

# **TARBERT ACADEMY**

## **Parental Involvement Policy**



**2010**



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## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

### 1 POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1.1 Purpose

This policy has been produced to comply with the legislative requirements stated within the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 and to provide our school with a coherent and supportive framework that enables us to engage parents as much as possible in the education of their children and in the wider life of the school. It also aims to provide opportunities for parents to work in partnership with the education service and other agencies in Argyll and Bute.

The legal definition of 'parent' in education legislation refers to anyone who has parental responsibilities or who has care of a child or maintains a child. Within this policy the term 'parent' refers to that widest definition.

Parents of Looked After Children retain their responsibilities and rights unless a court has decided these are best undertaken by the authority.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this policy.

#### 1.2 Principles

- Mutual trust and respect should underpin all aspects of parental involvement.
- The successful education of the whole child is based upon the partnership between parents and all staff involved in the process.
- The procedures to promote parental involvement and consultation should be inclusive and encourage participation by all parents.
- Our Parent Council have a valuable role to play in fostering good relationships among parents, school and the education service.
- Effective partnership between home and school will support and enhance the learning experience of the child and facilitate early identification of potential difficulties and opportunities.

### **1.3 Roles and responsibilities**

- The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff members have adequate support and resources available to enable the implementation of the above aims within our school policy on Parental Involvement.
- Each member of staff has a responsibility to help to realise the potential of each individual child and to work in partnership with each child's parents to do that. It is recognised that staff can only be expected to undertake duties in accordance with their contractual obligations.
- Parents should support their children's education and in doing so should endeavour to work in partnership with our school.
- Our Parent Council will promote effective dialogue between school staff and the whole parent forum.

## **2 GUIDELINES**

### **2.1 Communication between school and parents about individual children**

Our School will be proactive in providing parents with advice about their child's progress. This will cover as many curricular areas as possible, and will be about the child's progress since the parents last received a report. Much of this will be conveyed by formal reporting arrangements but we will take opportunities to engage with parents whenever possible and ensure adequate arrangements are in place to meet the needs of all parents and children.

Arrangements for pastoral care and support will encompass a commitment to highlighting educational progress for individual children themselves and their parents. Parents and pupils will be actively involved in the personal learning planning process and in the preparation of plans for children with additional support needs as defined in the Additional Support for Learning Act 2004.

It is fundamental to encourage an atmosphere in which parents feel able to share their perceptions of their child's educational progress with teachers in as many different ways as possible, both formally and informally.

### **2.2 Communication between school and parents about whole school matters**

Our school will consult parents in the development of school policies and procedures. We will seek and consider the views of parents on the identification of a range of priorities e.g. anti bullying, promoting positive behaviour, celebration

of success. We will ensure that a wide range of communication options are available for all parents for example:

- formal and informal discussions
- parent surveys
- leaflets
- workshops
- presentations
- parents' evenings
- social events
- newsletters
- school web site

We will ensure that the needs of parents for whom English is not a first language will be addressed.

### **2.3 Communication between Argyll and Bute Council and parents about school and whole Council matters**

Parents see school staff as their principal point of contact for discussion about their child's education. However, Argyll and Bute Council wishes to promote the concept of a community of schools and a network of support services, which can and do work together for the benefit of all pupils and parents. Centrally based staff and partner agencies are very much part of the wider team supporting the education of the individual child. The Council is committed to liaising with parents in a range of ways:

- Argyll and Bute Council web site.
- Education web site.
- Information leaflets.
- Consultation and meetings with Parent Councils.
- Annual information events for parents.
- Educational Psychology Service (which can provide information, advice and guidance on child development and on individual children's needs).
- Support for individual schools from Quality Improvement Officers.
- Argyll and Bute Council welcome greater involvement of parents in their child's learning.

### **2.4 Formal parental partnerships**

Our Parent Council offers opportunities to promote and strengthen home/school partnership working. The Parent Council has the autonomy to devise aims and priorities within the legislation and will publish their activities widely for the benefit of the parent forum.

## **2.5 Parent volunteers**

Many of our parents are keen to offer support and assistance to the school. We find this support and assistance to be invaluable. Our staff should encourage the involvement of parent volunteers.

Parental involvement in the following has proved to be successful in the past:

- Sporting activities
- Art and craft work
- Reading support
- Support during educational visits/trips
- Extra curricular activities
- Fund raising events
- Cycling proficiency
- Preparation of resources
- Enterprise education
- Development of outside the environment

Parent volunteers provide children with real evidence of parents and the school working together to enrich the learning experience for all pupils. Working with school in this way can provide parent volunteers with a greater understanding of the work of the school, a broader understanding of children's learning, an opportunity to share their own skills and expertise and the gaining of experience of working with pupils. For school and staff the benefits can include improved communication with parents, opportunities to convey the aims and ethos of the school more effectively and the enhancement of the learning environment.

In order to comply with the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 Argyll and Bute Council has in place a set of procedures for adults (including parents) undertaking certain work in school. It is important that we all understand the need for these procedures to be adhered to and that they work together to ensure that the benefit of involving parent volunteers for certain activities can be made available without undue stress or concerns.

In developing further the involvement of parents our school should ensure consistent approaches to recruitment, selection procedures and deployment by following Council policy and advice.

## **2.6 Contents of school policy on parental involvement**

This school policy on parental involvement is complemented by the school and Pre-5 handbooks.

## **2.7 Awareness raising/training on parental involvement for staff**

### **2.7.1 Awareness raising**

A copy of this policy is available to all staff and parents in school. The promotion of this policy takes place through staff meetings and the induction process.

### **2.7.2 Training needs**

Staff and parents are encouraged to consider whether they have any specific training needs which would help to implement this policy. Assistance with this process is available from the education service.

## **3 Monitoring**

### **3.1 Monitoring**

The Parent Council in partnership with the school and in consultation with the Parent Forum, will be involved in monitoring the school's policy formally through the Quality Improvement Cycle and informally as needs arise.

### **3.2 Monitoring reports**

We will report on the activities within our school in the annual Standards and Quality Report.

## **4. Evaluation**

The ultimate success criterion is that children are happy at school and achieve their full potential. The quality indicator on the school's success in involving parents, carers and families (2.2 How Good is Our School 3) will be used as the starting point of self-evaluation taking into account the views of all stakeholders.