



HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY

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Introduction

Holy Cross is a Catholic School. Its religious dimension lies at its heart and is fundamental to its existence. Its ethos is based around Christian values as laid down by the person of Jesus Christ, and exemplified in His teaching.

Our Mission Statement expresses this clearly:

Holy Cross is a Catholic school which seeks to build a closer partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.

We work hard to provide an environment which is secure, stimulating and happy and where everyone is appreciated and enabled to give of their best.

We encourage all to have respect for each individual, to be honest, tolerant, just and forgiving and to develop a closer relationship with each other and through this, a closer relationship with God.

We recognise Jean Baptiste Debrabant's vision that:

"A Christian based education is a sure hope for the future of religion and society."

1. Policy Statement

Holy Cross values the unique insight that parents can provide into their children's learning and acknowledge that learning begins and continues in the home environment.

By working in close partnership with parents, we seek to nurture in the children the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self-esteem and the desire to learn.

2. Aims and Objectives

We aim to work in partnership with parents based on establishing trusting and respectful relationships with a two-way flow of communication to meet the child's needs and achieve the best possible outcomes for all. We recognise the important role of parents and the expertise that parents and staff bring and, together, we can enhance the child's learning.

In the EYFS, working in partnership with parents is a key principle of effective practice.

3. Welcoming parents into the school

Parents are welcomed into the school at mutually convenient times to learn more about their children's progress and to celebrate their successes. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year (both formal and informal) to meet together and get to know each other. Meetings are arranged at a variety of different times to enable as many parents as possible to attend.

Formal

- Induction events for new children and parents (including home visits, meet the teacher sessions and phased entry into Reception).
- Tours of the school for all new parents and children to see the school at work and get to know the geography of the building.
- Initial welcome meeting in July to provide parents with information for the coming year, advice on the curriculum and events during the year ahead.
- Parent Consultation meetings in October and March to provide parents with up-to-date information on their children's progress and set next step targets.
- Meetings to discuss evaluate and update Individual Education Plans for children with special educational needs.
- Phonics Workshop at the beginning of the school year for parents of Reception children to discuss the Letters and Sounds Phonics programme, how it is delivered in school and the parents role at home.
- Various workshops throughout the year, e.g. these have previously been held for Reading and Maths.

Informal

These include:

- Assemblies
- Class Liturgy
- Nativity Production/Carol Service
- Educational visits
- Sports Events
- Stay and Play sessions
- Early Morning Reading sessions
- Church visits
- Coffee mornings

4. Communication

We are continually updating and improving our communication systems. Currently, parents receive regular updates from the school including:

- Regular newsletters and information letters
- Termly curriculum information
- Annual Progress Reports in July
- Parent notice boards in class
- Website – www.holycrossprimary.com
- Home School Agreement

4.1 Open Door Policy

We operate an 'open door policy' whereby parents are welcome to speak with their child's teacher or key worker before or after the school session. More formal meetings can be arranged at a mutually convenient time to discuss any issues or concerns.

4.2 Policies

We seek to ensure that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read by parents. Relevant policies are available on our website - www.holycrossprimary.com. Other policies can be obtained from the school office.

5. Home/School Partnership

We believe that a strong home/school partnership is key to children's emotional development, progress and growth as part of the community. We encourage parents to support their children's learning at home in a variety of ways, including:

- jointly signing the Home/School agreement
- reading with children as often as possible
- visiting the library together
- completing the Diary for the child's class/key group when necessary
- encouraging children to complete any homework they have been given
- checking and signing their Reading Records on a regular basis and as a means of contacting teachers
- supporting our rules and expectations

6. Parental Feedback

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 are seriously considered and appropriate action taken.

7. Volunteers

We welcome parents to volunteer in the setting during annual summer term educational visits (for Reception), church visits and library visits. Due to the high adult:child ratio needed for taking 3-5 year olds on out of school trips, it is essential that we receive support from parents to volunteer for such events. Parents are asked to make it known to the class teacher if they are able to assist in such a way.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in and around the school. We are always looking for volunteers to hear children read. As a school policy, parents are not allowed to volunteer in their own child's class. However, you are welcome to volunteer in an alternate class of the same year group.

We are committed to the highest possible level of Partnership and are always open to new suggestions on how we can improve.

March 2013