

Home / school communication and links with parents

The school has considered communication between home, school and parish to be very important to the success of this outstanding school. We were for example one of the first schools ever to have a website. We are also reflective and aim to learn from best practice. In a modern world of social media and 24/7 chat rooms we equally aim to have the most appropriate levels of communication for the benefit of parents, staff and pupils. Below are just some of the main ways we communicate with parents and the wider community.

A weekly Newsletter. This has events of the week ahead and those just gone. If special events have occurred this sometimes goes out two or three times a week. All of these are also now on our website as PDFs instantly downloadable from Friday 4pm.

A website constantly updated, fully Ofsted compliant in all areas and DFE guidelines (September 2017). A calendar of events for the term ahead in calendar form and as a Word document updated half-termly so six times per year. The calendar is updated at least monthly.

A curriculum Newsletter compiled by teachers goes out at the start of each term. This gives headlines as to what pupils will be studying in the term ahead. The website also has full details of our curriculum and SEN offers.

A printed half-termly update of all events lists everything in our diaries. Including all Masses and Liturgies in church and school.

Three one to one termly consultations and meetings with parents and teachers to discuss, how pupils are settling in, targets and detailed information on progress and outcomes as well as a report at the end of the year.

A unique feature of our school is that parents are invited in to three class assemblies per year to see their children on stage. Afterwards parents are invited by the pupils to come to their classroom and look at the work that their children are doing in class. Parents see displays of work and generally view around the classroom and outdoor areas. This is quite a unique feature.

Parents are also invited in to at least three Nativity plays at Christmas, (EYFS, KS1 and KS2) to our Carol Concerts in the church and also to our Year 6 leavers play.

There are Christmas Fairs and Summer Barbecues where the Parents Association and teachers all join in and are well attended.

In addition, special one off events are held such as Curriculum Evenings, World Cup celebrations and International Evenings which are a mixture of information and food, drink and enjoyment.

On a daily basis several members of staff are on the path in the morning and in the afternoon to log concerns and direct parents to the correct area if they wish to talk with someone. There has been a soft start in place in the school now for the last few years and school opens early to let pupils settle. A Breakfast Club run by the school operates from 7.45am.

At home time all early years children and key stage one pupils are handed directly to parents by our own staff.

The Nursery and Reception staff run very well attended coffee mornings every year for new and existing parents.

The head operates an open door policy and has never refused a meeting in the past 25 years with any parent who makes an appointment.

An after school club run on the school premises offers child care until 6pm and is open to all children.

An extensive range of after-school activities is offered six days a week (see separate sheet). Disadvantaged pupils benefit from these and some classes are subsidised.

The school has a Text Information system and all parents receive reminders and information via text. All payments can now also be made on-line.

Teachers run a daily communication system with parents called Class Dojo which can be accessed any time to share successes and information (please see page on the website dedicated to Class Dojo).

Regular surveys are done using the Ofsted model and recently the Westminster Diocesan Education Service (WDES) survey which have always been positive. We also do our own bespoke ones asking for ideas to make things even better.

Reading record books go home in key stage 1 and parents can comment in those.

SEN meetings are scheduled regularly to review progress and next steps with the SENCo and class teachers and support staff. There is also an on- line EduKey platform 24/7 that allows parental input.

A strong Safeguarding Team (four senior school leaders) ensures early intervention when the school has any concerns. The safeguarding team are very experienced.

Attendance reviews ensure early response and some serious challenge from the school towards some parents who struggle with the concepts of truth or have an inflated sense of entitlement. Everyone is treated equally in this school.

There are two elected Parent Governors who regularly communicate with and speak to

parents about a wide range of subjects via class WhatsApp and other groups.

As described above there are numerous ways that parents can communicate with members of the teaching team. For safeguarding reasons its imperative that if a parent has an issue with the child of another parent, they do not approach the child directly and that they speak to a member of staff for them to resolve the issue. Safeguarding is our number one priority and will not tolerate any behaviour that undermines our safeguarding ethos.