



## PARENT PARTNERSHIP POLICY



## EPT Document Control

This policy applies to all Education Partnership Trust Schools.

Date of last review	March 2018
Date of next review	March 2020
Policy status	Statutory
Owner	Governing Body/ Board of Directors
Lead Contact	Tina Hulme

## **Introduction**

At the Heights Free School we recognise the importance of and value parental involvement in the life of the school. Throughout this policy the term parent is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving amongst others, parents, staff and pupils. As a school we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship with the school and home.

The aims of the Parent Partnership Policy are to plan and implement strategies, and construct and manage systems which support and further the partnership between the Heights Free School and parents.

“It’s what parents do rather than who they are that counts” (Charles Desforge)

“Parental involvement in a child’s education can be a more powerful force in learning than family background and parents’ education level, and contributes to no less than 10% or variation in achievement”. (DfES 1999)

## **Aims**

- To develop good communications with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in school
- To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their school
- To make good use of parents’ expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to try and actively involve them in school life
- To establish the views and opinions of parents of the school and act upon them if possible

## **It is known that:**

- Parents/carers are usually the most important influence in a child’s life. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and providers
- Parents want their child to succeed
- Children need educational and emotional support if they are to succeed. Parents need to be able to provide this effectively
- Many parents have missed the opportunity of furthering their education and training
- The school is a resource for the community it serve

## **Overall, this policy will:**

- Establish a framework for working with parents to ensure all parents/students have the needs, development and progress of the students at heart
- Indicate ways in which the school can promote a positive working partnership with parents and involve them fully in school life and in the community
- Assist in promoting a school-wide culture of partnership

**This commitment to working with parents will aim to improve outcomes for students.**

- Pupil attendance and punctuality
- Student behaviour and attitude to learning
- External assessments

**To develop good communication and fully inform parents about what is happening in the school we will:**

- Make letters, school prospectus and key policies “user friendly”, useful and informative
- Make parents aware of information such as; key dates and events through letters, twitter and the school’s facebook account
- Hold parent open days / evenings
- Display key information on the school website and around school

**To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child we will:**

- Hold parent open days/ evenings
- Send home annual reports
- Encourage involve of parents in extra-curricular activities
- Offer informal discussions with members of staff

**To make good use of parents’ expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life we will encourage parents to:**

- Volunteer to support school projects and/or become parent governors
- Attend school performances, events and celebrations
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members

**To establish the views and opinions of parents and act upon these we will:**

- Have regular parental questionnaires and inform parents of the results
- Evaluate parental questionnaires after key events

**Home/School Partnership:**

We believe that a strong home/school partnership is key to a child's emotional development, progress and growth as part of the community. We encourage parents to support their child's learning at home in a variety of ways, including:

- Jointly signing the Home/School agreement
- Speaking with staff if they have any concerns regarding their child's learning or behaviour at school or at home.

**Final Statement:**

We are committed to the highest possible level of Partnership with Parents/Carers and are always open to new suggestions on how we can improve.