

At The Laurel Academy 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. As a school we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home

**“It’s what parents do rather than who they are that counts” (Charles Desforge)**

**“Parental involvement in a child’s education can be a more powerful force in learning than family background and parents’ education level, and contributes to no less than 10% of variation in achievement”.(DfES 1999)**

It is known that:-

- Parents/carers are the most important influence in a child’s life. Any educational initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and providers
- Parents want their child to succeed
- Children need educational and emotional support if they are to succeed. Parents need to be able to provide this effectively
- Many parents have missed the opportunity of furthering their education and training
- The school is a resource for the community it serves

#### Aims

- To develop good communication with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in school
- To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their 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
- To establish the views and opinions of parents of the school and act upon these

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

- Make letters, school prospectus and key policies "user friendly", useful and informative.
- Send regular whole school letters (Principal's update) containing information such as dates and events.
- Hold a parents evening for each year group throughout the year.
- Hold a Year 7 Parents and Carers induction evening in the first half term.
- Display key information on the school website and around school

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

- Offer one parents' evening for each year group each year
- Send progress data to parents after each data collection

***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
- Attend school performances, events and celebrations
- Become involved in school projects
- Participate in Family and Adult Learning events organised by school
- Join or support the school fundraising group
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members

***To establish the views and opinions of parents and act upon these we will:***

- Hold 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.
- Establish a Parent Partnership Group