



HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

This policy was adopted in April 2020
by the Local Governing Board

Home School Agreement

Sections 110 and 111 of the School Standards and Framework Act require the governing body of every maintained school to adopt a home-school agreement from September 1999.

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School aims to provide the best education possible, firmly rooted in the gospel values of our Christian faith.

At Our Lady's Catholic Primary School we recognise the importance of and value parental involvement in the life of the school. Throughout this policy the term parent is used to refer to parents, guardians and carers. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving amongst others, parents, staff and children. We are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home.

Both home and school want the best for children in our care. Parents want them to have the best opportunities so that they can become successful and happy members of the community. Our Lady's School wants to provide pupils with the environment and support they need to achieve all their ambitions.

Parents and carers are the most important influence in a child's life, and the school needs to listen to and communicate with parents effectively to build the trust and understanding needed for pupils to achieve their best. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and school. The school needs to be a resource for the community it serves.

In pursuit of this aim the school is committed to:

- Develop and promote a Christian atmosphere in the day-to-day running of the school
- Working in partnership with parents, who it recognises as "the first and best educators" of their child
- Providing a safe, happy and stimulating environment
- Developing the whole child through a broad and balanced curriculum, catering for the individual needs of each child
- Keeping parents informed of their child's progress - this includes making parents aware of any concerns or problems which may occur, including behaviour, and which may affect their child's work
- Setting homework appropriate to the age and ability of pupils, on a regular basis in accordance with our homework policy
- Contacting parents or the guardians of any child absent from school for whom we have not received a message
- Upholding the School Uniform Policy

To develop good communication and fully inform parents about what is happening in school we will:

- Hold a range of induction events for parents of children starting their school life at Our Lady's Catholic Primary.

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- Make letters, school prospectus and key policies “user friendly”, useful and informative.
- Provide a regular and up-to-date information service through the school newsletter and school website.
- Meetings to discuss evaluate and update Individual Educational Plans for children with additional needs.
- Send termly class information sheets informing parents of their child’s curriculum.
- Hold a parents’ consultation meeting in the Autumn Term and in the Spring Term.
- Hold a Parents’ Meeting in the Summer Term for parents to discuss their child’s annual report.
- Provide parents with advance notice of all school events and dates, with updates as appropriate.
- Actively involving parents in the celebration of pupil success.
- Promote systems of active communication between home and school.
- Regularly reviewing the Home-School Agreement to take account of parental views, and communicate it regularly and clearly.

To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child we will:

- Offer two parents’ consultations for each class each year.
- Send annual reports at the end of each year.
- Provide regular opportunities to extend pupils’ learning at home.
- Operate a reading record book between home and school for, at least all children in Reception and KS1.
- Invite parents to Open Days to share and celebrate the children’s learning.
- Provide a weekly ‘Open Classroom’ for parents to share, with their child, learning and achievements.
- ‘Tapestry’ is regularly updated in both our Pre-School and Reception class to form an on-line learning journal for your child.

To make good use of parents’ expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their child and other children and to actively involve them in school life we will encourage parents to:

- Volunteer to support within classrooms and/or become parent governors.
- Attend school trips.
- Participate in prayer and praise assemblies.
- Attend Open Classroom.
- Attend coffee mornings.
- Attend school performances, events and celebrations.
- Become involved in school projects.
- Participate in Family Learning events organised by the school.
- Join or support the school’s Parents’, Teachers’, and Friends’ Association. (PTFA)
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members.
- Take advantage of positive parenting programmes offered by the school.

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To establish the views and opinions of parents we will:

- Conduct an annual parental questionnaire and inform parents of the results
- Ask parents to evaluate key events in school.
- Seek parental consultation on key issues in school.

The school will regularly seek parental views on a range of topics affecting pupils' education through questionnaires, surveys and verbal discussion. Feedback is valued, and responses will be seriously considered and actioned where appropriate and in pupils' best interests.

Parents

As parents we:

- Recognise and support the Christian values upon which the school's aims are based
- Will work in partnership with the school in promoting our child's education
- Will ensure that our child attends school regularly and arrives and leaves school at the appropriate times
- Undertake to notify the school if our child cannot attend
- Undertake to apply for leave of absence well in advance, should this be necessary during term-time (Note: Parents do not have the legal right to take holidays during term-time)
- Will work with the school in furthering learning opportunities, including helping with reading and other homework activities
- Support the school's efforts in maintaining good order and discipline
- Support the school policy on the wearing of school uniform

Our child

In support of the undertakings listed above, we will do all we can to ensure that our child:

- Is helpful, considerate and polite
- As far as possible, completes tasks set by the teacher
- Takes good care of the school premises and equipment
- Has all the equipment, including appropriate school uniform, necessary for school work

Signed Parent

SignedPrincipal

Notes:

For further details of matters mentioned in this document and for information about school generally, parents are referred to the regular school newsletter and the school website www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk

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Reviewed: April 2020