



GADE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY

September 2025

'The more parents are engaged in education of their children, the more likely their children are to succeed in the education system'. (Goodhall and Vorhaus 2010)

At Gade Valley, the essence of our curriculum is to prepare our pupils for the future by supporting them in building strong foundations, making learning purposeful, developing life skills, focusing on contextual issues and most importantly - to inspire an understanding of the importance and love of learning.

Parents/carers have a powerful influence that extends beyond their child's formal learning to shaping their child's character, their mind-set and levels of attainment. At Gade Valley, we believe strong, positive home-school links can lead to improvements in learning behaviours and attendance. This can help to develop more confident, helpful, attentive, motivated and perseverant learners - key attributes which are foundational to the Gade Valley experience and which we strive to develop in all our pupils. Creating and sustaining effective relationships with every parent/carer is a key priority. We particularly endeavour to successfully engage those parents/carers who are hard to reach, in order to support a more active and personal level of participation in their child's learning.

We engage effectively with parents/carers through the following six key activities:

- Building relationships
- Communicating effectively
- Reporting progress regularly
- Helping parents to support their child's learning
- Involving parents in decision-making
- Extending links beyond the school day

1. Building Relationships

At Gade Valley, we invest time in building open and trusting relationships with the families of every pupil and we work closely with parents/carers. The work begins prior to their child starting with us in either Nursery or Reception and continues throughout their time with us.

This includes:

- Writing to all parents/carers immediately following them receiving notification of a place in either Nursery or Reception. Children will receive a welcome booklet which will provide them with an idea of what their classroom and teaching staff are like. This will include a message from the Headteacher. We are welcoming them into the Gade Valley community!
- Arranging pre-school visits for pupils joining us in the Reception class to develop relationships and help with a smooth transition.
- Inviting parents/carers to a welcome meeting for all new Nursery and Reception pupils.
- Visiting the home of each child during the summer term of all Nursery and Reception children starting in September, so as to forge links and build the foundations of a lasting relationship with our pupils' families. This meeting provides an opportunity for parents/carers to share information about their child's background, talents, culture and needs with a member of the staff and for the school expectations to be made explicit to them. As well as allowing the pupils to begin to develop a relationship with staff in a familiar environment. If it is not possible to visit the home, a meeting in or school or video call can be offered.
- Organising Gade Valley School Association (GVSA) social events and activities to promote the relationship between the school and parents/carers.
- Having clear Home-School Principles in which the responsibilities of parents/carers, staff and pupils are made evident.
- Communication with the local children's centre and pre-school to best support families.
- Honouring the differing backgrounds, abilities, views and outlooks of the school community through, for example, displays and the wider school environment.
- Ensuring that staff are approachable and communicative: they can be contactable in person or by e-mail/phone.

2. Communicating Effectively

At Gade Valley, we engage with parents/carers through regular, personalised communication and by paying careful attention to the quality and tone of any written and verbal communication by school staff.

This includes:

- Ensuring that the reception area and all other public areas at Gade Valley are welcoming with an attractive physical environment and clear welcoming signage.
- Expecting front office staff to deal with visitors as a priority and to be friendly, courteous, open-minded and approachable.
- Ensuring that home-school communication methods engage all parents by the use of a range of media and forms. For instance, texts, emails, telephone calls and letters.
- Using the Gade Valley website to communicate with parents/carers about school news and events, school policies, and suggesting practical ways in which parents/carers can support their child's learning.
- Ensuring that the language used by the school, in both verbal and written communication, is clear and accessible in order to genuinely engage parents. This includes communicating in plain English and avoiding the use of educational jargon.
- Returning telephone calls and emails promptly, within 48 hours on school days.
- Communicating regularly with parents/carers and keeping them informed of school news and events through the Gade Valley newsletter and class curriculum letters.
- Using class planners and reading records for day-to-day home-school, school-home communication.

3. Reporting Progress Regularly

At Gade Valley, we communicate regularly with parents/carers about their child's progress, current levels of attainment, behaviour for learning and attendance.

This includes:

- Sending home termly attainment/progress/attendance reports for each pupil. Parents/carers will receive a report after each parent/teacher consultation and an end of year report.
- Holding parent/carer consultation meetings to discuss students' progress. We publicise them well in advance to ensure that all parents are able to attend.
- Communicating with parents/carers when learning is progressing well by sending messages home via e-mail or text message.

- Contacting parents/carers immediately when there is a cause for concern by making telephone calls, sending emails or letters home, and inviting them to meet with relevant staff and maintaining regular contact until there is a resolution.
- Monitoring attendance at parent consultation meetings and contacting parents/carers who fail to attend (or are unable to) to make alternative arrangements.

4. Helping Parents to Support Their Child's Learning

At Gade Valley, we provide information and guidance to parents/carers to familiarise them with our curriculum, help them to understand the learning process and understand how they can most effectively support their child's learning.

This includes:

- Curriculum letters which explain what the children will be learning each half-term.
- Curriculum overviews, subject blogs and class pages on our website.
- Holding workshops and distributing written guides for parents/carers on key aspects of their child's learning, such as how to support with their phonics.
- Expressing clear guidance to parents/carers about how they can most effectively support their child's independent learning.
- Encouraging families to have the appropriate home conditions in place to support their child's home learning.
- Holding two learning celebration evenings during the academic year.
- Supporting parents with attendance issues.
- Training staff in how to support parents/carers to support their child's learning.

5. Involving Parents/Carers in Decision-making

At Gade Valley, we believe that involving parents/carers as active partners provides benefits for the whole school community. We actively seek the views of parents/carers and we welcome and respond to feedback.

This includes:

- Involving parents/carers with the introduction of certain new policies and initiatives such as the positive behaviour policy, CHAMP or PSHCE Policy (including Relationships, Health and Conception Education).
- Involving parents/carers in governance and ensuring that there is a parent governor on the Governing Body and that there are effective channels of feedback.

- Consulting parents/carers on a wide range of issues and using a range of survey methods, including online surveys, questionnaires, and focus groups.
- Feeding back on the outcomes of any parental consultations via the school website and newsletter.

6. **Extending Links Beyond the School Day**

At Gade Valley, we are keen for the school's facilities and resources to be fully utilised by our pupils' families and members of our local community outside of school hours.

This includes:

- Enlisting the support of parents/carers for school events such as cultural events, performances, sports events and fixtures and encouraging their attendance.
- Making parents/carers aware of support services such as Gade Family Support.
- Organising social events for families through the GVSA.
- Providing extra opportunities for tuition for specific pupils, groups of pupils or whole classes where appropriate.
- Providing extra-curricular activities and clubs.