



**El Alsson**

**British & American International School**

Developing Successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizens

# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY 2016

**APPROVED:** 2016

**REVIEW:** 2017

This Policy is to be reviewed annually and updated as and when changes occur.

## **EI Alsson School Parental Involvement Policy**

### **Introduction**

At EI Alsson we believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving parents, staff and children. We recognise the importance of ensuring that we have a positive partnership with parents and we value parental involvement in the life of the school.

It is known that parents are the most important influence in a child's life. Parents need to be able to provide the educational and emotional support that children need if they are to succeed. As a school, therefore, we are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and purposeful working relationship between the school and home.

### **Aim**

The school aims to promote parental involvement in children's learning and the life of the school in accordance with the guidance set out in this policy.

### **Objectives**

#### **To foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel welcome and valued, we will:**

- Create an atmosphere, which is respectful and positive towards parents, children and everyone in school;
- Provide opportunities for parents to contact and visit the school;
- Work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and at school;
- Seek to provide a range of opportunities throughout the year to invite families into school.

#### **To have good communication and mutual dialogue between home and school, we will:**

- Provide as much information as possible in timely, specific, targeted and accessible ways, so that parents feel confident and knowledgeable about what is happening in school;
- Use a variety of methods of communication as appropriate:
  - School handbooks;
  - School newsletters;
  - School website/Online Learning Environments (OLEs);
  - Monthly curriculum/event newsletters/updates in hard and /or electronic versions;
  - Record books;
  - Reports and Parents Days;
  - Informal and formal meetings;
  - E-mail, SMS messaging and telephone calls.

#### **To actively involve parents in their child's learning and progress, we will:**

- Invite parents into school to discuss concerns or issues regarding their child;
- Hold Parent-Teacher consultation meetings with teachers of each class/subject;
- Regularly send written Reports home;
- Hold annual Parent Orientations at the beginning of each year, where parents can learn about school life and how to support their child;

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- Encourage parents to recognize the importance of the support they give their child at home.

**To make good use of parents' expertise and willingness to enhance their own learning and that of their own and other children, and to enable parents to be actively involved in school life, we will encourage parents to help in the following ways:**

- Reading helpers;
- Assisting on day trips (can be same year group/class but not with a group that contains that parent's child)  
[\* unless parental involvement with their child is necessary for a specific medical reason];
- Assisting on residential trips (not with that parent's child's year group, as part of the value of residential trips is developing the ethos of being away from home/being responsible/encouraging independence)  
[\* unless parental involvement with their child is necessary for a specific medical reason];
- Duty helpers during school break times;
- Helping with/setting up community service projects;
- Sending information or contacts on relevant subjects/areas of interest;
- Helping with sports team training or sponsorship;
- Attending 'home' and 'away' sports matches (local or international) as supporters;
- Helping with/ conducting after-school activities;
- Educational talks/projects connected with their field of expertise;
- Offering work experience/voluntary placements for students to gain knowledge of the workplace/field in which they work, which enable students to make better subject/ 'life' choices;
- Helping with/being involved in school events such as the Carnival or Performing Arts productions;
- Being 'judges' for curriculum initiatives/projects such as 'Dragon's Den' or Science Fairs.

Helpers will be briefed on the instructions/expectations in advance by senior management or by the Teacher in charge of the activity.

**To provide good induction and transition for all groups of parents, we will:**

- Provide opportunities for all prospective parents to find out about the school via our website (e.g. newcomers' section), Open Days or individual visits;
- Provide Parent–Student Handbooks, online as well as in hard copy, and Orientation sessions for parents to find out about all aspects of school life and what is expected each year.

**To establish the views and opinions of parents of the school and act upon these, we will:**

- Conduct an annual Parental Feedback Questionnaire, and inform parents of the results;
- Encourage parents to contact us with feedback, ideas or concerns by letter, e-mail or in person at any point in the year.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This parental involvement policy will be reviewed annually