

# Home School Agreement Policy (CST)

This policy applies to the whole of CfBT Schools Trust (CST), including all schools.

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## 1. Aims of this policy ¶

This Home School Agreement Policy encapsulates our belief that parents are a child's first and most important educators. It is designed to help achieve the highest possible standards of achievement through close communication and effective partnership with parents. At the end of this policy is the Home-School Agreement which parents are asked to read carefully and then sign the declaration.

## 2. Scope and publication ¶

This Home-School Agreement Policy applies to all pupils and their parents. This policy is available on the school website and is provided to all parents in the Admission Packs for all new starters. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

#### **Who was consulted?**

In drawing up this policy and agreement we reviewed current practices in communicating with parents and pupils.

### 3. Relationship to other policies ¶

This policy relates most closely to the Homework, Behaviour and Pupil Registration Policies. It impacts on our approach to communication, and our aims and values.

### 4. Ethos of the school ¶

The ethos of the school is to foster positive relationships between all members of the school community, including all pupils, parents and staff. Bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination are not tolerated. The school will act fairly in relation to pupils and parents and we expect the same of pupils and parents in relation to the school and its staff.

### 5. Communication with parents ¶

Excellent communication with parents is essential to the ethos of the school and is encouraged through a variety of methods:

- the school's website
- the school's Facebook page
- the school's Twitter feeds
- the school's year group handbooks
- parent/carer information sessions to explain principles of pedagogy and support children's learning
- assemblies: including class, year group, harvest, festivals and celebrations and end of term

- open mornings
- school reports on pupil progress and achievement
- meetings between staff and parents
- weekly newsletters
- letters and reports
- formation of a Parents/Carers' Association
- establishing a home/school agreement
- published calendar dates
- displays and notice boards
- circulation of documents and policies.

Assistance will be provided for parents/carers with any disability or difficulty, including for those parents for whom English is a second language, to assist with communication with the school as required. Please contact the school office for assistance.

## 6. Consultation ¶

Regular consultation with parents/carers is also an integral part of the school's ethos. We always endeavour to take account of the views and feed back of parents and carers.

This will include consultation on general levels of satisfaction with education provision, selected aspects of the school's work and on the impact of specific initiatives.

Methods used will include:

- surveys/questionnaires conducted by the school or commissioned by professional companies and external agents
- face-to-face interviews
- phone interviews
- School Council and Parents Association meetings
- parents who are members of the local governor board
- focus groups or involvement of selected parent representatives
- newsletters
- email
- Facebook, Twitter or other social media
- text messages

- Class Dojo and Tapestry apps.

## 7. Success criteria ¶

The success criteria for judging the effectiveness of parent/carer engagement strategies are:

- parents/carers feel welcome when they come into the school and report that they have ready access to the staff they need to meet
- parents/carers often give positive feedback and the number of complaints is low
- a growing number of parents/carers volunteer to help in school activities
- there is a high attendance at school events and there is frequent use of the school's website and social media pages
- responses from surveys are strongly supportive
- parents/carers find reports informative and helpful and feel able to support their children's progress.

## 8. Responsibilities and expectations ¶

**The school will do its best to:**

- communicate and consult with parents as set out above
- regularly celebrate children's achievements
- encourage children to do their best at all times, to think of themselves and to achieve their full potential
- encourage children to take care of their surroundings and others around them
- care for the children's safety and general well-being
- provide a balanced curriculum and meet each child's individual needs
- be open, friendly and welcoming at all times and offer parents the chance to become involved in the life of the school
- encourage children to make healthy choices
- operate and enforce a balanced Behaviour Policy and School Rules
- provide structures to support parents/carers and involve them socially as well as educationally in the life of the school.

**We require parents/guardians/carers to do their best to:**

- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time
- ensure that their child is dressed appropriately for school in line with the school's School Uniform Policy
- ensure their child has the appropriate equipment for school where possible
- support the school's guidelines on good behaviour and disciplinary action in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- provide a written note or a telephone call to explain an absence
- attend open evenings or review meetings to discuss their child's progress
- tell the school about any problems at home that might affect their child's behaviour
- encourage their child with home work and ensure it is completed on time
- encourage and support their child to eat well and make healthy choices
- support their child in responding positively to the general expectations and regulations of the school
- ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers
- tell the school before 9.00am if their child is not attending school.

**The school expects pupils to do their best to:**

- come to school regularly and on time
- be polite, friendly, kind, and helpful to everyone
- act appropriately and follow the school rules and Behaviour Policy
- show respect for the belongings of others and their own work
- work hard at school and do their homework.

**Together we will:**

- support pupils' learning, to help them to achieve their best
- assist with any special needs
- encourage pupils to keep the school rules.

## 9. Monitoring, evaluation and review ¶

The Executive Headteacher/Headteacher will ensure that this policy and the agreement are reviewed at least every two years in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and Local Governors.

## 10. Appendix 1 ¶

### Home-school agreement

#### The Parent/Carers Agreement

I/We will try to:

- Ensure that my child attends school every day (having had breakfast) on time for 8.50am, unless he/she is ill. If my child is absent I will notify the office with the reason as soon as possible on each day of absence.
- If my child is to be collected by anyone other than a parent I will notify the teacher.
- Let school know of any changes to my address, telephone numbers and email addresses.
- Help my child to eat well and understand how to make healthy lifestyle choices and make sure my child goes to bed at a reasonable time (guidelines recommend that children have approximately 11-12 hours sleep each night).
- Endeavour to make our home environment a safe, secure and happy one and notify the school if anything happens to change this.
- Support the school and its policies and be a positive role model when discussing the school on social media.
- Do my best to take an interest in my child's learning and help him/her with home learning including reading regularly (at least 3 times per week) and ensure any other home learning set is completed on time.
- Attend parents' evenings and any other meetings where my child's learning is being discussed.
- Bring my child to school ready for the day, wearing correct uniform.

#### The School's Agreement

We will:

- Ensure your child's safety and happiness by promoting healthy choices, fostering feelings of confidence, self-worth and belonging and celebrate each child's individual achievements.
- Endeavour to meet the needs of all children, whatever their barriers to learning.
- Teach children to develop a positive attitude to everyone regardless of race, culture or

beliefs and promote British Values.

- Tell you about our exciting curriculum which will be memorable and enjoyable.
- Provide a range of extra-curricular activities designed to enrich yours and your child's experience while part of our school community.
- Actively welcome parents and carers into the life of the school, give opportunities for you to be involved and be responsive to any concerns you might have about your child.

## The Children's Agreement

I/We will try to keep the 'Golden Rules':

- I am gentle.
- I am kind and helpful.
- I look after school property.
- I work hard.
- I listen to people.
- I am honest.

## Local Trips

During the school academic year, the children may walk to visit various places in the local area. These local visits will help cover themes connected to our curriculum relevant to your child's year group. When signing this form we will assume that you give permission for this.

Signed Parent/Carer:

Name:

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Reviewed by: Hannah Clark

Provision Committee Review Date: Friday 01st September 2017

Governing Body Review Date: Wednesday 28th June 2017

*Originally created on Friday 13th January 2017*