

ALDERMAN RICHARD HALLAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent and Carer Voice Policy



Parent and Carer Voice Policy

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Aims

The term ‘parent and carer voice’ refers to ways of listening to the views of parents and carers and / or involving them in decision making.

At Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School, we believe that parents and carers, as well as pupils, should be involved in open communication with the school to share their opinions and thoughts about the school. We actively seek ways to engage with parents and carers through various methods and encourage their engagement with the school.

We believe that it is best practice to seek every opportunity to hear the views of our parents and carers about our school: how they perceive it; what they like about it; and, how they would like it to improve. Issues raised by parents and carers will range from the everyday, for example, school site improvement suggestions, to more strategic issues such as developing the curriculum further to best suit the children’s interests. We believe that we should seek, wherever possible, to respond to parent and carer’s views and thereby enable them to play a part in shaping our school’s future development.

Parent and Carer Voice is very important to us as a school as we believe that it strengthens our partnership with parents and carers to support our pupils holistically, for example, mental health and wellbeing, happiness, teaching and learning.

Parent and Carer Voice at A.R.H.

Parents and carers at A.R.H. are encouraged to voice their thoughts, opinions and ideas as soon as their children start school with us. This is done through having open communication with a variety of methods, such as emails, latest news updates, Seesaw, parent and carer

meetings and parent and carer surveys. This is further strengthened in the following key ways:

Open Communication

As a school, we provide information to parent and carers with regular communications such as weekly latest news updates, class and whole school Seesaw announcements, X (formerly Twitter) posts and emails. In addition, each new academic year, we invite parents and carers to a meeting offering information and expectations for the year group their child has joined, encouraging questions. We aim to ensure that our staff are approachable and provide parents and carers with the means to communicate with them, whether by arranging a meeting, calling or sending a (non-urgent) message on Seesaw. Our Senior Leadership Team also have an open-door policy and can be contacted through the school website, by phone or email; they also have morning duties where they are available on school grounds before school.

Parent and Carer Surveys

On a bi-annual basis, we invite parents and carers to complete a survey which covers topics such as safeguarding, anti-bullying, mental health and behaviour within our school. We have continued to send out a regular Parent and Carer Suggestions Survey, which encourages parents and carers to offer their thoughts and suggestions for improving areas of school such as children's mental health and wellbeing, curriculum, communication, concerns as well as parent and carer workshops they would like to see available. These results will inform us on how we can improve our school and will be published to our school website to share our actions from this information.

Responsibilities and Roles

At Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School, we have an appointed Parent, Carer and Pupil Voice Lead who works alongside the member of SLT responsible for Behaviour and Attitudes to ensure that parent, carer and pupil voice is prioritised within the school.

The Parent, Carer and Pupil Voice Lead is responsible for:

- Overseeing Parent and Carer Suggestion Questionnaires, which includes ensuring that the links to the forms are sent out twice each half term, monitoring the responses, sharing the responses with the relevant year group or Senior Leadership Team member and working closely with the curriculum lead to ensure that we are responding and reacting to the results;
- Setting up, monitoring and updating the Parent and Carer section on our school website so the most recent questionnaire data is displayed;
- Organising parent and carer workshops to inform and support parents and carers;
- Strengthening links and communication with parents and carers by keeping them updated with opportunities to engage with school via latest news, new questionnaires etc.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and review takes place on a regular basis in accordance with the School Improvement Plan. Bi-annual surveys are completed by both pupils and parents and carers to assess any areas for development, pupil views are gathered and reviewed half termly which leads to feedback being provided for staff in the curriculum folders and the school council are given opportunities to feed back to class teachers and the leadership team about their successes on a regular basis.

Please read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Parent and Carer Code of Conduct
- Seesaw Policy
- Pupil Voice Policy