

Bedford High School

A Specialist Business and Enterprise College

Work Hard Be Respectful Take Responsibility



Parent Partnership Policy

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Parent Partnership Policy

At Bedford High School 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 about collaboration between parents, staff, and children. As a school we are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between school and home.

School Aims:

1. All school staff, governors, and parents work in partnership for the benefit of all students.
2. Teachers and support staff enable all students toward achieving their full potential as independent life-long learners.
3. Our broad, balanced and enriched curriculum promotes challenge, enabling all students to make a positive contribution towards their own achievement.
4. We foster strong links with the community and encourage children to be responsible citizens, who are respectful and tolerant.
5. We encourage initiative within a happy, healthy, and safe environment where all achievement is valued and celebrated.
6. We work hard, take responsibility and show respect to all.

Our Aims:

1. To develop good communication with parents and to fully inform them about what is happening in school.
2. To actively involve parents in the education and progress of their child.
3. To establish the views and opinions of parents of the school and act upon these, sharing our findings and changes within the school community.
4. 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.

High Expectations

The school operates a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of harassment and sexual harassment and will not tolerate any form of harassment or sexual harassment and will take decisive action where this occurs. Harassment is defined as unwanted conduct related to a protected characteristic that violates dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive environment.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, including verbal, written or physical behaviour.

This applies to behaviour directed towards:

- Staff
- Students
- Parents/carers and visitors
- Contractors and other third parties

The school will take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment, including behaviour involving third parties, and will act decisively where incidents occur. Any such behaviour will be treated as serious misconduct.

All members of the school community are expected to:

- Treat others with dignity and respect
- Refrain from any conduct that could constitute harassment or sexual harassment
- Report concerns immediately

Where harassment or sexual harassment is reported or suspected, the school will:

- Take all reports seriously and act without delay

- Ensure the immediate safety and wellbeing of those affected
- Record and escalate concerns in line with safeguarding procedures
- Undertake a formal investigation, where appropriate
- Implement protective measures (e.g. separation, supervision adjustments)
- Apply appropriate sanctions in line with this policy

All incidents involving sexual harassment will be considered within a safeguarding context.

The school recognises its duty to protect staff from harassment, including that arising from students or other third parties. Any harassment or sexual harassment directed at staff will be treated as gross misconduct within the behaviour system and will be addressed through serious sanctions, up to and including permanent exclusion. The school will take all reasonable steps to prevent recurrence, including sanctions, supervision adjustments and, where necessary, exclusion.

To make the school a welcoming, communicative and friendly place for parents we:

- Provide clear signage and expectations, together with examples of students work, in our reception area.
- Provide private areas within reception, rather than in student areas, to meet.
- Encourage parents to engage with the home/school agreement
- Encourage frequent reading with their child at home
- Encourage children to complete and promptly return any homework they have been given.
- Utilise the community links of our governors in reaching out positively with parents.

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

Seek, wherever possible, to have one communication stream; Class Charts. We make letters, emails, texts, school prospectus, and key policies 'user friendly', useful, and informative as well as being available on the school website.

- Send whole school newsletters each term, containing information such as dates and events,
- and weekly newsletters detailing important weekly updates, request helpers or resources to share successes, and to inform parents of weekly areas of learning.
- Guide parents on having high standards for behaviour and attendance for their child, as a way to secure success and independence in the future.
- Provide termly year group updates, informing you of your child's curriculum on our website.
- Provide a wide range of information on our social media platforms, including our annual Facebook Lives to engage parents who have additional questions during the school holidays or when school is closed.
- Support parents with learning at home, via our exam support evenings for KS4, podcasts and Zoom sessions.
- Hold Parent's Evenings in where you can discuss your child's learning.
- Hold induction meetings for all students transferring to their next phase within school.

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

- Offer parents evenings for each year group each year.
- Hold an open evening each year.
- Walk around opportunities at the end of each term.
- Send annual reports at the end of each year.
- Hold a range of events for mums, dads and grandparents.
- Invite parents to induction and transition events and celebration events.
- Invite parents to information evenings specific to new changes or relevant curriculum information for their year group
- Provide support and assistance regarding transition between key stages.
- Provide support and guidance through utilising our Special Educational Needs support.

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

- Hold regular parental questionnaires and inform parents of the results.
- Ask parents to evaluate key events in school.
- Seek parental consultation on key decisions in school such as uniform changes.
- Send out an annual survey to each year group, evaluate the responses and then engage in face-to-face conversations with parents who wish to discuss further. The results are then published

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:

- Attend special events and assemblies throughout the school year.
- Attend school performances, charity events and celebrations.
- Participate in Child and Adult learning events organised by the school.
- Use opportunities to have informal discussions with staff members.
- Become parent governors.

Communication

- Currently, parents receive regular updates from school, including:
- Regular information letters
- Text Messaging service
- Emails
- Regularly updated website
- Regularly updated Social Media site
- Home School Agreement

School has a tracking system for calls that come in from outside. Every call is logged and directed to the right place, then signed off.