

PARENTS' FORUM RATIONALE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

At Blackwell Primary School, we are committed to working closely with parents and carers and recognise the crucial role they play in their child's education.

The Governing Body at Blackwell Primary School have a specific strategic role to play in the running of the school, and have both legal and statutory responsibilities. The day-to-day leadership and management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher and other senior leaders employed by the school.

We feel that it is important that parents have a Forum where they can express their views, know that they can make a difference, and learn more about how the school operates. The Parents' Forum will be a place for parents to learn more about the school and for the school to learn more about parents. So that as many parents as possible can express their views, we would like to appoint a "parent and carer council representative" from each year group.

Purpose

Regular, open communication and consultation is highly valued at our schools. The Parents' Forum aims to represent the views of all parents and to be a voice to inform our schools of the needs of children and families. It facilitates communication between parents/carers and staff and governors. The Forum works to provide feedback on provision, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and input into decision making and planning for future provision. This takes place by:

- Regular communication with parents and carers
- Ensuring a diverse Forum membership and representation of views from parents and carers from all backgrounds and sectors of society

Main Aims

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues
- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions
- To make plans that support the ways the school wants to develop and improve outcomes for our children

Membership of the Parent Council

- At least one named parent/carers representative from each year group in order to ensure a “core group” is established
- Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher
- Membership of the Forum
- All parents and carers are members of the Forum. Parents are welcome to attend Forum meetings
- Meetings will be chaired by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher

Role of the named parent and carer representative on the Council

- Commit to attend Forum meetings
- Receive communications forwarded from other parents and carers
- Be prepared to bring the views of other parents to the meetings

Terms of Reference

The Parents’ Forum will:

- Uphold the Core Values: Respect, Compassion, Courage & Responsibility
- Help parents to understand more about how the school addresses the challenges of children’s learning
- Be positive, constructive and solution focussed
- Minute all meetings and make them available to all parents and carers
- Report back to the Governing Body
- Be involved in identifying priorities for the school improvement plan (SIP)
- Advise the school on parental views
- Be the Forum through which the school consults parents
- Make recommendations (this may be in relation to developing policies, procedures, protocols etc.) to the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team
- Liaise with other schools, where necessary, particularly in relation to transfer and transition
- Complement the Governing Body and PTA (not be a replacement for them)
- Not be a place for complaints about individual teachers, pupils, parents or individual issues, (these should be raised with the class teacher and/or Headteacher)
- Meet half termly
- Help to ensure communication between parents and the school is the best it can be
- Review the impact of its work annually
- Review Terms of Reference annually

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