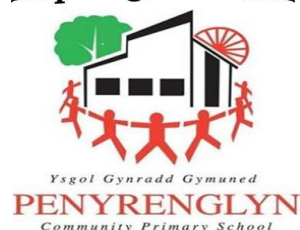


Family & Community Engagement Policy

Penyrenghlyn Community Primary School

Inspiring Ambition



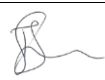

Family & Community Engagement Policy

Date Ratified by GB Policy Committee: 16/04/24

Date Ratified by Full GB: 21/05/24

Date Implemented: June 2024

Review Date: June 2025

	Print Name	Signed	Date
Chair of Governors	Mrs Tammy Llewellyn		21/05/2024
Policy Committee GB Members	Mr Gary Coston Miss Lindsey Jenkins Mrs Leanne Pritchard		16/04/2024
Headteacher	Mrs Michelle Hutchings		12/04/2024
Family Engagement & Well-being Officer	Mrs Kylie Thomas		12/04/2024

All parents and carers are equally valued as part of our school community. Pupil's learning is improved when we work in partnership with their parents/carers and the wider community. We therefore believe in the importance of building close relationships with all families and valuing their voice in order to develop effective engagement.

This policy has been produced in order to provide a framework in which all parents/carers can engage meaningfully in the education and wellbeing of their child and the school community. Parents/Carers are encouraged to express their views and values and have these taken into consideration on matters affecting the positive development of their child.

Vision

Parent engagement has a positive impact on pupil achievement. At Penyreglyn Community Primary School, pupils are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of positive self-belief in which parents/carers;

- are welcomed, respected and valued as partners by the school community in their children's learning and development
- have a full range of choices and opportunities to enable them to be involved and support pupil success
- are engaged through on-going communication to support a positive learning environment at home and at school
- are supported with tools which enable them to participate in school life

Aims

- To enhance the learning experiences of all pupils and their supporting families.
- To encourage parents and carers to be involved in the pupil's learning experiences.
- To provide bespoke support to increase engagement, participation and pupil achievement.
- To provide a partnership between home and school, seeking to ensure that families feel welcome and valued.
- To ensure that maximum use is made of parents/carers and the wider community skills to enrich learning opportunities.

Objectives

- To create a friendly atmosphere where all parents and community members feel welcomed and valued.
- To maintain an 'open door' approach so that parents /carers are able to communicate with staff on a regular basis, both formally and informally.
- To provide relevant information in an accessible way, so that parents feel confident in supporting their children's learning.
- To ensure clear channels of communication are established.
- To seek parents' views and opinions and act upon them where possible.
- To provide support and encouragement for families experiencing difficulties, or barriers to involvement.
- To work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school
- To seek to provide a range of activities, courses and workshops, to promote parental involvement in children's learning, and 'lifelong learning' for both children and adults.

Promoting Parental and Community Involvement

National research demonstrates that children perform better at school and achieve more in life when parents and schools work together.

Less than a third of a child's life is spent at school. Therefore, families and the community have the most influential role in a child's education. It is important to recognise that each of us has a role to play and, by working together, we ensure that every child achieves their best.

Opportunities for engagement include:

Supporting Learning at Home.

Parents/Carers can expect to receive information on what their child is learning at school and how they can best be supported. Effective communication and a sense of shared responsibility are key to supporting their child's learning and development

Supporting Home/School Partnerships.

Effective home/school partnerships are essential to ensure that children get the most out of their school and their education. Working in partnership will allow the school to identify potential difficulties and opportunities and have the ability to address these needs. The school will create opportunities for parents/carers to be more actively involved in their child's learning and education.

Examples of the ways we can work together include:

- Issuing regular updates with information such as holiday dates, information on school trips, extracurricular activities and events, assessment dates etc.
- Offering a range of opportunities for parents/carers to participate in school e.g. class assemblies, concerts, school trips, open evenings, family learning opportunities etc
- Establishing formal and informal times when teachers and parents can meet
- Arranging fun social events that create opportunities for building relationships with parents and the wider community, which can, at the same time, raise funds for the school e.g. school discos, fetes, Coffee mornings etc
- Consulting parents on school improvement plans
- Ensuring that school improvement plans include proposals to improve parents' involvement in their child's learning e.g. Essential skills, parent workshops, family learning

Giving Advice and Information

Examples of how and when we can provide support and advice are;

- At key transition stages such as starting nursery, mid-year admissions, starting primary or secondary school
- When additional support needs including additional learning needs (ALN) have been identified
- When parents/carers and/or school have attendance concerns
- If a referral is made and support and advice from external agencies is required;

Other Types of Community Engagement.

- Parenting courses: professional workshops, training opportunities, family learning
- Communicating: open evenings, reports on academic progress, parents'/carers' consultation meetings and other verbal communication with parents/carers about their child.
- Volunteering: through supporting school events etc
- Decision Making: through attendance at school meetings, participation in addressing concerns, responding to questionnaires and by helping other parents/carers

- Collaborating with the community: utilising community resources, involvement of community groups in schools, and community/school mentoring programmes.

Removing Barrier

There are a variety of reasons why some parents/carers have little or no contact with school. This can create barriers which stop parents/carers from getting involved or supporting a child's education and learning. Barriers may include; previous personal experience; additional support needs; the isolation of lone parents; shifts (or long) working hours; lack of childcare facilities; language differences.

Cultural, faith, ethnic and lifestyle choices within our communities also need to be considered.

Examples of how we can work together to tackle some of these issues include;

- Having an open-door policy where parents/carers feel comfortable and confident entering the school
- ALNCO Leader who is available to support and signpost
- Being flexible in the timing of events
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers to include pre-school age pupils to attend events
- Accessing translation and interpretation services
- Ensuring information about adult learning opportunities, parenting skills and community involvement is easily accessible;
- Supporting the parents/carers of looked after children to play their part in parental involvement.

Parent Consultation

The school will make every effort to consult parents and carers, both formally and informally, about their views on school life, children's learning and new initiatives e.g. through formal and informal meetings and questionnaires. The school values feedback from parents and carers' and will make every effort to act on parents and carers views. Periodically, the school will seek the views of parents and carers in a survey or questionnaire.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy reflects the school's commitment to work in partnership with parents to promote their involvement in supporting their child's learning.

The ultimate success is that children are both happy at school and achieving their full potential. Ways in which we can evaluate the effectiveness of our partnership with parents/carers include:

- Attendance at parents evenings/ consultations/ open days
- Feedback from parent surveys
- ESTYN on-line parent forum (Parent View)
- Attendance at school events and performances, e.g. sports day
- Sign up for parent courses
- Building skills amongst the community.

When schools, families and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more.

Anne Henderson and Karen Mapp