

Parent/Guardian Collaboration – Guiding Principles

Our committed staff, with extensive experience and training in education and pastoral care, prioritise pupils' best interests within the context of our broader school community. All decisions relating to our pupils are made with professional judgment and discretion.

We believe in the importance of working in close partnership with parents and guardians and we strive to address and resolve any concerns as swiftly as possible, involving pupils as necessary. Respectful communication is key for all involved parties.

This document sets some guiding principles which underpin our partnership with parents/guardians.

Principles

1. **Collaborative Partnership with Parents:** The school seeks a collaborative and open relationship with parents, though staff may not always be able to accommodate all parental requests due to various considerations.
2. **Supporting Pupil Potential:** The school endeavours to support every pupil in reaching their potential, though it cannot guarantee specific achievements such as team selection, examination results or university places.
3. **Balancing Individual Needs:** When making decisions, staff consider each pupil's best interests alongside the needs of the broader school community.
4. **Professional Judgment in Pupil Allocation:** Staff use their professional judgment, informed by data and experience, when assigning pupils to teaching groups or predicting exam results.
5. **Precedence of Pupil Rights:** In cases of any disagreement between parents and the school, the rights and duties owed to the pupil will typically take precedence over those of the parents.
6. **Addressing Parental Concerns:** If parents raise concerns, staff are likely in all circumstances to need to speak with the pupils and possibly other parties to investigate and resolve the issue, with the expectation of parental support.
7. **Respect for Disciplinary Decisions:** Parents are expected to respect and support any disciplinary decisions made by the school with a view to improving pupils' behaviour.
8. **Communication with Parents:** Staff will endeavour to communicate with parents as needed, but requests must be balanced with ongoing duties to other pupils. Clear information about discussion topics helps staff prepare appropriately.
9. **Involving Pupils in Discussions:** In many situations, particularly for Sixth Form pupils, involving the pupil in discussions ensures their voice is heard and considered.
10. **Supporting Pupils with Difficulties:** In cases of pupils facing particular difficulties, parents and the school should work together transparently to provide support both at home and in school, aiming for the best outcome for the pupil.
11. **School Staff as Professionals:** The school staff are dedicated professionals with extensive experience and expertise in both education and pastoral care. Their overriding priority is the welfare of the pupils in their care.
12. **Respectful Communication Expectations:** All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect. Parents are expected to communicate politely and respectfully.

with staff. If there is a breakdown in trust the sanction detailed in clause 8.12 of the Terms and Conditions may apply. Parents are not permitted to record conversations, without express permission of the staff member.

13. **Handling Complaints:** If parents have concerns, they are encouraged to approach the appropriate school staff member. Formal complaints should follow the school's Complaints Policy (found on our website), ensuring fair and effective resolution.

Appreciation for Cooperation: The school appreciates parents' commitment to these principles.