



RUSHDEN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Rushden Primary Academy Parental Engagement Strategy

At Rushden Primary Academy, we are committed to fostering a culture of open and effective communication with parents. We understand that strong home-school partnerships are essential to student success, and we have implemented several strategies to ensure all parents are well-informed, involved, and supported.

Communication of Routines, Expectations, Policies, and Procedures

We ensure that parents are fully aware of academy routines, expectations, policies, and procedures through the following channels:

- **Website:** A comprehensive resource where parents can find policies, curriculum information, key updates, and term dates.
- **Class Dojo:** Frequent updates on classroom activities, direct messaging with teachers, and important school-wide announcements.
- **Weekly Principal Updates:** Regular messages from the Principal providing updates on school-wide news, reminders, and important notices.
- **Emails:** Periodic updates highlighting key events, attendance, changes in school procedures, and reminders for parents.
- **Letters:** Letters are issued for attendance concerns and when there is a suspension or exclusion.

Informing Parents About Pupil Progress and Achievements

To ensure parents are well-informed about their child's academic progress and achievements, we provide:

- **Parent-Teacher Meetings:** Formal meetings twice per year, with additional meetings available on request.
- **Academic Reports:** End-of-term and annual reports detailing pupil attainment, progress, and targets.
- **Celebration Assemblies & Award Ceremonies:** Regular recognition of student achievements in academic, social, and extracurricular activities.
- **Curriculum Showcases & Open Events:** Opportunities for parents to view students' work and understand classroom learning experiences.



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Parent Communication with the Academy

We believe in open and accessible communication. Parents can reach out to the academy through:

- **Class Teachers:** For classroom-related concerns, parents can contact teachers via Class Dojo.
- **School Office:** For general inquiries or to schedule meetings with leadership staff.
- **Formal Complaints Process:** If concerns are not resolved informally, parents can follow the Trust's complaints procedure, available on our website.

Keeping Parents Informed About Academy News, Events, and Achievements

We share updates and key information through:

- **Academy Website:** Regularly updated with upcoming events, and key notices.
- **Social Media & Class Dojo:** Timely updates, reminders, and celebrations of school life.
- **Text Messages & Emails:** Used for urgent messages, reminders, and school closures.
- **Parent Information Evenings:** Sessions covering key topics such as SATs preparation, curriculum changes, and supporting learning at home.

Listening to and Receiving Feedback from Parents

We value parental input and actively seek feedback through:

- **Annual Parent Surveys:** Data from these surveys informs school improvement priorities.
- **Principal & Parent Tours:** An opportunity to see the school in action and feedback on your experiences.
- **Academy Parent Ambassadors (APAs):** Serving as a bridge between parents and the Academy Board to ensure parental voices are heard at a governance level.

Supporting Parental Involvement in School Life

We encourage parents to be actively involved through:

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Assisting in reading programs, classroom support, school trips, or library management (subject to DBS clearance).



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- **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA):** Organising school events, fundraisers, and community activities.
- **School Events:** Including seasonal concerts, curriculum showcases, and sports days where parents can participate and engage.

Supporting Parents in Contributing to Their Child's Learning

We provide parents with tools and guidance to support their child's learning at home through:

- **Workshops, Information & Training Sessions:** These change annually and are in response to parental engagement/request. Annually, we hold EYFS information evenings, SATs information sessions, phonics and early reading and early maths sessions. This year there is a focus on SEND, with training being offered to parents via the PINS project.
- **Family Reading Sessions & Monthly Maths Events:** Encouraging shared learning experiences.
- **Big Picture Documents:** Parents receive a termly Big Picture Document that outlines the current term's learning and key curriculum focuses.
- **Home Learning Resources:** Online platforms and website resources are available to reinforce classroom learning at home.
- **Early Help & Support Services:** Providing referrals and guidance for families who require additional assistance.

Arbor – The Future of Parental Engagement at RPA

As we transition to **Arbor** as our Management Information System (MIS), it will gradually replace existing platforms such as **ParentPay and Groupcall** (by 2025-26) and streamline our parental engagement systems. Arbor offers a comprehensive suite of tools for parents, including:

- **Payments** – Simplified online payments for school meals, trips, and clubs.
- **Parents' Evening Bookings** – A seamless system to schedule meetings with teachers.
- **Trip Management** – Consent forms and payment tracking all in one place.
- **Club Enrolment** – Sign up for extracurricular activities efficiently.
- **School Meals** – Pre-order and manage your child's meals.

We will begin with the **rollout of the Arbor Parent Portal and App**, providing a single platform for parents to manage all school interactions.

Academy Parent Ambassadors (APAs)



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The Academy Parent Ambassadors play a crucial role in:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Overseeing and responding to feedback from parents and other stakeholders.
- **Governance:** Ensuring the school meets statutory requirements, such as forming Governor Disciplinary Committees (GDCs) for pupil suspensions and exclusions.
- **Board Reporting:** APAs have the opportunity to report to the Academy Board and meet the CEO annually.

Supported by the Corporate Affairs Director, APAs are backed by a professional secretariat and the Resolutions Group, a team trained to manage complaints and feedback effectively.

Transitions: Welcoming New Families

Starting a positive relationship early is a priority, especially when new families join our school.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Transitions

Before your child's first day, we aim to make the transition into the Academy as smooth as possible:

- **Welcome Pack:** A comprehensive introduction to school life at RPA.
- **Parent Information Meeting:** A chance to ask questions and understand what to expect.
- **Individual Meetings:** For families requiring additional provision or support.
- **School Visits:** Planned opportunities for your child to visit the classroom during the school day to become familiar with the team and the setting.
- **Stay & Play Sessions:** Enjoy after-school sessions with your child to explore the new environment (3:30 – 4:30 pm).
- **Nursery Visits:** Our team will visit local nurseries to meet the children in their setting.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA enriches the school community by organizing events such as:

- School Discos & Fetes
- Mothers and Fathers Day Shops
- Fun events for students
- After-school events for the parent community



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The funds raised by the PTA directly benefit the students by improving their school environment. We are always looking for new members, so if you're interested in joining, please reach out!

Reviewing and Updating the Parental Engagement Strategy

- The Parental Engagement Strategy is reviewed annually by the Principal.
- Updates are informed by parent feedback, survey results, and evolving academy priorities.
- Any major changes will be communicated to parents via Class Dojo, email and the academy website.