



## HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT (SECONDARY)



**Document Management:**

Date Policy Approved: 27 April 2015

Date Amended:

Next Review Date: April 2018

Version: 1

Approving Body: Curriculum Committee

## Introduction

A home-school agreement is a statement explaining:

- the school's aims and values;
- the school's responsibilities towards its students who are of compulsory school age;
- the responsibility of each student's parents/carers; and
- what the school expects of its students.

In line with sections 110 and 111 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 the governing bodies of all academies must publish a home-school agreement and associated parental declaration. The model agreement adopted by the Trust is attached at **Appendix 1**.

## Requirements

The governing body must take reasonable steps to ensure that all registered parents/carers of students of compulsory school age sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the agreement. Schools are not required to seek the signature of a parent/carer where they consider that there are special circumstances relating to the parent/carer or student in question that would make it inappropriate to do so.

Schools must not:

- invite a parent/carer or child to sign the parental declaration before the child has been admitted to the school;
- make the signing of the parental declaration a condition of the child's admission to the school; or
- base a decision about admitting a child to the school on assumptions about whether his or her parents/carers are or are not likely to sign the parental declaration.

A home-school agreement must not include any terms or conditions which would be unlawful or unreasonable, such as requiring parents/carers to make a financial contribution to the school, or refusing to waive any requirement on school uniform in cases where the parent/carer and child cannot comply for religious reasons. Breaches of the terms of the agreement will not be actionable through the courts. Furthermore, a child must not be excluded from school, or face punishment, as a result of a parent's failure to sign the agreement or abide by their declaration. Parents/carers should not face any sanction for either not signing the home-school agreement or failing to abide by its requirements. Schools may also invite any student, who they consider to have a sufficient understanding of the home-school agreement as it relates to them, to sign the agreement as an indication that they acknowledge and accept the school's expectations of its students. Schools should take reasonable steps to ensure that all 'parents' both within and outside the child's home, giving equal weight to both mothers and fathers, are given the opportunity to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-school agreement, and review the content of the agreement regularly during the time their child is at school. Where parents/carers have separated it is important that, where possible, both mothers and fathers are given the opportunity to sign a copy of the agreement's parental declaration.



**Student's responsibilities**

I will try to:

- attend school regularly
- arrive on time
- attend all lessons punctually
- be friendly, co-operative and thoughtful
- remember books and necessary equipment
- focus on making progress
- be involved fully in activities
- always try to do my best
- always complete and hand in homework on time
- always wear school uniform

Signature (Student): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents' responsibilities**

We acknowledge that we, as parents/carers, are the primary educators of our children and have an irreplaceable role to play in supporting our children's learning at school.

Therefore I/we will:

- work with the school in supporting the education of my child,
- see that my child attends school regularly, on time, suitably equipped and dressed in full school uniform.
- support the vision and values of the school community.
- work in co-operation with staff to resolve issues and problems that may arise and let the school know of any issues that might affect my child's work, behaviour or attendance.
- encourage my child to be enthusiastic about learning, provide opportunities for home learning and support homework from school.
- support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour and dress code, which are intended to promote the highest standards of behaviour and discipline.
- encourage my child to show kindness and consideration to others and to always behave appropriately, when in school uniform, on their way to, and from, school.
- participate in whatever way possible in school events.
- treat staff and students with courtesy and respect.

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child: Mother, Father, Carer (delete as applicable)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The School's responsibilities**

We acknowledge our responsibility to support parents/carers in developing each child to their full potential.

Therefore we will:

- provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for your child and a secure, stimulating and caring environment in which to learn.
- ensure that your child is valued for who he or she is and helped to make good progress in their spiritual, moral, social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.
- do our best to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which is well taught and relevant to their needs and their future as individuals and as citizens,
- Work in co-operation with parents/carers to resolve issues and problems that may arise.
- provide you with regular information about your child's progress and with opportunities, via open evenings, to meet with staff to discuss concerns or by appointment at other times.
- send home an annual report on your child's progress.
- keep you well informed about school policies and activities through regular letters and newsletters.
- set, mark and monitor homework suitable to your child's needs,
- contact you if there is a problem with your child's attendance, punctuality or behaviour in class or in the playground.
- inform you of any concerns regarding your child's work or health,
- challenge your child to strive for personal excellence in all he or she does or is asked to do.
- encourage success and recognise effort and achievement in all areas of student life.
- go beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum and meet, wherever possible, the individual needs of the child.
- try to develop clear lines of communication between home and school and treat parents/carers and students with courtesy and respect.
- work towards our vision and uphold our values

Signed (Class teacher): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

Our schools will be places of excellence – providing service and witness to children, their families and the wider Catholic community, adding value as a family of schools and enriching the learning and experience of all our young people so they may achieve their full potential.

## **OUR VALUES**

The following values underpin everything the Trust and our Schools will do:

### **BEING Just and Responsible**

We seek to act justly, fairly and responsibly in all our relationships to ensure 'The Common Good' is upheld.

### **PROMOTING Spiritual and Human Development**

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Christ gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

### **ACHIEVING Quality in Teaching and Learning**

We believe everyone should gain dignity and self-worth through quality teaching and learning which allow all in our school community to excel.

### **SHOWING Respect for Every Person**

We believe that all are created in the image of God and therefore we will respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person, promoting equality and celebrating diversity.

### **CREATING Community**

We believe our schools to be faith communities where Gospel values of truth, honesty, forgiveness and reconciliation are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

### **COMMUNICATING**

We value the views and opinions of the communities whom we serve and will actively engage and respond.