

Downs Way School Partnership Policy

At Downs Way School we aim to work together with parents, individuals, groups and external organisations in the community to promote personal, social and health development for all members of the school.

We will do this through:-

- Having an open door policy, where the head teacher and teachers are available to see parents/guardians, pupils and governors at any time. We encourage full co-operation and dialogue between all members of the school and local community.
- Opportunities for parents/guardians, governors, community partners and external organisations to participate in different aspects of the school and school life, both social and educational.
- Making use of the facilities and services of a range of external agencies within the local community in a planned and systematic way to enrich the lives of the members of the school community.
- Involving parents and external agencies in the planning, development and delivery of the Healthy Schools programme to promote good health.
- Building healthy alliances with other organisations in the locality and support other agencies where we can.

Aim:- To work together with parents, individuals, groups and external organisations in the community to promote personal, social and health development for all members of the school community.

In Downs Way School we encourage co-operation and communication between parents/guardians, pupils, teachers, governors and the local community.

- We have an open door policy, where the Headteacher and teachers are available to see parents, pupils and governors at any time.
- Curriculum information is sent to parents for each year group via the newsletter at the beginning of each term.
- A monthly newsletter contains information about past events and future activities and dates.
- A home/school agreement is sent home at the beginning of a family's involvement with Downs Way.
- Information evenings for new and existing parents take place and coffee mornings introduce new parents to the school
- Tea time afternoons help new parents decide if Downs Way is for them and help them meet new parents and help the children feel 'at home' in our school.
- There is a Parents Information Area where parents can access information and policy documents.

- Parents and friends of the school are positively encouraged to participate in the life of the school and many give their time to helping in school in all areas of the curriculum. They are welcomed into the staff room for coffee alongside teaching and support staff.
- There are close ties with Governors who have links to the subject leaders and school council members.
- Individuals may access information on the school website and send comments directly to the Headteacher.

Parents/guardians, governors, community partners and external organisations are invited to participate in aspects of the school and school life.

- There is an active Parent/Staff association, the Friends of Downs Way, who raise funds for the school and organise many activities. These involve parents, pupils, staff, governors and friends in the community. For example; Christmas Fayre, Family Disco, the Oxted Carnival. They also provide help and refreshments at school functions.
- We have parent consultations in the autumn and spring terms and send written reports home in the summer term. The children attend the spring term consultation with their parents. These are supported by regular contact with parents every day in school.
- We hold Open Evenings where pupils, parents, friends and relatives can explore the classrooms.
- There are occasional information evenings for parents with guest speakers.
- Parents help with school outings and come to class assemblies and celebrations at Harvest, Christmas and spring and for the Year 2 Leavers.

The school makes use of the facilities and services of a range of external agencies within the local community in a planned and systematic way.

- There are individual lists kept by the teachers and the Headteacher of outside agencies/speakers used within school that we could invite again.
- Visitors and speakers are planned in to support the curriculum and they are followed up with further activities in the classroom.
- We have used the Life Bus, the Fire Service, Police, Dentist, School Nurse; Parents with special skills, Church Leaders, Puppeteers, PHSE based actors, shows and Charity Workers, amongst others.
- We use outside sports agencies to promote healthy options in after school activities. We also host a 'wake-up' club before school and adult keep fit.

The school consults with and involves parents and external agencies in the planning, development and delivery of the Healthy Schools programme to promote good health.

- While we have been developing the delivery of the Healthy School programme to promote good health, we have used outside specialists such as the Fire service, School Nurse, County Dietician, Dentist and Sports specialist. They have been invited into school to share their skills with pupils and members of the school community.
- We have involved parents and staff with specialist skills to support the programme.

The school builds healthy alliances with other organisations.

- We support various charities through the year aiming to encourage pupils to develop an awareness and sensitivity to the needs of others and to be aware of local and global issues. We do this through mufti days, selling daffodils or poppies, sponsored events.
- We make donations of food at Harvest time and collect for children's charities at Christmas.
- We donate our spare party food to the Salvation Army to help local families in need at Christmas time.
- We support 'Love in a Box' at Christmas.
- We support Matthew's Friends - a local charity for children with intractable epilepsy
- We are taking part in the National Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.

Reviewed Summer Term 2013
Review Summer Term 2016