



## Endon High School

### Communication with Parents and Pupils Policy

#### Rationale

Endon High School recognises the importance of clear and effective communications with all stakeholders (pupils and parents/carers, governors, Local Authority, outside agencies, national bodies, etc), and is committed to being open and accessible for all who have an interest in the school. The key stakeholders for a school are parents and pupils and this policy addresses the main ways in which the school ensures effective two-way communication between home and school.

Communications can take a variety of forms: verbal (through meetings or by telephone), written (through letters, notes in planners, notices on Firefly(or email). Occasionally a communication may be received second hand or through an intermediary.

Effective telephone communication can sometimes be a problem in a school, where teachers may be teaching full time and running clubs or otherwise working with pupils at lunchtime or after school. Parents may be exasperated if they feel that a message elicits no immediate reply, when in fact there has been no available opportunity for the member of staff to reach a telephone to return a call.

For this reason the school has been particularly proactive in encouraging use of modern communications methods, with staff email contacts being publicised regularly in newsletters and all parents/carers being encouraged to give an email address for prompt and effective communication. Surveys indicate that the majority of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with the two-way communications they have with school. However, this does not mean that the school always gets things right and this policy aims to clarify the parameters within which we operate to ensure that communication is carried out with all stakeholders and interested parties effectively and clearly. Parents also have a Firefly login to view general school information as well as to view information specific to their child.

#### Aims of the policy:

1. To improve the quality of service given to students at Endon High School by ensuring that effective communication and consultation takes place between the school, parents, pupils and other stakeholders.
2. To improve the quality of service by ensuring robust processes for consultation between the school, parents and pupils on key service areas.

#### Communication

Communication between the school and parents operates in the following ways:-

1. Prospective parents are invited to an Open Evening in the Autumn term preceding the year of entry to the school. All prospective parents receive a school prospectus with details of examination results
2. Prospective parents are invited, along with students, to an induction evening in July where the main channels of communication are outlined and information about the school is presented
3. Parents are invited to a 'Year 7 Settling In Evening' in the November of Year 7 to meet the student's form tutor and review how the student has settled into the school
4. Parents are invited to attend a Progress Day each year to review the overall progress of the student and to a subject Parents' Evening each year to review their child's academic progress.

5. Parents of each year group are invited into school to an appropriately themed Parents' Meeting, to cover issues relating to the relevant year group of their child (e.g. Study Skills for Y11, Core subjects for Y10, options for Y9).
6. The Student Planner is used as a key vehicle for communication between parents and the school and this planner is fully explained at the induction evening for new parents in July and to all pupils as they start at the school. The planner is monitored on a weekly basis by both parents and the pupil's form tutor.
7. Firefly provides parents with access to a range of school communication and documents. Increasingly Firefly will be used to send letters home, also via email. At a whole school level Firefly provides weekly updates, and reminders, on the newsfeed and school calendars. It also gives parents access to a whole range of school documents, such as newsletters and policy documents. At a personal level Firefly communicates information about specific pupils; sharing individual pupil information such as homework, behaviour, rewards, attendance data and school reports.
8. Communication about pupil progress takes place formally for each student :- through Grade sheets or a tutor report
9. Details about events at the school are published in the schools newsletter to parents, which is emailed and sent out in hard copy as requested, and through other electronic communication posted on our Firefly VLE (e.g. on the website, selective emails to specific groups of parents, etc)
10. The schools newsletter and Firefly VLE are key vehicles for communicating in a variety of ways: alerting parents and pupils to forthcoming issues; celebrating the life of the school; petitioning for parental; views; publishing the results of consultations, etc.
11. The school has all key information on an up to date website
12. Queries about events at the school may be made by phone to the school or by e-mail
13. Parents are regularly reminded of all teacher email addresses for reference.
14. The school has published the following service standards to ensure a prompt response for communication requests by parents. These standards are reviewed on an annual basis by the school's administrative team

## Service Standards at Endon High School

**The following response times are usually adhered to:**

**Responding to parents** – any requests for information, any concerns, requests for references or progress are dealt with within 5 working days (term time only)

### **Complaints Procedure**

Initially, concerns should be addressed to the appropriate Form Tutor, Progress Manager, or Director of Teaching & Learning.

Concerns may be raised either via the Planner, or by letter, e-mail or phone call.

- Notes in your child's Planner will be addressed within 3 working days providing your child ensures the note is shown to the appropriate member of staff.
- Letters will receive either a verbal (usually by phone) response within 3 working days or a written response within 5 working days. Verbal responses will generate a brief written note of the discussion and its outcome, to be held in the child's file for future reference.
- Concerns raised by phone will be addressed within 3 working days.
- Emails will receive an email response within 3 working days. Those sent at weekends may not be dealt with until the following working week, and emails sent in holidays will probably elicit no reply until term-time.

There is a system in place for monitoring the nature of complaints at the school in order to identify trends and address any recurring issues.

### **6. Consultation**

Consultation between the school, parents and pupils operates in the following ways:-

1. Questionnaires are issued to parents on a range of issues and through a variety of means (hard copy, through electronic surveys, email). They may be distributed at specific parental events or via "pupil post".
2. The consultation process via questionnaires addresses key service areas such as the school curriculum, changes to the timing of the school day, uniform, the framework for parental consultation evenings, homework, the school's reporting system, primary school transition, the quality and accessibility of the school's materials, etc
3. The Governors' Pupil & Curriculum Committee meets once a term and is consulted on a wide range of issues
4. School reports are issued with a reply slip inviting parents to comment on the report they have received
5. The Student Council is consulted on a range of key issues relating to the school. Meetings take place at least every half term, with additional meetings for specific issues.
6. Members of the Leadership Team undertake "Learning Walks" regularly and discuss learning with pupils as part of this exercise.
7. As part of the school's system of Departmental Self Review, pupils are involved in Student Voice feedback to review the teaching and learning within the department and contribute their own thoughts on departmental strengths and areas for development.
8. Pupils are encouraged to be constructive about how the school can improve provision and may be selected as subject ambassadors to promote, improve and celebrate the work of departments.

9. The Teaching and Learning Group meets periodically to share best practice in improving standards of Teaching and Learning
10. Consultation between external agencies takes place with a view to improving the service provided by the school, for example, there are multi-agency meetings hosted by the school.
11. The Special Educational Needs Department works closely with individual pupils, parents/carers and external experts and meetings are held frequently to discuss best practice and provision for individuals and groups.

*N.B There is a separate policy on communication and consultation for teaching and non-teaching staff*

Ratified by Governors: September 2017

To be reviewed every 3 years – next review October 2020