



*“Nothing but the best will do”*

# CASTLEMILK HIGH SCHOOL



## Parental Engagement Policy



Our  
App



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## **Parental Engagement Policy**

### **Why is Parental Involvement important?**

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. Parents who take on a supportive role in their child's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Parents are the biggest influence on their children's development and parental involvement and aspirations shape children's and young people's achievements.

The more engaged parents/carers are in the education of their children, the more likely their children are to succeed in the education system. At Castlemilk High School our aim is to build positive relationships with parents and work actively together to achieve the best possible outcome for our young people.

### **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council are actively involved in whole school decisions including:

- School Improvement Planning
- Pupil Equity Fund Spend
- Vision, values, aims
- Rights Respecting School
- Results
- Skills Strategy
- Learning and Teaching Strategy
- Parental Engagement Strategy
- Uniform
- Anti-Bullying
- Wider Achievement
- Parental Improvement Team
- Communication

They also support the school with all parental engagement evenings and organise a number of events each year in particular the annual Race Night to raise school funds.

### **Opportunities**

Throughout the year we have a number of opportunities for parents and carers to visit the school, meet teachers and be involved with their child's learning. These include:

- Parents' Evenings
- Parental Information Evenings
- Parental Engagement Evenings – Growth Mindset, Learning Together Evening, Study Skills Evening
- P6/7 Parental Open Evening
- Family Fun Day including a family Football Tournament

## **Communication**

We have worked hard to ensure an effective communication system is in place at Castlemilk High School. Throughout the year we have increased communication through:

- Castlemilk High School App
- Parents' Evening Online System
- Show My Homework
- Social Media – Twitter and Facebook
- School Website
- Regular Parental Letters
- Newsletters
- Group Calls

## **Family Learning**

To increase family learning we have offered a number of initiatives including:

- Family Grub Club
- Clothing Grant application support
- Family Fun Day
- Show My Homework
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing Evening
- Course Choice meetings with Pastoral care

We have a number of Parental Engagement strategies which enables parents to support the effectively delivery of the curriculum. These include:

- Driving lessons to S6 pupils as part of their Higher Personal Development Course
- Opportunities for our senior pupils to work with a local football team to gain coaching badges
- Parents leading football sessions as part of Wider Achievement

These strong links with parents/carers allow us to provide pupils with opportunities in school and in the community.

## **Home-School Links**

To increase the support we provide our parents/carers and to ensure strong home –school links we have two home-link workers employed within the school. This partnership ensures better outcomes for our learners as they work hard to understand individual family's needs to ensure appropriate timely interventions. All staff are aware of the factors which cause poverty within the community and our home-link workers continuously provide strong support to families. Targeted support is offered to families who have been identified as having additional needs and we ensure that they are at the centre of this planning, as active participants in their development. Families benefit from our strong collaboration with colleagues from other sectors including Castlemilk Youth Complex which supports and builds trust.

### **Open Door Policy**

To reduce potential barriers to family engagement we exercise an open doors policy for all families. Our parents and carers have commented on the welcoming and friendly ethos when entering the school and how they have been supported whatever their needs.

### **Parental Engagement Improvement Team**

We have a strong team of staff from various departments and levels who are actively involved in our Parental Engagement Improvement Team. The team meet throughout the year to discuss and take forward actions from our improvement plan. The team is led by our Parental Engagement Development Officer. The team also include our chair of the parent council and our home-school link worker.

### **Parental Views**

We as a school are constantly striving to gain parental views and feedback at every opportunity. This is done in an informal basis every day during parental meetings, at the school gates, in the car park and through parental phone calls. We also gather more formal data from parent questionnaires at parents evenings, information evenings and through the parent council. We have a number of departments and strategies in place to ensure parental views are gathered and acted upon throughout the year. Some of these include:

- Home-school link partnerships
- Chair of the parent council
- Inclusion department
- The School App