



HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT POLICY

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Purpose of the home school agreement:

Home-school agreements can raise standards and contribute to school effectiveness by enhancing partnerships between parents and teachers.

Home-school agreements will provide a framework for the development of such a partnership. The processes involved in introducing and reviewing the agreement will clarify what the school is trying to achieve, and the agreement will set out the role of the school, parents and pupils in this vital partnership.

Legal framework:

Sections 110 and 111 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 set out that:

A home-school agreement is a statement explaining: the school's aims and values; the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age; the responsibilities of the pupil's parents; and what the school expects of its pupils.

The governing body must take reasonable steps to ensure that all registered parents of pupils of compulsory school age sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the agreement.

The governing body is not required to seek the signature of a parent where they consider that there are special circumstances relating to the parent or pupil in question that would make it inappropriate to do so.

The governing body may also invite any pupil, whom they consider to have a sufficient understanding of the home-school agreement as it relates to him or her, to sign the parental declaration as an indication that he or she acknowledges and accepts the school's expectations of its pupils.

The governing body must review the agreement from time to time.

Guidance documents:

The governing body must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance in carrying out their responsibilities relating to home-school agreements. titled 'Home-School Agreements: Guidance for Schools.

Outcomes of home school agreements:

A home school agreement should successfully build on existing working relationships between home and school. The partnership promoted by an agreement should result in:

- **better home-school communication** (for example, on issues such as pupil progress, information on what pupils will be taught, homework, and domestic concerns that may affect the pupils' ability to learn effectively)
- **parents and teachers working together on issues of concern** (for example, aspirations, expectations, behaviour, bullying and drug education)
- **parents supporting and helping their children's learning at home more effectively**
- **the identification of issues that need to be addressed** through the School Development Plans