



LYDIATE
LEARNING
TRUST

Parental Engagement Policy (LLT)



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ENGAGE, ENABLE,
EMPOWER

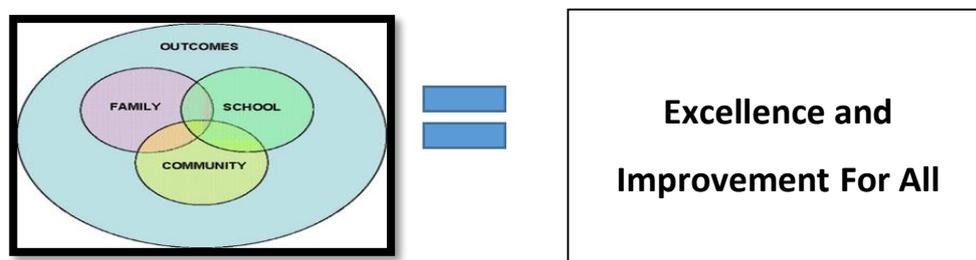
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Parental Engagement Policy (LLT)

The Parental Engagement Policy reflects the Trust’s vision; ***“We engage with all within our Trust and beyond to enable them to show the world their particular strengths, their ideas and their passion”***. In order to achieve this, we foster a shared and collaborative approach with parents, carers and adopt a multi-agency approach. Two-way communication between home and school is vital and by working together we can ensure the best outcomes and opportunities for our children. We pride ourselves in involving everyone in school improvement by informing, listening, valuing and responding.

When parents work with their children at home there is evidence of greater achievement, but engaging parents to attend and actively support school activities will also have benefits. If done well it not only improves pupils’ achievements, but develops aspiration, as well as transforming the atmosphere in the school.

We believe that in order to achieve “Excellence” and to continue to innovate a shared approach with parents, carers and any agencies involved is paramount. Lydiate Learning Trust schools has a proactive rather than reactive approach to engagement of parents and carers and is sensitive to the circumstances of all families.



Aims:

- To work with parents and carers to enable students of all abilities to fulfil their potential in every area of the curriculum and outside of it.
- To work with staff, parents and carers to ensure that the students are safe and secure and their basic needs are met appropriately.
- To encourage parents and carers of students to participate in the wider life of the school and to support events to celebrate the achievement and success of their children and others.
- To help parents and carers of all students develop high aspirations and to empower to move towards a rewarding and fulfilling future.
- To promote effective parental engagement where parents/carers are involved in development of their child’s learning.
- To provide support and information for parents and carers about their child’s progress, attainment, behaviour, attendance and success.
- To work closely with students and families who may additional support and, if necessary, to sign post accordingly.

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To achieve these aims we will:

- Foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel supported, welcomed, valued and able to support their children.
Maintain an 'open door' policy so that parents are able to communicate with any staff involved with their child.
- Communicate with parents in a variety of ways including; website, text, email, newsletter, telephone, letters, parental interview or home visits if appropriate and respond to any queries raised within 48 hours.
- In the case of absence all parents/carers will be contacted by telephone. In keeping with our 'keep kids safe' initiative parents will also be informed by text. The school will refer to S.S.S. where there is a concern regarding absence and parents are difficult to engage.
- Respond to any complaints within 48 hours in keeping with our complaints policy.
- Hold meetings at times and in locations that are accessible for parents/carers.
- Maintain an on-going dialogue with parents and other stakeholders with regards to progress, attainment, attendance, behaviour and the general running of the school.
- Ensure that all parents are able to access our website and other portals and where appropriate support parents in doing so. If parents are not able to access our website or portals, paper copies will be provided.
- Regularly seek parental views and feedback via questionnaires. Recommendations will be shared and reviewed and very often action taken.
- Provide regular and accessible assessment data for parents so that they are able to monitor their child's progress, effort and any barriers to learning.
- Ensure that all parents receive an annual written report as required and the opportunity to discuss any success or issues arising at an annual parents evening.
- Take the opportunity to celebrate success with parents though letters or Exceptional Performance Awards and inviting parents to celebratory events.
- Ensure a multi-agency approach and share information with other professionals working with the young person or family as appropriate (with permission from the family) so that an open and effective approach can be possible and we can draw on their expertise.
- Provide support to families who may experience difficulty or crisis through a range of outside agencies where possible.
- Increase and improve information available to support parent's relationship with the school concerning for example, (though not exclusively) Transition, Curriculum, extra-curricular activities and visits, Post 16 opportunities.
- Ensuring that parents are fully involved and are informed of any disciplinary concerns at the school and where action is taken they are a part of this process. Also we will support parents in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Support parents where possible in making applications to other agencies or bodies for family or financial support.
- Ensuring that all of our up to date policies and news are available on the school website.
- To provide opportunities where possible for parents to also improve their learning through parental workshops e.g. e-safety workshop.

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Leadership, Management and Governance

Responsibilities - The Academy Governing Committee

- The Governing Committee will ensure that the Executive Head Teacher, Head of School and the staff implement this policy.
- The Academy Governing Committee will support events that are designed to engage the parent and wider community.
- The Academy Governing Committee will be kept informed of complaints and responses made by the school as per the school complaints policy.

Responsibilities - The CEO/Executive Head Teacher / Head of School / Senior Leadership Team

- The CEO/Executive Head Teacher / Head of School / Senior Leadership Team will monitor all home / school communication and the complaints policy and take action required if appropriate.
- The CEO/Executive Head Teacher / Head of School / Senior Leadership Team and wider leaders will ensure a response from the school in response to any complaints/ issues raised within 48 working hours.
- The Senior Leadership team will ensure organisation and facilitation of events to give information to parents or celebrate success.
- The Senior Leadership Team will facilitate the gathering of views of stakeholders and discuss any appropriate action to be taken as a result.
- To work with the Academy Governing Committee and any other appropriate bodies to ensure the engagement of parents.

Responsibilities - All Staff

- Staff are expected to read the Home School Agreement (which has been signed on their behalf) and abide by expectations agreed.
- Staff are expected to communicate with parents/carers directly if there are issues arising inside or outside of the curriculum.
- All staff are expected to respond to any parental queries or concerns within 48 hours.

Responsibilities – Parents/Students

- Parents and students are expected to read and sign the Home School Agreement and abide by expectations agreed.
- Parents are expected to communicate with the school directly where there are concerns or issues arising.
- Parents and students are expected to support opportunities to recognise and celebrate success.
- Parents/students should treat the staff at the school with respect. The School reserves the right to report to the police any verbal or physical abuse towards any of our staff and ask them to leave the premises – should this be the case we will continue to communicate and work with all parents in writing and by telephone.

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