

The Hereford Academy



THE HEREFORD ACADEMY

**Promoting Partnerships with
Parents Policy**

Parent Partnership Policy

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 Academy and parents/carers. The academy recognises the key role parents/carers have in their child's learning and acknowledge that learning begins and continues in the home environment.

Overall, this policy will:

- Establish a framework for working with parents/carers to ensure all parents/students/staff have the needs, development and progress of the students at heart.
- Identify procedures for monitoring the partnership with parents/carers and ensure it is inclusive for all parents and students.
- Indicate ways in which the school can promote a positive working partnership with parents/carers and involve them fully in school life and the school community.
- Assist in promoting a school-wide culture of partnership with parents/carers in order to ensure high standards of care and academic achievement of all students.
- Encourage the effective and efficient deployment of resources.

This commitment to working with parents/carers will aim to improve outcomes for students. A successful programme of partnership will enable improvements in:

- pupil attendance and punctuality
- student behaviour as measured by detentions and exclusions
- performance as measured by CVA, KS4 External Assessments and Post 16 achievement

A successful partnership with parents will be reflected in:

- an established programme of opportunities for family learning
- regular opportunities for parents to collaborate with the school and its agencies in order to support the education of their children
- high numbers of parents/carers attending parents evenings and Academic Tutoring Meetings
- a high percentage of parents/carers making the school their first choice
- a wide range of support activities for parents/carers
- regular opportunities for parents/carers to provide feedback to the school
- an active forum being established and supported for the purposes of involving and informing parent/carers about school aims, objectives and achievements
- the accreditation of the Leading Parent Partnership Award

The Academy will identify a member of SLAM to lead its work on **Partnerships with Parents**. All work with parents/carers will be monitored for effectiveness. A report on working with parents/carers will be presented to Governors annually. The partnership policy will be reviewed annually by Mrs S Kowal Vice Principal, Community.

Parents are welcomed into the school to learn more about their child's progress and to celebrate their successes. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year (both formal and informal) to meet together and get to know each other. Meetings are arranged at a variety of times to enable as many parents as possible to attend.

Formal

- Induction Evening for new parents
- Tours of the school for new and existing parents to see the school at work.
- Year 7 Settling In in September to provide parents with contact points for the coming year, advice on the curriculum and information about the year ahead.
- Parents' Evening to provide parents with up-to-date information on their child's progress and set targets.
- AEN Reviews, to evaluate and update Individual Learning Plans for students with Additional educational needs.
- Academic Tutoring Days to review progress and set targets for next academic year
- Parent's Forum meetings held ½ termly to discuss and allow parents to participate in policy making of the academy and contribute to the running of the academy.

Informal

These include:

- Performances in Music and Drama
- Community Fun days and Events
- Educational visits
- Pamper Mornings and Coffee Mornings

Communication

We are continually updating and improving our communication systems. Currently, parents receive regular updates from the school including:

- Regular newsletters and information letters
- Progress Reports x 3
- Regularly updated website
- Family Partnership Agreement
- Email distribution of letters and newsletters
- Curriculum newsletter Termly

Opportunities and support for parents

The school seeks to ensure all groups of parents/carers connected with the school are aware of training and enrichment opportunities available in the school and in the community, by:

- Informing parents about adult learning courses
- Opportunities for parents to access accredited courses through Family Learning at The Community Learning Centre to enhance their own learning and their ability to support the education of their child/children.
- Offering positive parenting sessions.
- Offering leaflets and guidance on specific areas of the curriculum, to enable parents to support students at home.
- Developing opportunities for parents of students with Special Educational Needs to meet to share experiences and learn more about available support.
- CAF process and Family Support Workers

Policies

We seek to ensure that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read by parents. The Parents' Forum are consulted about all new policies and reviews of existing ones.

Transition

We aim to provide support and resources to help parents when their child is moving from Primary to Secondary School and from Secondary to work, training or further education.

Home/School Partnership

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

- jointly signing the Home/School Family Partnership and E Safety agreement
- discussing work completed at school and noting any looming deadlines
- encouraging students to complete and return promptly any homework they have been given
- Checking and signing their Planner on a regular basis and using it as a means of contacting teachers

Parental Feedback

The school will regularly seek parental views on a range of topics affecting pupils' education through questionnaires, surveys and verbal discussion. Feedback is valued, and responses are seriously considered and appropriate action taken. (Kirkland Rowell, Academic tutoring, Parents' evenings).

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

Policy to be reviewed annually.
Feb 2010

Next Review February 2011