

HORSPATH PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOME / SCHOOL AGREEMENT POLICY

1. Aims and Principles of Parental Involvement

Genuine partnership between teachers and parents calls for:

- respecting and supporting all parents as the primary educators of their children
- valuing one another's different but equally important roles
- listening to uncomfortable messages without defensiveness
- establishing joint aims and jointly setting the agenda
- putting time into developing the relationship
- Understanding that parents play many roles within the partnership - as co-educators of their children, as providers of additional support for the School, as decision-makers and as an important part of the School's community.

2. Home-School Links

Many links between Horspath School and parents already exist, and the School is committed to extending and improving them continuously in conjunction with parents. These links include:

- [**The class Newsletter**](#) is written by the class teacher to explain classroom structure, expectations, rewards and homework. Information is given about what the children are studying, which may be accompanied by suggestions on how these activities may be followed up at home.
- [**School and Governor Newsletters**](#) and other items of information are sent home via email or with the children in their book bags. All previous and up-to-date newsletters can be found on the website.
- [**Reading Diaries**](#) are not only used to keep a record of a child's reading achievements but can be used as a way of sharing daily successes as well as being a channel of communication if a meeting in person is unachievable.
- [**Weekly sharing assemblies**](#) are held so that the children from each class may share their work with an audience of friends and family. Parents can not only celebrate their own children's success but also support the achievements of all across the school, recognising development.
- [**Parent-teacher consultations**](#) to set targets and agree actions on the part of the teacher, parents and child.
- [**The Learning Log**](#) allows learning to be shared, experienced and developed between home and school.
- [**Topic Displays and Parent Workshops**](#), offer parents hands-on experience of the curriculum in the classroom, and provide opportunities for work sharing and mutual enjoyment. There is also a curriculum book in the front entrance where topic work is continually displayed from all classes.
- [**Support and advice on relevant academic skills**](#) - for example, sessions on phonics & how to support children's reading development, Numeracy strategies & approaches as well as how to encourage the use of a Learning Log. Booklets have also been written for home use.
- [**The Horspath Parent and Teacher Association \(PTA\)**](#), offers parents opportunities to meet and work with other parents and teachers in supporting the School through social, fund-raising and educational events.
- [**Annual family challenge mornings**](#) where entire family groups compete against each other in team building activities, involving problem solving and participation for all.

The school also operates an open door policy that parents can speak to the teacher before or after the school day. If there is a specific request, or a longer time is needed, then a meeting can be arranged for a convenient time. Parents are always very welcome to come into the classroom at the end of the day, for their child to share their achievements with them at any time. Children, across the school, invite their parents in specifically for this purpose afterschool more formally during the year too.

3. Working and Communicating Together Expectations

We all expect things of each other.

Children can expect:

- to be listened to, respected and valued as part of the school family
- to take responsibility for their actions
- to be consulted on their education and involved in decisions to develop academically and socially.
- to be responsible for making sure they understand their learning log task, taking it home and giving it in on time
- to feel safe and happy and to develop a positive feeling of self –worth

Parents / Guardians expect:

- to feel valued and welcomed by the School
- information and guidance on supporting their children's learning
- clear feedback on their children's progress
- involvement in decision-making
- specific opportunities for familiarisation with the classroom routine
- to be informed of any recurring issues that arise during the School day which concern their child.
- regular information about the curriculum and daily life via newsletters, family assemblies , PTA meetings etc

The School expects:

- parents to support children in taking responsibility for their actions
- that children are supported at home with their learning log by parents who:
 - provide a suitable, reasonably peaceful place where children can complete their learning log (whether independently or sharing with an adult)
 - encourage and praise their child when they have completed their learning log task
- that parents hear their children read regularly through the week.
- that parents will help their children to organise themselves and build independence.
- that parents will ensure that their children are appropriately dressed in School clothing and equipped for their various lessons including PE
- that parents will be responsible for the prompt collection of their children after school and for the supervision of their children on the school site before and after school.
- that parents attend meetings regularly and become actively involved in school life whenever possible
- that parents follow our **Attendance Policy**

4. Homework

A Learning Log is weekly record of an aspect of a child's learning during the school week. Pupils will be given a task to complete in their learning log which helps them to reflect on what they have learnt, what they are learning about, what skills they have practices and what they are trying to achieve. Learning Logs will be handed in and marked each week.

At Horspath we view good daily reading at home to be invaluable through your child's Primary Education. Children benefit greatly across the curriculum in both confidence and ability, providing a platform for their future successes. Their reading diaries are also a fantastic link between home and school.

5. Behaviour and Discipline

The children are expected at all times to behave with consideration for others. Good behaviour is acknowledged and praised with rewards. If children misbehave or infringe the rights of others, they are reminded of the importance of everybody's safety and happiness. If this proves ineffective, privileges are withdrawn. On the rare occasions when this fails to have any effect on a child's behaviour and the behaviour is repetitive, the school will consult with parents as to the best possible means of overcoming the particular problem.

Class conduct expectations are written by each class and displayed in their respective classrooms each year. Playground rules have also been compiled by the school council, in collaboration with their peers – these are displayed on the playground.

6. Extra-Curricular Activities

The school recognises the value of extra-curricular activities and expects children to take advantage of those offered. As with other schoolwork, the school expects commitment, punctuality and responsibility from those children who agree to take part. Lunchtime clubs also operate throughout the year, such as gardening club, sports and languages.

Children who take instrumental music lessons are expected to practise regularly (every day if possible) and to have their music and instrument with them on the appropriate days in school.

Parents are expected to let the organisers know if it is not possible for their child to attend on any particular week.

7. Healthy Schools Initiative

The School has "Healthy School" status. This is an integral part of School life.

Children are encouraged to enjoy a healthy fruit snack and drink at break time.

Chocolate and sweets are not acceptable for consumption at this time and strongly discouraged at anytime during the school day.

Within the curriculum children are taught the importance of a balanced and varied diet.

Furthermore, children can access drinking water throughout the day from water bottles on their tables or alternatively nearby water fountains to their classroom.

Parents are encouraged to share their healthy lunchbox and meal ideas with others through participating in the school lunchbox / recipe book on the schools Virtual Learning Environment.

8. Special Educational Needs

Parents are expected to work closely with their child's teacher to increase the success of extra help and support they receive in school. Consolidation of key skills and targets

must be supported at home to improve retention. Using multi sensory methods to learn weekly spellings, games to practise number bonds and daily reading are essential in supporting children to meet their potential.

High expectations and praise for success needs to be consistent between home and school. Self esteem is extremely important to their belief in their own ability. By learning strategies which work for them is how we overcome barriers and enjoy achievement.

Our SEN co-ordinator over sees support across the school and manages the outside agencies involvement with your child if needed. She supports the teachers in their implementation of inclusive strategies and organises interventions. If the class teacher is unable to answer quires then an appointment should be made with the SENco.

Please sign and return the attached agreement form to the school office.