



# WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

## A Specialist Technology College



### Partnership with Parents A Statement of Policy

#### Statement

In Wolgarston, we recognise that the most important influence in a child's life is their parents and home life. Educational opportunity and provision can only be fully maximised if there is effective partnership between school and home.

#### Leading Parent Partnership Award

Wolgarston is working towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) which is a structured self-evaluation framework which guides good and effective practice in working in partnership.

There are 10 Objectives in the LPPA framework. These relate to:-

1. **Commitment** to the principles of working in partnership with parents
2. **Effective planning**
3. **Training and enrichment** opportunities for parents
4. Ensuring that Wolgarston is a **welcoming** environment for parents and visitors
5. Offering effective **induction** procedures for pupils and parents
6. Providing **user-friendly information** about the school, events and curriculum
7. Providing **jargon-free policies** to establish effective home/school links and improve pupil attendance, punctuality, progress and positive participation in school
8. Ensuring user-friendly support resources for parents/carers and pupils for **transition**
9. Offering and promoting enrichment opportunities or events for **joint parent/child participation**
10. **Evaluating** against the LPPA performance indicators and success criteria

Wolgarston wishes to support and strengthen the perception of education and life long learning as a means of meeting individual, family and community needs within an environment of equal opportunity and racial awareness.

Wolgarston wishes to promote the effective education of children and young people through the involvement, co-operation and partnership of appropriate agencies, groups and individuals to help promote the effective education of children and young people.

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## Aims

By working closely with parents and pupils, school staff and governors, Wolgarston aims to consistently:

- create an atmosphere in which parents feel secure, valued and welcomed at all times;
- acknowledge and value parents as co-educators;
- communicate relevant school information, guidance, policies and other documentation to parents and families in an accessible, 'user-friendly' way;
- work with parents to raise levels of expectations and achievement;
- encourage the involvement of parents in their child's education during the whole of his/her school career;
- encourage and develop approaches to family education;
- encourage greater openness and joint involvement of parents and young people through opportunities to be involved in planning, review and development;
- give clear regular information about progress and performance with sensitivity and a due regard for confidentiality;
- give early warning of problems whether associated with work, relationships or discipline
- foster links with other agencies, e.g. Health Promotion, Youth Service, Careers Connexions, Social Services, Adult Education Providers, Education Social Workers etc.;
- provide facilities or information to enable parents and young people to undertake community education opportunities;
- Make appropriate use of all Local Education Authority services/provision.

## Guidelines

### **Communication with Home:**

All staff should ensure at all times that communication is clear and unambiguous whether spoken or written. Good relationships are built through the development of trust and mutual respect. To this end, staff should ensure that communication from home is dealt with promptly. If issues are to be passed on, if there is a delay in responding to the request/issue, parents should be informed that the matter is being dealt with, by whom and when a response is to be expected.

Home language and the parents' preferred ways of receiving information needs to be taken account of and accommodated.

### **Personal Circumstances:**

Senior managers and tutors should be aware of the personal circumstances of their pupils in order to be empathetic to particular conditions e.g. family bereavement, changes in employment status, housing difficulties, illness etc

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### The Protection of Pupils:

The safety and welfare of pupils is of paramount importance. Parents are welcome to become involved in a range of school activities. However, staff should be aware that Child Protection Procedures remain in place as with all other personnel and visitors to the school. CRB checks should be carried out for parents who will be regularly involved in school activities or likely, at any time, to be unsupervised or supported by staff whilst in the presence of children other than their own.

### LPPA Parents' Focus Group

The group has been created to:

1. Create a formal forum for discussion of issues with parents
2. Improve communication between parents and the school community
3. Provide an opportunity for evaluating the effectiveness of school initiatives from a parents' perspective

The group will meet at least once a term and communicate via e mail on issues that occur in between meetings. Parents from the focus group will also be invited to take part in other discussions. Governors will be invited to all meetings of the group.

### Lead personnel

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Mr Phil Tapp	Headteacher	Hold S Thomas accountable for process and award
Miss Sylvia Thomas	Deputy Headteacher	Co-ordinate the action plan Chair steering group
Mrs Kath Bristow	Link Governor	Provide a link with community issues
Mrs Karen Barrett	Senior Admin Officer	Provide support for the LPPA from an admin perspective

### Commitment

Wolgarston is committed to making continuous improvement in all aspects of school life. This statement of policy is dynamic in that it is subject to monitoring, evaluation and modification. It will be reviewed on an annual basis. The date for review is July 2008

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## **Responsibilities**

Ultimate responsibility for this policy's introduction and implementation lies with the Head Teacher in consultation with the Governing Body. It is important to recognise that all staff, students and parents have an active part to play in the evolution, development and maintenance of this policy.

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NB throughout this document, when the term 'parents' is used, it should be taken for granted that this refers to a child's carers equally whether they are natural parents or guardians.

Date for review: April 2009