

# Warstones Primary School



## Communications Policy

Reviewed September 2022

*Inclusion*



**Communications Policy**

*Every Child Matters Every Day!*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Good communication is much more than the exchange of information. It is through effective and interactive communication that information is transmitted, understanding is developed and shared, trust is built, confidentiality is respected and action coordinated.
- 1.2 Communication includes not only the message but also how that message is communicated. Good communication promotes partnership.

**2. Aims**

- 2.1 We aim to ensure that Warstones Primary school is a thriving and successful school, we must communicate effectively with each other, with our pupils, with parents and other members of the wider community.
- 2.2 We aim to ensure that communications between all members of the school community are clear, professional, timely and appropriate.

**3. Objectives**

All communications at Warstones Primary School should:

- Keep staff, pupils, parents, governors and other stakeholders well informed
- Be open, honest, ethical and professional
- Use jargon free, plain English and be easily understood by all.
- Be actioned within a reasonable time.
- Use the methods of communication most effective and appropriate to the context, message and audience.
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- Take account of relevant school policies and procedures.
- Be compatible with our core values and School Improvement & Development Plan.

**4. Roles and responsibilities**

4.1 The Headteacher and Senior leadership team (SLT):

- To ensure information is made available to staff in a timely manner and via appropriate channels, where practicable face to face.
- To ensure that staff have the relevant information available to communicate with colleagues effectively.
- To maintain open channels of two-way communication and to listen to feedback and comment from all staff.
- To keep governors informed of developments and concerns.

4.2 All staff:

- To communicate regularly with each other, preferably face to face or email, to ensure information is available and understood within the context of the classroom and working environment.

- To ensure they are informed and have access to information in order to be as effective as possible in their role and to support their work within the school.

- To use open channels of two-way communication to keep the leadership team and colleagues informed.

- To ensure that emails are checked at least once a day and responded to if necessary. Any communication which is important and needs to be actioned within 24 hours will be communicated in person.

#### 4.3 The governors:

- To ensure the use of trusted online spaces when communicating between governors or with the school.
- Using a variety of communication methods to promote and explain the work of the governor.
- Listening to people online to hear what is being said about the school.
- To ensure the posting of minutes of meeting in appropriate places.

## 5. **Methods of Communication**

### 5.1 Internal methods of communication

- All staff receive an induction pack providing them with important information about organisation and procedures within the school.
- An integrated programme of meetings to facilitate involvement of staff both formal and informal: e.g. phase meetings, whole staff meetings, staff briefings
- All formal meetings (staff and SLT) should be structured and minuted and members invited to contribute to the agenda.
- E-mail is a quick, effective way of communicating information however it should not replace face to face meetings where an in depth discussion is required.
- Staff meetings take place every one to two weeks depending on curriculum/training needs. A timetable of staff meeting is emailed to staff at the start of each term. SLT meetings take place every week. Events are discussed in advance at meetings but staff also have the responsibility to check future actions.
- Phase meetings are held informally or formally, as required, usually 4 per term.
- Governors' meeting minutes are available in the school office
- The noticeboard in the staffroom is also used for any notices.
- Reminders or letters to individual parents are sent to classes to be given out by the class teachers and must be given to children the same day. Every class must have a system for distributing letters and other materials to go home with the children. ALL letters must be seen by a member of SLT before going out and a copy should be sent to the office for the website.
- Urgent messages for parents/carers will be by a phone call by the office staff.
- A list of all those not subscribing to email will be kept by the office & hard copies sent to all those on the list

### 5.2 External Methods of Communication

Schools have many lines of communication to maintain: with parents and carers, other schools, the community and with outside agencies. Our aim is to have clear and effective communications with all parents and the wider community. Effective communications enable us to share our aims and values through keeping parents well informed about school life. This reinforces the important role that parents play in supporting school.

Whilst staff will always seek to establish open and friendly relationships with parents, they will also ensure that the relationships are professional. To this end parents should always be addressed in an appropriate manner. Teaching staff will not accept friendship requests from parents on social media.

