

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Guildford  
*The Way, The Truth, The Life*

# Parental Engagement Policy 2024

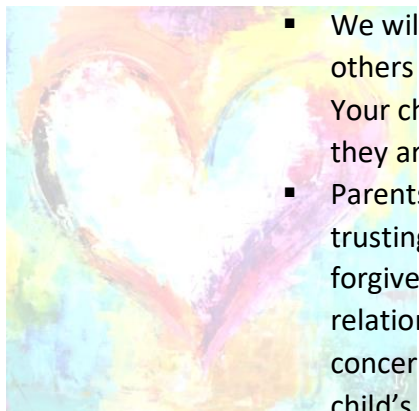


Parents are bound by the most serious obligations to care for and educate their children. Parenting is an immensely important role that directly impacts a child's life chances. The Church recognises parents as the primary educators of their children. You should recognise yourself as your child's first and best teacher and your home must be seen as your child's first and best school – where they learn how to live in love with others. Therefore, our expectations on parents at St Joseph's are very high indeed. Together, we will offer your child a vision of life seen whole.

Being part of our school family means committing to our distinctive approach to education:

- **The Way of Christ – capturing hearts**

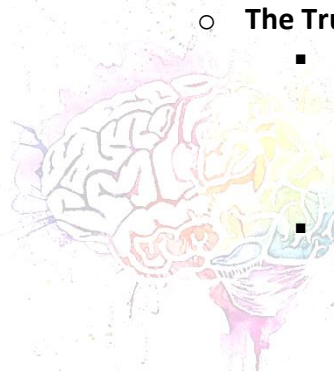
- We will help your child to establish happy, healthy friendships with others in our school and lead them into closer relationship with God. Your child will be treated with dignity and respect so that they know they are safe, loved and valued in our family.
- Parents must support the school by reinforcing our school rules and trusting our judgement when faced with difficult situations. A spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation is required when restoring relationships. Parents are always invited to raise their worries and concerns but should take care to ensure this never undermines the child's faith in the school staff.





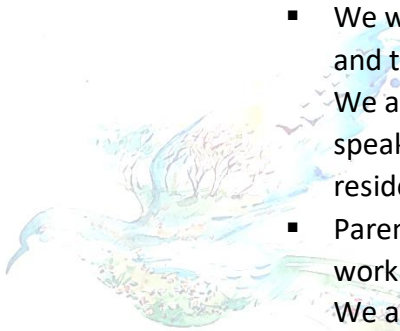
○ **The Truth of Christ – inspiring minds**

- We will offer the children a broad curriculum that fosters their confidence and independence. We will provide all parents with clear and constructive feedback, especially where children need additional support to achieve expected standards.
- Parents must support the school by engaging in regular reading practice with their child and ensuring maths homework tasks are completed. These activities are in the best interests of your child's education and ongoing progress.



○ **The Life of Christ – awakening souls**

- We will provide your child with rich opportunities to discern their gifts and talents and help us to build up God's Kingdom here at St Joseph's. We aim to ensure all children can engage in performance, public speaking, fund raising, special roles & responsibilities, clubs, trips and residential, as well as learning from visitors.
- Parents need to get stuck in! We need volunteers for all manner of work in school: reading, clubs, trips, themed weeks and PFSA events. We are a community and we can only achieve an even better deal for our children if we are prepared to contribute to it. Your school needs you!



By sending your child to St Joseph's, you are acknowledging this vision of education and committing to making it happen through your active engagement as a parent.

○ **Practicalities:**



- Our two school rules (1. We are ready to listen to and follow instructions 2. We are respectful & safe) apply to all members of our school family.
- Parents can communicate with us via email at any time – we will only reply during school hours.
- Parents can arrange appointments for face-to-face meetings (before or after school) but should respect the importance of allowing the staff to offer all the children a warm welcome or farewell at the classroom door.
- Parents must ensure their child's attendance is the best it can possibly be and that they arrive in good time to start the day. Infants at 8:35am and Juniors at 8:45am. The roads are always busy and parking options are always limited – please factor these challenges in.





- Parents must be respectful of collection times: Infants at 3:05pm, Juniors at 3:15pm, Clubs at 4:00pm.
- If your child is “under the weather”, it is better that you send them to school and we can determine if they need to go home during the day. Children should not view school attendance as optional.
- Parents are required to inform the school when their child is absent for all or part of the school day and update us each day thereafter: 01483 888401
- Parents must be attentive to the school’s uniform policy and ensure children are appropriately dressed for school.
- Parents are required to read with their children a minimum of 4 times per week and record this in the Reading Diary. Where a child needs additional support with reading, we would ask parents to do their best to ensure reading practice is rehearsed every day to support their child’s accelerated progress. Just 10 minutes practice each day can make a significant difference.
- Parents’ Evening appointments are available each Autumn & Spring Term – each child receives one appointment and parents are expected to attend. In exceptional circumstances, where parents are unable to meet together for their child’s appointment, an online alternative can be offered to ensure both parents receive the same messages.
- Parents will be informed of the following:
  - Your child is achieving expected standards. Teachers will ask you to continue supporting standard homework tasks and look for enrichment opportunities where possible.
  - Your child is not yet meeting expected standards and is receiving additional support. Teachers will explain what further practice is needed at home to help your child make accelerated progress in core areas of the curriculum.
- Where parents believe their child requires more support in school, we will begin by reviewing how their needs are met at home. We will consider relationships, routines, behaviour management and educational support at home. Once we have learnt about the impact of these practices at home, we will be well-placed to consider what additional support might be beneficial in school.

*We are very excited to work with our committed and hard-working parents to offer all children the best opportunity to respond to God’s call in building his Kingdom at St Joseph’s and beyond. Thank you for all you do!*