



HOME-SCHOOL POLICY

POLICY AGREED: SPRING TERM 2022 BY FULL GOVERNING BODY

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: SPRING TERM 2025

RATIONALE

Dee Banks School recognises that parents are a child's most important educators and know their child better than anyone else. We therefore greatly value their knowledge and experience and seek to work in partnership with parents to support the child in achieving their full potential.

Some of the benefits of staff and parents working together may include:

- Staff and parents increasing their skills and understanding by learning from each other
- Parents and staff discussing their own priorities and objectives to agree as to what might be worked on at home and at school
- Staff and parents exchanging information about the child's behaviour at school and at home which reduces the likelihood of incorrect assumptions being made about what happens in each of the settings
- The approach to teaching particular skills (e.g. self-help, communication) or supporting positive behaviour being monitored both at home and at school
- Staff and parents discussing the activities a child enjoys and arranging for the child to enjoy these activities both at home and at school

AIMS

We aim to establish both formal and informal networks of communication with parents to ensure that school is welcoming and accessible at all times.

We appreciate that many pupils travel long distances and therefore many parents do not have daily face-to-face contact with school. In addition, the nature of the children's difficulties means that many are unable to communicate about events in their day. We therefore aim to provide useful information on a regular basis to support the parents in their child's education and to promote real partnership and involvement.

PRACTICE

Family Support Worker

The school employs one full-time and one part-time Family Support Worker to support parents with any issues or concerns they may have either at home or in school. The Family Support Worker is available for home visits and offers comprehensive support during times of transition for our families.

Information Sharing

- **Home-School Books** provide a daily channel of communication between home and school. In school, the book will be written in by a member of the classroom staff, e.g. teacher or classroom assistant, although therapists may also sometimes write in the book.

Messages from school are usually about:

- The events of the day
- Self-help issues, e.g. diet, personal care
- Changes in the timetable or other arrangements
- The child's mood and behaviour
- Use of communication systems such as PECS
- New learning and achievements
- Questions as to how the child has been at home

Parents can use the Home-School Book to ask questions, to let the school know about home activities and events and to keep staff updated on self-help skills, medical needs, behaviour, sleep patterns, etc. Further information about the use of the Home-School Books can be found on the inside cover.

- **Website** provides class pages and blogs as well as up-to-date information
- **Telephone calls** provide a useful link and both parents/ carers and staff use them regularly to share and discuss information or concerns.
- **Texting Service or emails** are used by school to provide information to parents/ carers and reminders for reviews, events, etc.
- **The Arbor app** for parents and carers provides an easy system for parents and carers to make payments
- **Evidence for Learning** is a tool used by school to capture photo and video evidence relating to pupils' personalised goals and achievements across the curriculum. This is shared with parents, carers and families via the portal and Family app.
- **Parents and carers are welcome** to visit the school at any time, preferably through prior appointment to ensure the relevant staff are available to meet with them

Information about Children's Progress

Each child has a termly Personal Learning Intentions Map (PLIM) or Personalised Learning Opportunities Map (PLOM) which addresses their current learning priorities. Parents will receive copies of their child's proposed and evaluated plan each term.

Within 6 months of a child starting at Dee Banks, parents will be invited to come into school for an EHCP Review to discuss their progress.

Parents' meetings are held at relevant points in the school year. Parents have an opportunity to talk to their child's class teacher, the senior leadership team or family support workers if requested.

Formal information regarding a child's development and progress is shared through Annual EHCP Review meetings. The class teacher prepares a report for this meeting and therapy reports are also provided if appropriate. Parents are also invited to contribute their views in writing, by updating the "Parent Views" document and the views of pupils are taken into account through the "Pupil Views" document.

Parents and carers receive regular, detailed information about their child's progress through Evidence for Learning and termly evaluations of personalised plans.

Social Activities

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected face-to-face events being able to take place for a long period of time. The school is now reintroducing social activities which include the following:

- Regular coffee mornings/ afternoons organised by the family support workers offering advice and support for parents and carers e.g. with guest speakers
- 'The Charity Association' – a committee including parents/ family members, staff and friends who organise social and fund-raising events for the school
- Parents workshops and training sessions
- Class coffee morning/ afternoons to meet the class staff team and other parents

Dee Banks School is continually evaluating its practice and regularly consults parents and carers around improvements to provide greater involvement and support. We continue to recognise the need to work in partnership with parents to enable their children to enjoy a full and happy life both at school and at home.



DEE BANKS SCHOOL

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Pupil's Name:

The school will:

- Care for your child's safety and happiness
- Keep you regularly informed about your child's well-being and progress
- Provide a balanced curriculum which meets your child's individual needs
- Be open and welcoming at all times

Parents/Carers are asked to:

- Work with the school in planning for your child's individual needs, share key information and keep in regular contact
- Make school aware of any personal, emotional, medical or home issues which may affect your child's emotional well-being or ability to access the curriculum
- Support the school's policies and guidelines on behaviour and curriculum
- Follow guidance provided in the school's uniform policy

Date:

Parent/Carer Signature:

Class Teacher Signature: