



HOLMBUSH PRIMARY ACADEMY

Parental Communication & Engagement Policy

Statement of Intent

The Governors and Staff at Holmbush Primary Academy are committed to maintaining a happy and productive school community that supports children's learning. We are committed to facilitating good communication between staff, parents, pupils and the wider school community through a range of different methods.

What we know about Parental Engagement

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children. Parents and families have the primary responsibility for the development of their children's character, with the support of their school and community. Parental engagement has a positive impact on student achievement. At Holmbush Primary Academy pupils are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations.

School Actions:

- Holmbush Primary Academy maintains an easy-to-use website which carries up to date information about the school, staff, governors and academy policies. The website reflects the warm, happy, welcoming ethos of Holmbush and provides support information for subjects taught at the school including curriculum documentation plus a calendar with the year's events mapped out.
- We believe it is important that parents feel they understand the culture of the school and have an accurate impression of our ethos and values and feel welcome at Holmbush. It is our policy to encourage interested parents to volunteer to help at the school and support them in doing that.
- We support the provision of regular 'Learning Share' sessions towards the end of each half term when parents and carers come into the school and join their children to see what they have learnt during the term.
- Holmbush Primary Academy provides a home/school agreement signed by the school, parents and by all children that clearly defines the relationship between home and school. The agreement lists the responsibilities of parents, children and the school and how any concerns should be communicated.
- We have a texting service for parents to keep them informed of upcoming events and as a reminder service.
- Class Dojo is an application that is used to keep parents informed of what their child's class is doing during the course of the school day. It is used to celebrate achievement and engage parents in their child's learning. Parents are able to comment and provide feedback.

- Holmbush Primary Academy holds ‘Learning Together’ sessions giving parents an opportunity to come into school and learn with their children.
- Holmbush Primary Academy want to make it easy for parents and carers to get in touch with any concerns or questions they may have. We publish a clear procedure in our Parent Handbook which explains the process for expressing concerns, and clarifies which member of staff is best placed to speak to about given issues.
- Staff are present at the gate from 8.30am to 8.50am and from 3.10pm to 3.25pm daily, to speak to parents.

Communication

Holmbush Primary Academy recognises that the development of effective communication skills, listening and talking and using non-verbal skills are essential for all children. Staff recognise that they have a responsibility to encourage the development of these skills in the children in their care and that they are important for self-esteem and success in later life. We are committed to providing a communication friendly environment where children can acquire the language and skills to understand and express their views and feelings and also to use non-verbal and technological means of communication. Where children have special educational needs or need extra support to make the expected progress with communication, we will help them with the provision of the relevant specialist support in line with our SEND policy.

Holmbush Primary Academy supports a School Council. Pupils from years one to six are represented by their peers and are able to comment on the running of the school and any improvements they feel can be made. There is also a Learning Council of pupils from years five and six who meet with the Leadership Team to discuss monitoring and improving learning from a pupil’s point of view. The process of electing the representatives promotes a variety of communication skills, including public speaking. It is also an opportunity to develop pupils’ understanding of one of the British Values – democracy. We believe that both Councils are important in representing the ‘pupil voice’ in the school; they also encourage effective expression of personal opinions, the understanding of the opinions of others and the development of communication skills such as persuasion and negotiation.

Holmbush Primary Academy encourages communication with other schools through sporting events and locality curriculum workshops. We believe communication with pupils from other schools is a good preparation for transference to secondary school.

We are committed to constantly maintaining and improving our methods of communicating at Holmbush. We are also dedicated to building a foundation of communication skills for our children that will help equip them for a world that is constantly innovating in this field.

This policy will be monitored through pupil, parent, staff and governor school evaluation questionnaires twice a year and through feedback from parents.