



Parental Engagement and Family Learning Framework

Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige Rockfield Primary School and ELC

Parental Engagement and Home Family Learning Strategy

Links to the Rights of the Child:

ARTICLE 29

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Introduction

Our vision, set out in our *Our Children, Their Future* is that we want Argyll & Bute to be the best place to grow up. We want young people and families to remain in this area, and be attracted to live here. A key part of that vision is to strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement.

We recognise that most of a child's development takes place outwith our schools and early years' establishments and therefore the role of families and carers is critical to ensuring our children and young people succeed. We want to support families to engage meaningfully in their child's education.

Rockfield's Vision and Values are shown below:

Vision: Creid, Soirbhich, Còmhla -Achieve, Believe, Belong

Values:

Learning Respect Equity Inclusion Community Nurture

What is Parental Engagement?

- Parents/carers, families and professional working together to support children's learning.
- Opportunities for parents/carers, families to be part of their children's learning.

Our aims for parental engagement are as follows:

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

- 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.

In our School Improvement Plan, one of our priorities is to provide a range of opportunities for parents/ carers to be involved in the life and work of the school. This will involve planned opportunities to share in their child's learning and increase their own knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and approaches to learning and teaching. This will also include opportunities for parents/ carers to shape approaches to family learning.

Why is Parental Engagement important?

Did you know that...

Around 80% of the difference in how well children do at school depends on what happens outside the school gates (Rasbash et al, 2010; Save the Children, 2013).

Partnership

This is what partnership looks like in our school/ELC:

Parents/ Carers are given the opportunity to become involved in their child's learning in the following ways:

Early Years:

Stay, Play and Learn Sessions- an opportunity to play alongside and with your child with time to discuss with the practitioner/ teacher the planned outcome of the learning activity

Opportunities to attend Bookbug events

Sharing of Learning through opportunities to view and comment on the child's Learning Journal

Opportunities to contribute to the planning of learning- ideas of activities, experiences and links with the community will be invited

Parents in ELC will have the opportunity to join a Parents. Group to influence and shape improvement priorities

Opportunities to get involved in fundraising activities such as the Nursery Holly Tea Parents will be encouraged to participate in questionnaires and focus groups in order to inform improvement priorities.

Beyond Early Years:

Parents will have termly opportunities to join with their children in learning each term of the year - opportunities are planned as part of the annual curriculum overview and will be varied across the curriculum, These can range from joining in with cooking/baking,, being part of a book launch or even attending an art gallery opening. In our Learning Centre, parents/ cares will be invited to join in their child's learning as part of art /craft sessions at Christmas and Easter.

Parents/ Carers, will also have the opportunity to learn more about the approaches to learning and teaching through attending events such as "Math-ternoon Tea, Paired Reading and Paired Numeracy events.



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Opportunities exist for parents to volunteer in supporting children's learning through becoming a Library helper, Classroom helper etc.

We will also work with our wide partners to offer opportunities for you to be supported in your role as parent and educator, We work with our Health partners to support programmes such as our Communication Group which aims to support you in communicating effectively with your child, and is led by School Health Practitioners, as well as the "Changing Lives" initiative which supports parents with children who have an ADD/ADHD diagnosis.

We also work with our community partners in Gaelic, such as Duncan MacNeil, the Gaelic Development Officer, who can support parents through the learning of Gaelic and attendance at weekly Gaelic Bookbug sessions. We also work with Innes MacQueen, National Comann nam Pàrant Officer and members of the local Comann nam Pàrant an Òbain Group to support you with Gaelic events and Gaelic Learning.

Communication

Communication takes place in a number of ways within our school/ELC:

Letters are issued by email and should keep you updated with key information. If you require a hard copy, please let the office know and we will ensure that this is in place.

Termly newsletters are issued which share information about the life and work of the school, including our achievements. It will also give you updates around the implementation of activities associated with the Pupil Equity Fund,

We also operate an open door policy, where should you wish to speak with a member of staff this will be arranged for you at the earliest opportunity.

Our Facebook page is used as a social media platform for sharing information and good news stories. It is updated very regularly. Each week, the "week ahead" is published to keep you informed about what events are taking place.

We also have a website which will contain links to policies, our newsletter and our improvement plan.

Formal parents' evenings are held in September and March, where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's learning with the class teacher.

Learning is shared in a wide range of ways:

Target letters are issued each term to keep you updated about the learning that your child will be undertaking.

Learning Journals are issued twice a year and include assessment and "snapshot" learning weeks i.e. the typical range of learning your child experiences and takes part in each week, - you will have the opportunity to comment on this and contribute information around your child's achievements outwith school.

In Nursery, you will have the opportunity to view and comment on your child's Learning Journal.

If your child has a support plan or individual education plan, this will be shared with you and you will have the opportunity to contribute to this,



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Learning at Home

In ELC/ School we will share with you ways in which you can support your child's learning.

You will be invited to take part in events which will involve sharing with you ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. This can involve attendance at events like "Math-ternoon tea" where you will be provided with information and materials with which to support your child's learning.

We will share with you the approaches to literacy and numeracy, through distribution of leaflets and signposting you to online links, and specific events such as how we promote the development of emergent Literacy in the Early Years, and how we support children with Dyslexia.

Engaging with homework, is a good way to support your child's learning. Following our consultation with parents/ carers regarding homework, which took place in 2018 it was agreed that homework would be limited to literacy and one other task from another area of the curriculum.

Within your child's termly target letters, there will be suggested ways in which you can support your child's learning, linked to the focus of learning for that term.

Parent Council

We have an active Parent Council known as "Rockfield PTA" and we meet regularly with them to undertake the following:

- Support and help with fundraising which will enhance all children's learning
- Contributing to the identification of improvement priorities for the school
- Evaluation of progress to meet our improvement priorities
- Promoting wider parental involvement

All parents/ carers are automatically considered members of the Parent Forum and have a voice in the improvement agenda for school. We would encourage anyone to come along to our PTA meetings to contribute to the wider life and work of the school- you do not need to be a committee member.

To get in touch with the PTA, you can contact the following office bearers;

Mrs Carol MacIntyre- Chairperson

Ms Elaine MacInens-Secretary

If you are a Gaelic Medium Parent you may also wish to become involved with the Gaelic parent body, Comann nam Pàrant an Òbain. Contact details are given below:

Ms Claire Wilding- Chairperson

Complaints

If you have a complaint or concern, we believe this is best addressed at the earliest opportunity.

Depending on which class your child is part of, we would advise you to contact the person who leads that department in the first instance.



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Early Level (ELC and P1)

Mrs C Campbell - DHT

First Level (P2-4)

Mrs C Campbell-PT

Second Level (P5-7)

Miss L Fawdry- DHT

Gaelic Medium

Mrs K Kennedy

Learning Centre

Mrs C Fothergill

Mrs Fothergill, as Headteacher, is happy to meet with Parents/ Carers to discuss any concerns or issues. We will always work closely with Parents/ Carers to find a solution focussed way forward.

If any parent is not satisfied with the way their complaint has been responded to, parents can make a formal complaint in terms of the Argyll & Bute Council complaints procedure which can be accessed at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/do-it-online/comments-and-complaints>.



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