

Ulva Primary School

Parental Engagement and Home Family Learning Strategy

Introduction

Our vision, set out in our '*Our Children, Their Future*' is that we want Argyll & Bute to be the best place to grow up. We want young people and families to remain in this area, and be attracted to live here. A key part of that vision is to strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement.

We recognise that most of a child's development takes place outwith our schools and early years' establishments and therefore the role of families and carers is critical to ensuring our children and young people succeed. We want to support families to engage meaningfully in their child's education.

What is Parental Engagement?

- Parents/carers, families and professional working together to support children's learning.
- Opportunities for parents/carers, families to be part of their children's learning.

Ulva Primary School values the important part that parents play in their children's education and sees partnership with parents/carers as an effective way of enhancing children's achievements and promoting better school ethos and communication.

The School Improvement Plan, showing links to parental engagement, can be found on our website: <http://www.ulva.argyll-bute.sch.uk/>

Why is Parental Engagement important?

Did you know that...

Around 80% of the difference in how well children do at school depends on what happens outside the school gates (Rasbash et al, 2010; Save the Children, 2013).

Partnership

We work in partnership with parents in the following ways;

- We have a Primary 1 induction programme for new entrants.
- Parents and other family members are encouraged to come into school to share their knowledge and expertise with the pupils e.g. make Christmas and Hallowe'en crafts, polytunnel work, cooking, playground working party, World Book Day.
- Supporting educational visits / trips.
- Parents involved in school shows – making costumes, props, supervision of children and even acting!
- Fundraising events.
- We hold regular school café's allowing the local community to meet together.

- Individual support plans are discussed and reviewed regularly with parents and carers.
- We hold open sessions, inviting parents to come in and join the pupils in their learning.
- Wider-curricular activities e.g. beach cleans, maintenance of garden areas.

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks must be completed. Please discuss this with Susie Carmichael.

Communication

We have an open door policy and you are welcome to contact Head Teacher, Susie Carmichael at any time regarding your child's education.

We communicate with our parents through:

- Our digital recording, using the Seesaw app, offering the opportunity for parents and carers to have a clear overview of pupil's individual reflections on their learning and we encourage feedback comments at any time.
- 'The week ahead' emails letting parents know of events coming up.
- A home / school diary system which provides a two way communication throughout the year.
- A very active school blog <https://ulvaschoolprimary.wordpress.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ulvaps/>
- Termly newsletters provide an overview for the term ahead, including dates for the diary.
- Class newsletters provide information about the teaching and learning planned for the pupils.
- Invitations to share comments regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year.
- Invitations are given to parents for special assemblies i.e. Christmas and June.
- We have consultation meetings for parents throughout the year. We offer lifts and can accommodate a variety of times for parental meetings.

Learning at Home

We have worked with parents to decide how we can support learning at home.

- Pupils from Primary 1 – Primary 7 are provided with a range of home learning activities to support their school learning.
- WOW slips are shared from home to school to celebrate the pupils' extra-curricular achievements.
- Home-learning grids are used for increased parental involvement.
- Our Accelerated Reader Programme allows parents and carers to view the books their child has read and how they have performed in their assessments.

Parent Council

At Ulva Primary School, the Parent Council plays a vital role in supporting the school through:

- Regular parent council meetings – we offer transport to those who require.
- We seek views of the Parent Council on the development of the school improvement plans and significant school policy development.
- Parent Councils are part of the recruitment of senior staff.
- Supporting the funding of trips and resources for the pupils.
- The Parent Council also support the school through the regular café's that are enjoyed by the local community.

You can find out more about your Parent Council by contacting the school.

Complaints

Parents know that we have an open door policy. Even if Susie Carmichael, Head Teacher, is at the partner school she can be contacted at any time. As a small school there is a lot of direct contact with parents on a regular basis and most issues can be addressed quickly.

If any parent is not satisfied with the way their complaint has been responded to, parents can make a formal complaint in terms of the Argyll & Bute Council complaints procedure which can be accessed at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/do-it-online/comments-and-complaints>.