

St. Winefride's Catholic Primary School

Home/School Partnership Policy

Mission Statement

Welcome to St Winefride's where we come together to learn, laugh, listen, live and love in the presence of Jesus.

At our school, we believe that everyone is valued as a unique gift from God.

We work together to create an engaging learning environment, where all children are challenged to achieve their full potential.

At St.Winefride's, we recognise the vital importance of establishing a working partnership between parents and staff on behalf of the children. The school community is relatively small and we aim to instil confidence and foster co-operation to create a family atmosphere.

The school has an "open door" policy, which means parents are able to see the Head teacher and staff before and after school; on occasion this may have to be by appointment. Appointments have to be made if a meeting is required during the school day. Opportunities for formal and informal visits are provided throughout the year. Through our induction policy, we establish contact and form relationships with parents and their children before they start school. Our aim is to be welcoming and approachable, thereby putting everyone at ease.

Starting School

Initial Contact - Prospective parents and their children are invited to visit the school during a working day to meet the Head teacher and staff, and to be taken on a conducted tour. Parents are given a prospectus and directed to the school website for other documentation and information.

Pre-school Parents' Meeting – This meeting is held in the Summer Term, prior to the child's entry to school. At the meeting parents are introduced to the Head teacher, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) teachers and teaching assistants. A member of the Governing Body and representatives of the Parents' Association Committee are usually also present. Each of the above will speak to parents, outlining their role. The teaching staff will outline the first few weeks of term and the teaching approaches adopted in the reception class. There is also a display of work, materials used and photographs to help inform parents.

Parents are given a welcome pack, which contains useful information. The Parents' Association provides the new starters with a complimentary school bag, school tie and water bottle. They also serve refreshments to make the evening a social occasion, and links are forged between new parents and long established parents. This is an opportunity for parents to meet staff informally and ask any questions.

Pre-School Visits - All new starters are invited to two play afternoons, where they meet their future teacher/s, teaching assistant/s and class mates, and familiarise themselves with the reception classroom. They are also invited to attend any forthcoming events e.g. Sports days.

Home/School Partnership Agreement - Before the children start school, the parents and the Head teacher on behalf of the staff, sign an agreement to mutually support each other in the education of the children. (See Appendix 1)

Communications with Parents

Meet the Teacher Evening

During July, prior to the children moving to the next class, a 'Meet the Teacher Evening' is held for the parents and carers to meet their child's classteacher for the following academic year. During the meeting, the teacher will outline work that will be covered, educational visits planned, class rules, homework etc and opportunity is also given for parents to ask questions. This is a very informal meeting and the teacher will speak to parents as a group; it is not an individual meeting.

Progress Reports

There are two formal occasions when parents meet staff by appointment, and the teachers speak directly to individual parents.

Autumn Term Parents' Evenings – at this formal meeting any initial concerns are raised, previous year's progress discussed and yearly/termly targets agreed.

Spring Term Parents' Evenings – this is time for a half yearly verbal progress report and, if appropriate, pointers given to parents on how their child can improve.

In the summer term:

- All parents/carers receive a statutory end of year report, together with an indication of how their children is achieving in line with national expectations.
- Year 2 children receive their end of KS1 SATs (teacher assessment) results.
- Year 6 children receive their end of KS2 SATs results.
- EYFS children receive a report outlining end of EYFS achievements.

Information each term, stating topics to be covered in Literacy, Mathematics, Religious Education and the General Theme embracing the humanities, is displayed on the school website. This is so that the parents can help and support work done in the school.

Homework and Parental Co-operation

Parents are asked to sign their child's homework book and reading diary. Notes can be written in these books about areas to concentrate on, concerns about standards of work etc. Parents' views on homework were sought in preparation for reviewing the school's Homework Policy.

Workshops for Parents

Workshops are held, when appropriate, to inform and support parents. Such workshops held over the past few years include SATs preparation for Year 6 children and parents, information evenings for year 4 and year 5 children taking part in residential visits to Beeston and Conway Outdoor Education centres, 'Helping your Child to Read', Induction for Reception children, Play Workshops for new parents and sacramental preparation for year 3 parents, 'Helping your child in Numeracy' and E Safety.

eNewsletters/leaflets

Regular eNewsletters are sent to parents, outlining events, giving key information, updating parents on new aspects and enlisting their support through Parents Mail. Attached to this newsletter is a diary of forthcoming events in order to plan possible time off work for Christmas productions, sports days etc. Other letters are sent out when appropriate giving details of educational visits and events, changes in staffing, dates etc.

Church/ Home/ School

Sacramental Preparation

Parents of children receiving the sacraments of First Forgiveness and Holy Communion are invited to take part in a parental preparation programme. These discussion groups take place in the Parish Hall; they are informative and help to create relationships between parents of that year group.

Parent Helpers

Parents and grandparents come into school and work, supervised by the teacher, in the classrooms. The volunteers help in numerous ways e.g. listening to children reading, sewing and baking with groups of children and working in the libraries etc.

Educational visits

Each term's work generally includes an educational visit to, for example a museum, an art gallery, a theatre, a historic site etc. Groups of parents readily volunteer to accompany the classes on these excursions.

St. Winefride's Parents' Teachers and Friends Association

St. Winefride's has a very active Parents' Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA). This committed group of parents raises substantial sums of money to support and enhance their children's education. Besides fund raising, one of their main aims is to foster friendship and communication amongst parents and children. They do this by holding social functions and family events e.g. the annual barbecue, Quiz Night etc. where the emphasis is on socialising rather than profit.

The PTFA also offers practical support at school events such as providing refreshments at the Book Fair etc.