

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST

ST JOHN RIGBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

God's will be done through work and play, as we follow Jesus day by day



SJR Parent Partnership Policy: A Framework to Support Children Through Strong Home-School Partnerships

Status: Good Practice
Date of Review: Spring 2026
Approved by: LAC (Governing Body)
Date of Next Review: Spring 2029 (or sooner if required)

WHAT ARE OUR KEY PRINCIPLES AND AIMS?

John Rigby is a community based upon the strong Catholic values of Faith, Hope, Forgiveness, Love and Trust. The ethos of our school is that it promotes inclusion and the valuing of each individual, encouraging self-esteem, self-discipline, and mutual respect.

Our mission statement lies at the heart of all we do and underpins our overarching core aims:



- To ensure **God's will** is achieved by empowering our children to develop as happy, safe, confident and successful learners who are able to make informed choices that are in their own and others best interests.
- To enable children to **work** with a joy and love for learning, acquiring the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to make a positive contribution to society.
- To enable children to **play** with an inquisitive and exploratory mind as they imagine, collaborate and create. They will take ownership of their learning journey and know that limitations are also opportunities for growth, showing courage to sometimes be wrong.
- To inspire children to grow, **day by day**, in their knowledge and understanding of the virtues to live by, reflecting our Gospel values of Faith, Hope, Forgiveness, Love, and Trust, whilst continuing to flourish and discover their unique God given potential.

We believe the partnership between parents, carers, and the school is fundamental to the success of our pupils. In all that we do, we are inspired by and aim to emulate the example of Jesus, communicating and working with parents and carers in a way that is consistent with and demonstrates Gospel values. With this in mind, our guiding principles for effective parent and carer partnership are:

- **Respect and Trust:** The school values parents and carers as their child's first educators and builds relationships based on mutual respect, trust, and shared responsibility.
- **Open and Clear Communication:** Communication between the school and families is timely, transparent, and two-way, ensuring parents are informed, heard, and supported.
- **Inclusive and Equitable Engagement:** The school actively engages all families, recognising diverse cultures, languages, family structures, and circumstances, and works to remove barriers to participation.
- **Shared Commitment to Student Wellbeing and Learning:** Parents and staff work collaboratively to support each child's academic progress, wellbeing, and holistic development.
- **Partnership and collaboration:** Parents are provided with opportunities to contribute to school life, policy development, and decision-making processes that impact their children.
- **Positive and Solution-Focused Relationships:** Interactions between the school and families are constructive, respectful, and focused on achieving the best outcomes for students.
- **Consistency and Accountability:** The school and families share responsibility for maintaining consistent expectations, routines, and support for children's learning and behaviour.
- **Continuous Improvement:** The school regularly seeks feedback from parents and carers to strengthen partnerships and improve practices.

At St John Rigby Catholic Primary School, we are committed to fostering a positive and collaborative relationship with parents and carers to enhance the educational experience of every child. This policy outlines our commitment to effective communication, engagement, and support for parents and carers, ensuring that they are integral partners in their children's learning journey.

Commitment to Partnership

We believe that a strong partnership with parents and carers is essential for the academic and social development of our students. Our school is dedicated to creating an environment where parents feel valued, respected, and actively involved in their children's education. We strive to maintain open lines of communication and encourage feedback from parents and carers to continuously improve our practices.

For the purpose of this policy, any reference to 'parents' is to include **parents, carers, guardians, and any person who has legal responsibility for the child.**

Effective Planning and Implementation

To facilitate a successful partnership, the school develops and implements effective plans that outline how we engage with parents and carers. These plans support consistent, meaningful collaboration and ensure families are informed, involved, and valued. Engagement strategies include regular communication through newsletters, parent–teacher meetings, and digital platforms to keep parents informed about school events, curriculum developments, and their child’s learning progress and wellbeing.

The school also provides opportunities for parents and carers to participate in consultation and decision-making processes that impact their children’s education, where appropriate, fostering shared responsibility and partnership. Examples of this have included the Communication Policy and Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy.

Welcoming Environment

St John Rigby is committed to creating a welcoming, friendly, and inclusive environment where parents feel valued and supported. We believe strong relationships between families and the school help children feel confident, safe, and ready to learn. Staff are approachable and responsive, and we aim to communicate openly and respectfully with families. Parents are warmly invited to visit the school, attend events, and connect with teachers and staff. These opportunities help build positive relationships, encourage collaboration, and create a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Promoting Awareness and Participation

We recognise and value the diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences of our families and are committed to supporting the involvement of all parents and carers in their children’s learning. The school provides a range of inclusive and flexible opportunities for engagement that respect cultural differences and individual family needs. These opportunities may include workshops, information sessions, and social events designed to build confidence, share information, and support parents and carers in their important role as partners in learning at home and at school.

Joint Parent and Child Participation

The school holds and actively promotes a range of opportunities and events for joint parent and child participation. These activities are designed to strengthen the bond between parents and children while supporting learning, curiosity, and confidence. Examples of joint activities include family days, interactive workshops, school performances, hands-on classroom experiences and award ceremonies. These events give parents and carers the chance to engage directly with their child’s learning, celebrate achievements together, and become active partners in their educational journey. By participating in these events, families can share in their children’s successes, explore new learning experiences, and contribute to a supportive, connected school community.

Supporting New Parents and Families

We recognise that starting at a new school can be an exciting but sometimes daunting experience for both parents and children. To help families settle in, we provide a comprehensive induction programme for all new parents and carers. This programme includes welcome meetings, school tours, and information packs that explain key school policies, routines, and the support services available. Our aim is to ensure that new families feel informed, confident, and supported from the very beginning, helping children start school positively and parents feel part of the school community.

Curriculum Guidance and Information

To assist parents in supporting their children’s learning, the school provides relevant and user-friendly guidance and information. This includes resources on curriculum expectations, homework support, and strategies for fostering a positive learning environment at home. We also offer access to workshops and training sessions that equip parents with the skills needed to support their children effectively.

Parent-Friendly Policies

We are committed to producing and implementing parent-friendly policies that establish effective home–school links. These policies are designed to improve children’s attendance, punctuality, progress, and positive participation in school. We regularly review these policies in consultation with parents to ensure they meet the needs of our community and support the overall development of our students.

Supporting Transition

As children progress through the school or prepare to move on, we recognise the importance of supporting both students and their parents or carers during these transitions. We provide guidance, information, and resources to help families navigate changes, whether it is moving to a new year group or preparing for secondary school. Staff are available to discuss any questions or concerns, offering advice and support to ensure that transitions are as smooth and positive as possible for both children and their families.

Conclusion

At St John Rigby, we believe that respectful and positive relationships with families help support every child's learning, and we are dedicated to fostering a strong partnership with parents and carers. By working collaboratively, we can create a supportive and enriching environment that promotes every child's success, wellbeing, and sense of belonging.

This policy reflects our commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, providing meaningful opportunities for engagement, and supporting parents at every stage of their child's school journey. Through collaboration, we can ensure that all children have the best possible experiences at school, and that families feel informed, involved, and valued members of our school community.

We encourage all parents and carers to engage with us, share their insights, and participate in their children's educational journey. Together, we can make a positive impact on our pupils' learning, growth, and development, building a school community where every child can flourish and thrive.