

# Parental Engagement Policy



Lisburne's aim is to provide quality inclusive education for all pupils and access to the full range of National Curriculum subjects in a safe, caring environment where all achievements are valued and celebrated.

Lisburne School is committed to Safeguarding, promoting the welfare of all its pupils and to protecting them from the risks of harm. The Governors expect all staff, students and volunteers to share this commitment by demonstrating their understanding of how each individual adult working on behalf of the school has an active part to play in protecting children from harm and promoting their welfare.

As part of Lisburne's commitment to safeguarding and child protection we fully support the government's Prevent Strategy.

We aim to fulfill the Prevent Duty by protecting our pupils from harm and to ensure they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British Values. We aim to: raise awareness, enable learners to make a positive contribution and safeguard the wellbeing of our children.

Policy agreed by GB on	March 2018
Policy shared with staff on	July 2019

## Rationale

Parents and carers play a vital role in the development and education of their children. They have a primary influence on their child's attitudes towards school and their learning. They care about their children and want to be involved.

At Lisburne School all parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Our children benefit the most when there is a strong relationship between home and school.

We are fully committed to creating an open relationship with all parents and carers to ensure that we meet the needs of all of our children and provide support for their families.

We recognise that, to be successful, our strategies need to be flexible and recognise the diversity of our parents and carers and their skills, experience and contributions.

### **1. How we aim to do this**

We will:

- Foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents and carers feel welcome, valued and heard.
- provide information that is well-presented and easy to read in a clear way including symbols/ pictures to aid understanding
- give parents enough notice to attend curriculum days and other events in school by contacting them by their preferred means (Tapestry, Dojo etc)
- seek parents' and carers' views and act on them appropriately
- identify and provide support and encouragement for families
- help parents and carers support their children's learning at home and at school
- work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school
- provide a range of activities, resources, courses and workshops to stimulate "lifelong learning" for both children and adults



Good communication is the key to effective relationships. At Lisburne school we want to provide our families with the social skills to build and maintain relationships and the tools to deal with any challenges that they may come across. We do this by using the Restorative Approaches Model.



### **Restorative approaches**

Restorative approaches is made up of a collection of values and skills, which help us to build and maintain positive relationships, and we adapt this to the needs of the children who we work with.



## **Wellbeing**

At Lisburne, we believe wellbeing is the responsibility of all. Being understanding and proactive about risk factors is vital in looking for early warning signs of mental health problems. We aim to offer a range of different support channels for anyone concerned with a child, staff member or carers/parents wellbeing. Please see our wellbeing policy for further information.

We will encourage parental involvement in the following ways:

- **The Welcoming School**

We will:

- be available to parents and carers at reasonable times within a full working day.
- provide a school prospectus and link to the school website
- give a tour of the school for new parents and carers
- provide a parents and carers notice board
- provide a parental engagement notice board to record parents and carers views
- help and encourage people to use School website
- encourage our parents and carers to attend “PALS” (Parents at Lisburne School), by providing informative and supporting meetings on a half-termly basis.



- **Constant Communication**

We will:

### **Class based**

- send out news with photos showing what the children have been doing at school via Tapestry/Dojo. This is an app/website which allows you to keep in touch with your child's class
- use certificates, stickers, postcards and awards for attainment, attendance and good work so that children can share their success at home
- ensure we give sufficient notice to parents and carers of events and curriculum days in school to enable them to reorganise work/care commitments



### **Whole School**

- send termly Headteacher's newsletters to give a whole school overview
- provide information on notice boards which may be relevant to the child's additional needs
- ensure that our Family Liaison Co-ordinators are available to support you and your family
- send out a Parental Questionnaire to seek the views of our parents
- publish a "You said – we did" response to Parental Questionnaire
- provide regular opportunities for you to meet with teachers and specialists at school e.g. School Nurse, Paediatrician, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist

### **Parents as Educators / Learners**

We will:

- encourage parental attendance within school for curriculum days, recognising the unique skills and experiences of our parents
- hold parent evenings to discuss, appraise and share the child's progress
- hold information evenings for parents, carers and the wider community
- have workshops and discussion groups to share school policies and curriculum areas and class topics
- organise a Dads/carers and child weekend to continue to include and engage our male parents and carers
- involve parents/carers in planning and delivering IEP targets, PHPs, learning journeys, personal care policies and the Safeguarding of their children in all areas, whilst in our care at school.



### **Involving Parents/ Families in School**

We will:

- hold curriculum days / Wow days at school to encourage parents and carers to share and enjoy the children's work
- set up workshops run by our Family Liaisons relating to the additional needs of the children

- hold a weekly SIBs club for the siblings of our children
- hold Forest School sessions for parents and carers to consolidate the home – school learning
- increase training opportunities for parents and carers



- **Strengthening Parents' Voices**

We will:

- continue to encourage the election of Parent Governors to the school's Governing Body
- send out a Parental Questionnaire to seek the views of our parents
- publish a "You said – we did" response to Parental Questionnaire
- hold workshops and information meetings to give parents and carers the opportunity to have their say
- endeavour to ask for constant feedback when parents and carers attend workshops, WOW days or learning sessions at Lisburne School and in a way which is comfortable to our parents and carers e.g. either written or verbally by using sound recordings and video footage
- continue to use our bespoke evaluometer where our parents and carers can record their experiences by placing objects e.g. blocks, Lego, flowers to indicate the value of the session in school and what we could do better next time



- **Sharing our outstanding practice**

We will:

- share the good practice of our parental engagement experiences and successes
- hold informal workshops to demonstrate good practice
- share good practice with external SEN providers

