



HOME SCHOOL STATEMENT

Victoria Community School places Home School partnerships at the centre of its whole philosophy.

Our statement of aims is:

- Working together for our children
- Promoting learning for life through quality teaching
- We will work together with our parents, children, community and support agencies to make a positive difference for all.

The school works closely with the community to facilitate closer mutual understanding and ensure our school policies reflect the needs of our community.

Our Home School Policy is a reflection of the school's practice of Inclusion.



HOME SCHOOL POLICY **November 2021**

Introduction

Victoria Community School has a Home School Liaison Officer and an Admissions and Attendance Officer to help promote the partnership between home and school.

Victoria Community School serves a predominantly first generation British Asian / Muslim community the majority of whose families originate from the Mirpur district of Pakistan. The language spoken by many of our families does not have a written form and the majority of children enter school learning / beginning to speak English as an additional language. We also serve a widening Eastern European community. Some of our families have no direct experience of schooling and rely upon our skilled bilingual staff in order to be able to communicate with school. Our families retain very close links with relatives in their home countries which involves families making international visits for a number of complex reasons. We recognise the crucial role of our parents in preparing their children for school and the significant part they play in supporting their children's continual progress and attainment and promote it at every opportunity.

Our key objectives must therefore be:

- To help empower parents to be able to participate more fully in their child's education.
- Raising community expectations: empowering parents.
- To develop greater communication and understanding between home and school to the benefit of the child's learning.
- To promote and increase the awareness and understanding of the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of the school throughout the community.
- To encourage mutual understanding, respect and positive attitudes between children, teachers and parents, creating the best environment in which learning can take place.
- To value support and encourage the contributions that parents/carers make to raising their child's levels of achievement in their child's education.

We believe successful Home School links are characterised by:

- A continuous effort to identify and encourage ways by which parents can support their child's learning.
- Effective two-way communication between all partners.
- A sense of identity, shared purpose and belonging through a range of opportunities for community and parents to become involved in the life and work of the school.
- An agreement between parents, governors, pupils, teachers and all other staff that home-school links are important.
- Recognition that everyone connected to the school has a role to play and particular skills to offer, in the creation of those links.

School Practice

The School Development Plan will include a detailed action plan to ensure the following activities are provided and others developed in response to need.

- To hold meetings and to develop initiatives which will promote better understanding and which will ensure greater exchange of information at all levels but particularly where children enter Nursery and the main school. (Summer Term June/July).
- To make home visits to encourage parents to become actively involved in their children's education to encourage regular attendance and to increase accessibility and

communication. Our contacts will also include parents of children in our school who are outside the locality.

- To employ a Home School Liaison Officer to make home visits to families identified as being in need and suffering poor self esteem.
- To hold meetings to inform parents on aspects of health and safety (annually).
- To develop closer links with the wider school community and other support services.
- To revise the information packs (annually).
- To revise the purpose, aims and running of the Head Start and Nursery Start programmes (Spring Term annually).
- To use the county translation service to make available written school information in Urdu, Polish and Hungarian where appropriate.
- To have open evenings when parents are encouraged to look around Victoria Community School and discuss their child's progress with staff (termly).
- To write informative and constructive annual reports.
- To hold open evenings to discuss with parents the curriculum at Victoria Community School.
- Where appropriate, provide interpreting services
- To hold workshops on current teaching practices to inform parents as to how they can support their child's learning.
- To send regular newsletters including reminders of dates and events (monthly).
- To have open assemblies which parents are encouraged to attend.
- To have festivals, performances, concerts and celebrations to which parents are invited e.g. Harvest, Eid.
- To invite parents to attend accredited parent training courses.
- To invite parents to help out on educational visits.
- To continue to support the running of ESOL classes and to encourage parents to attend ESOL classes to extend their use of written and spoken English thus increasing their ability to communicate with school and raise self esteem.
- To run Family Learning courses with Burton and South Derbyshire College.
- To use the Home School Agreement pro actively to encourage positive Home School links.
- To work in partnership with other agencies eg Changes, to extend the range of opportunities to empower parents and support all parents.
- To support parents with benefit claims and other formal paperwork (eg school applications).

*During Covid restrictions, these events will be risk assessed to see if it is safe for parents to attend.

Resources

The school commits to funding a Special Educational Need Co-ordinator part of whose role works with the Home School Liaison Officer.

Implementation - Monitoring, Evaluation

- The Home School Policy is implemented by a whole school approach, with special responsibility for its implementation resting with the Home School Liaison Officer.
- Formal and informal evaluations are used to inform the school as to the effectiveness or otherwise of initiatives.
- Termly reports are written for the Headteacher and Governors - a copy of which is sent to County.
- These evaluations are part of an on-going process which seeks to revise our practice

and extend it when opportunities arise.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed on a 3 yearly cycle basis as part of the established cycle of the School Development Plan. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually.

Please read this policy in conjunction with:

Victoria Community School Dignity at Work Policy

Victoria Community School Behaviour Policy

See also:

Victoria Community School Attendance Policy

Victoria Community School Mission Statement

Victoria Community School Nursery Information leaflet

Victoria Community School Home School Agreement