a video diary) telling the parents what the child has been doing at school, asking for information and passing on any relevant information. These books may contain photographs of the children involved in daily activities and serve to provide the parents with clear evidence of what their child has been doing that day in class. It is important to stress that this should be a two-way process and it is extremely important that staff are kept informed of any changes in home circumstances or any issues which may affect the way a child feels at school. Staff also greatly appreciates news of activities at home, family outings or other events.
- b.) A detailed information pack is given to parents of new entrants, containing photographs and information about the school and department, the child's staff in class, uniform, and all necessary forms to be filled in.
- c.) At the beginning of the year parents may receive a copy of their child's class timetable. At the start of each new term parents of children in the Primary department may receive a copy of the class topic web so that they can maintain the topic interest at home if they so wish, making their own contributions.

- d.) An end of year magazine summarises the life and work of the school and is sent to parents every July. This is a high quality publication provided free of charge and gives an excellent insight into the life of the whole school.
- e.) Home visits (mainly for children in the early Foundation Phase) are arranged by mutual agreement between parents and staff. They should only be if the parents welcome them, but can be an important point of contact between parents and the school and enables the parents to talk about their child in the privacy of their own home. Home visits are always made to new entrants into the Early years class as we see this vital in the settling in process for the young child.
- f.) Staff will often telephone parents if they need to discuss something with them about their child and parents will likewise phone the school to ask to speak to staff. Again this is seen as a two way process.

It is also extremely important to us that parents are involved **as** much as possible in the day to day life of their child at school. We aim to foster involvement in several ways:

- Parents are regularly asked to assist their children in home tasks/ homework, which usually relate to the topic being covered in the Primary Department or individual targets and project work in the upper school. Parents are asked to monitor and help their child but not to do the work for them.
- Reading books are sent home
- Annual review meetings are held for all children, where parents play a major role. The child's statement is reviewed and further targets are set in partnership with parents. The Child's Instep results are discussed with parents and other professionals
- Parents are invited into school to attend annual medical examinations
- Parents may request an audience with any of the therapists based at the school - speech and language therapist, physiotherapist. A copy of the child's programme is always sent home so that again home and school can work together for the benefit of the child.
- Annual parents meeting to discuss the child's annual report, look at *their child's Learning journey*
- Informal meetings arranged with prior agreement between parents and class teachers if deemed necessary for whatever reason.
- Formal parental training courses e.g. PECS, Signalong, Early Bird and Early Bird +
- Informal hands on training for parents eg massage, sensory play

- Parents and other family members are invited into school for special events such as Sports Day, any concerts, coffee mornings, ROA assemblies, fund raising events
- Parents Surgery, where parents can discuss specific concerns with an experienced member of staff
- Parents Forum - meet once a month, run by parents for parents
- Parental questionnaires sent out regularly to gauge and act upon parental opinion on how the school is performing for them and their child

In addition to these the school has an active Friends of Heronsbridge, which is continually supporting the school in any way it can.