

Title: PARENT PARTNERSHIP POLICY	Issue Date: April/Sept 2016
School: Al Ain Juniors	Next Revision Date:
Reference No.: AJS-GDC-001	Version No.: 6

PARENT PARTNERSHIP POLICY

Parent Partnership Statement

Al Ain Juniors School aims to establish a mutually supportive and respectful relationship with all of its parents where trust and respect is the heart of its entire doings. It aims to keep parents informed and involved in a positive way, encourage them to be realistic with regards to expectations in their child's education, working in partnership together in order to help every pupil achieve their full potential.

Core Purpose

Al Ain Juniors School values the unique insight that parents can provide into their children's learning and acknowledges that learning begins and continues in the home environment. By working in close partnership with parents, it seeks to nurture in the children the development of trust, respect, confidence, independence, self-esteem and the desire to learn. This can be achieved by talking and working together.

Al Ain Juniors School aims:

- To enhance and widen all our children's education in order to achieve the highest standards of care and academic achievement, through closer partnerships of parents, home, school and the community.
- To ensure that all staff, governors and parents/carers are able to support the pupils' development effectively at all stages of their school life at Al Ain Juniors School.
- To communicate fully with parents to ensure that we all (parents, children, staff) have the same purpose in mind – the needs, development and progress of the children.
- To operate an Open Door Policy that encourages the fullest possible two-way communication between staff and parents.
- To ensure that Al Ain Juniors School provides a culturally appropriate environment inclusive for all parents and their children, regardless of need, background or culture, where all are fully involved in school life and the school community.
- Foster and promote a two way partnership based on mutual respect between parents, children and all those working within our school.
- Create opportunities for parents to come into the school on a regular basis, e.g. information and reporting evenings, health promotion events, school assemblies, open days, school concerts and shows.
- Create clear and positive communication links with parents, where they know they can approach the school with a problem and it will be positively and promptly acted upon.

Introduction

Al Ain Juniors School recognizes that parents are the most important influence in a child's life and that school is most effective when there is partnership between parents, children and school. Both home and school want the best for the children in our care. Parents want them to have the best opportunities so that they can become successful and happy members of the community. School wants to provide pupils with the environment and support they need to achieve all their ambitions.

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Effective partnership between home and school is the key to these aspirations. Our school aims to listen to and communicate with parents more effectively to build the trust and understanding needed for pupils to achieve their best. We need to be a resource for the community it serves.

Ways in which effective partnerships can support pupils:

Being a welcoming and friendly school for parents and visitors

- School staff responds swiftly and efficiently to the needs of all callers and visitors.
- Make the school a safe and vibrant environment.
- Provides clear signs around the school to help parents/visitors.
- Pupil’s work and photos of family events are displayed.
- Parents are asked about the reception they receive. Their responses are read, analyzed, followed up, acted upon and reviewed.
- Promote lifelong learning opportunities and support for parents.

The school seeks to ensure all groups of parents connected with the school are aware of training and enrichment opportunities available in the school and in the community, by:

- Informing parents about adult learning courses.
- Delivering Family Learning courses for example ‘Keeping Up with your Child’
- Providing information and advice workshops, for example written calculations in Math, to enable parents to support their children’s learning.
- Offering leaflets and guidance on specific areas of the curriculum, e.g., reading activity at home to support children’s reading abilities
- Developing opportunities for parents of children with special educational needs to meet to share experiences and learn more about available support.

Teaching Assistant Roles:

- Respond to the parental needs whenever is possible.
- Community diversity is celebrated and reflected both in the work done in the classroom and through a range of social and enrichment events.
- Parents are encouraged to take part in learning outside the school day, and participation in sports, arts and other interests.
- Providing welcoming and supportive induction for all groups of new parents.
- Provide opportunities for all prospective parents to find out about the school
- Provide opportunities for parents to discuss all transitional decisions
- To ensure information is produced and distributed appropriately, taking account of parental needs and views.
- Provide high quality, user-friendly information to parents.
- Provide regular and up-to-date information service through the newsletter and school website about school work, development, curriculum and events reflected in the school calendar.
- Provide parents with advance notice of all school events and dates, with updates when appropriate.



AJ GROUP OF SCHOOLS

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- Actively involves parents in the celebration of pupils' success
- Promote systems of active communication between home and school.
- Curriculum information is provided each term and on the web site for parents. Information includes suggestions about how parents can support their child's learning.
- Aims for high parental involvement at parents' evenings.
- Ensures that all relevant school policies are effective and easy to read by parents
- Ensures that relevant school policies are available to parents through website with assurance that appropriate procedures are clear.
- Regular review of the the Home-School Agreement to take account of parental views, and communicating it regularly and clearly.
- Up-to-date and accessible policies on:

Achievement (including Rewards & Sanctions)

Admissions
Anti-Bullying
Attendance
Child Protection
Homework
Parent Partnership

- Involves parents in formulating and evaluating appropriate policies e.g., anti bullying policy.
- Provides support for all parents as their child leaves school.
- Provides support and resources to help parents make informed decisions about choices and transitions to other schools.
- Provides impartial guidance on transition to parents and pupils.

Parents are welcome to the school at mutually convenient times to learn more about their children's progress and to celebrate their successes. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year (both formal and informal) to meet together and get to know each other. Meetings are arranged at a variety of different times to enable as many parents as possible to attend.

Formal

- Induction events for new parents (including joint parent/child play sessions, meet the teacher).
- Open Afternoon for new and existing parents to see the school at work.
- 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in September to provide parents with contact points for the coming year, advice on the curriculum and information about the year ahead.
- Parents' night in November and March/April to provide parents with up-to-date information on their children's progress and set targets.
- Meetings to discuss; evaluate and update Individual Education Plans for children with special educational needs.

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Informal

These include:

- A variety of Year 6 leavers' assemblies.
- Educational visits
- Support from parents for educational workshops for example Divali and Greek Day and Eids etc.

Communication

Continuous updating and improving the communication systems is an effective method being practiced in the school. Currently, parents receive regular updates from the school including:

Regular newsletters and information letters

- Curriculum letters termly
- Termly progress cards.
- Notice boards in the school reception and FOB notice boards in the playgrounds
- Text messaging service
- Regularly updated website
- Home School Agreement
- Email distribution of letters and newsletters

Home/School Partnership

The school firmly believes that a strong home/school partnership is the key to children's emotional development, progress and growth as part of the community. Thus, parents are encouraged to support their children's learning at home in a variety of ways, including:

- Jointly signing the Home/School agreement.
- Reading with children as often as possible.
- Encouraging children to complete and return promptly any homework they have been given.
- Checking and signing their Homework Diary on a regular basis and as a means of contacting teachers.

Parental Feedback

The school is open for comments and feedback from parents or visitors about any aspect of the work at school. Equally, any suggestions that will help the school further develop its partnership with parents are also welcome. Parents are encouraged to write to directly school through various platforms – electronic mails, suggestion box, or personal meeting with the Head Teacher. The school regularly seeks parental views on a range of topics affecting pupils' education through questionnaires, surveys and verbal discussion. Feedback is valued, and responses are seriously considered and actioned where appropriate and in pupils' best interests.

The school is highly committed to the highest possible level of Partnership and is always open to new suggestions on how we can improve.