



ESTABLISHING A PARTNERSHIP



Home/School Agreement

At the start of each school year the Home/School Agreement is renewed. This document makes clear for all Children, Parents and Staff, the expectations of their shared partnership as members of our school community. These must be signed and returned to the school in the first few weeks of the new year.

Parents Evenings and Reports

We believe that we can best help your child by establishing a firm partnership between home and school.

Parent consultation evenings are held twice a year - during the autumn and spring terms. Other Information Evenings may be held from time to time, for example about National Assessment arrangements. Towards the end of the summer term you will receive a detailed written report on your child's progress. This can be followed up with a meeting with the class teacher if necessary.

The class teacher will be the point of contact for most day-to-day matters. However, the Headteacher will be very happy to meet with parents about more pressing concerns connected with their child's welfare and progress although we do stress that you discuss issues with class teachers in the first instance. Please make an appointment through the school office.

Particularly for the youngest children, there are opportunities for parents to share information with teaching staff at the beginning or end of the school day. However, we ask parents not to linger in the school after 8.50 am so that we can get teaching underway.

Parental Involvement in School

We greatly value voluntary help from parents for school visits, sport, library and some classroom activities. Whether you have a specific skill to share or just wish to help generally, you will be very welcome. Volunteers always work under the supervision of a teacher and undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before they can begin work in school.

Friends of St Mary and St Peter's School

We are dependent on parents for help with fund-raising events such as Discos, Summer Fairs etc, and offers of help are always welcome. We have an active

'Friends' group, which is pleased to welcome new members. Again, all helpers will be police checked to ensure the safety of children. Please contact the school office to find out more.

Homework

In line with government recommendations, we expect all children to read at home on a daily basis. The youngest children should spend about ten minutes sharing stories with an adult. As they grow older and their reading becomes more independent, the time should increase to twenty minutes.

Children will be set other homework tasks which relate to their work in school. Our aim is to enable children to develop the discipline of self-study, and – in many cases – to give them opportunities to follow individual lines of enquiry. Homework also gives parents an insight into how their children are learning as well as an opportunity to extend and enrich parent/child communication and support their child in developing independent learning skills.

Please ensure that you support your children by setting aside time for homework, and ensuring a quiet place to work. We also ask that parents sign the home-school contact books ('School Diaries') to confirm that homework tasks have been completed.

Contact Book - School Diaries

At the start of every school year, all children are given a home/school contact book called a School Diary. Every diary must have the contact details section completed from the day it is received. This must come into school every day without fail and it is a vital tool in developing a successful partnership between home and school. Parents and school staff must use the School Diary to relay important messages to each other in the first instance. Further communication can be arranged if necessary. The School Diary is also where children record any reminders they need to share with home as well as their homework tasks.

Newsletters

Parents are informed when our monthly newsletters are posted on the school website, so that they can keep in touch with school events and news; paper copies are available on request. Information about special events, such as school visits, will be sent by letter. We also use text messaging to communicate short or immediate messages. **Please ensure that the contact details we hold are up-to-date, by informing the school office of any changes.**

St Mary's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