We will try to make written communications as accessible and inclusive as possible. We seek to avoid bias, stereotyping or any form of racial discrimination. We wish to recognise and celebrate the contributions to our society by all cultural groups represented in our school.

- Letters

Staff will respond to parents' letters **requiring an answer within 48 hours (2 school days) to acknowledge receipt of the communication. Up to a further 5 school days can be granted where further investigation of the matter is required.** Any letter or email of complaint must be referred to the Head Teacher immediately. Letters to parents must be approved by the Head Teacher/AHT before they are sent. Copies of all correspondence to individual parents will be placed in pupil files. A copy of general letters will be placed in letters to parents' folder in the foyer.

- E-mail/Text

The school has an e-mail/text system which it uses to communicate with parents. Any communication that needs to be sent to parents using this system must be approved by the Head Teacher. Staff should forward relevant emails from parents to the Head Teacher and should always do so if the content is a complaint. **All e-mails requiring an answer should be responded to within 48 hours (2 school days) to acknowledge receipt of the communication. Up to a further 5 school days can be granted where further investigation of the matter is required.** If a parent wishes to contact a teacher or member of staff via email then the school email [warstonesprimary.groupemail@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:warstonesprimary.groupemail@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or relevant phase email [EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:EY@warstonesprimary.co.uk) [KS1@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:KS1@warstonesprimary.co.uk) [KS2@warstonesprimary.co.uk](mailto:KS2@warstonesprimary.co.uk) should be used. Please use BCC in the email as appropriate to ensure that data protection regulations are being adhered to.

E-mail communications concerning a child are kept for the academic year in a digital folder unless they are required for evidence trailing, in which case a copy should be printed.

- Telephone calls

Office staff will not interrupt teaching for staff to answer a telephone call unless it of an urgent nature. This includes ringing the phone in the main corridor during teaching time.

- Social Media Sites/Blogs

Staff are advised not to communicate with parents via social networking sites or accept them as "friends". Staff will not accept pupils or ex-pupils as "friends".

- Written Reports

Once a year, we provide a full written report to each child's parents on their progress. This report identifies areas of strength and areas for future development.

- Newsletters

Newsletters are e-mailed out weekly. This is available on the school website, parents can request an emailed copy of the newsletter.

- Parents Evening's

In addition, parents meet their child's teacher/s up to three times during the year for a private consultation at a Parents' Evening. We encourage parents to contact the school if any issues arise regarding their child's progress or well-being. When children have particular education needs, or if they are making less than expected progress, there will be termly opportunities for parents to meet or speak to their child's teacher. We will also make

reasonable adjustments to our arrangements if this will enable a parent with a disability to participate fully in a meeting at our school, or to receive and understand communication. Parents of children with an IEP (individual education plan) will have the opportunity to review the IEP (individual education plan) at least twice a year.

- **School Website**

The school website provides an opportunity to share information about the school and is an opportunity to promote the school to a wider audience.

## **6. Home School Agreements**

- 6.1 Home School Agreements are signed by parents when their child starts school.
- 6.2 Home visits or pre-school visits take place for children who are new to school.
- 6.3 The weekly school newsletter is posted on the school website; parents can request a copy by email. Parents can request a paper copy.
- 6.4 Parents/carers will be texted or phoned if there is an unexpected cancellation of a club
- 6.5 Parents are invited to meet governors informally at the termly Governors surgery where they have the opportunity to discuss various topics.
- 6.6 Once a year a questionnaire is to be sent out to parents and the results are analysed and used to improve the school

## **7. Accountability**

We recognise that children's protection is a shared responsibility, and that Warstones Primary School should provide a safe and secure environment. If any member of staff has concerns about a child, these will be passed to the Designated Senior Person for Children Protection, or the Deputy DSP, who may share this information with Social Services.

### **8.1 How will this policy be monitored and evaluated?**

This policy will be monitored through on-going school self-evaluation. The Head Teacher will use a variety of methods to evaluate this policy with staff, parents & governors.

Related policies:

- Child Protection
- Complaints procedure
- Staff code of conduct
- GDPR
- Visitor code of conduct
- Staff Wellbeing policy
- ICT policy

September 2021

Signed:

Co Chair Of Governors

Date: