



HOME SCHOOL POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2011

VISION:

That every young person graduates from Aylesbury Vale Academy as citizens of an international community where they have the mobility borne from their outlook, qualifications, skills and experience to be successful.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: WE ADOPT THE CHRISTIAN VALUES OF:

- Honesty
- Respect
- Compassion
- Love
- Forgiveness
- Self-discipline
- Creativity
- Hope

OBJECTIVES:

1. To work in partnership with parents and pupils to maximise the benefit of future learning and teaching
2. To establish a true dialogue between parents and pupils so that information passes freely between all partners
3. To communicate to parents, pupils and other teachers in a clear and interesting manner.

MONITORING (via Governors' Scrutiny Committee):

1. Throughout the academic year the committee will ask to see evidence of the home-school policy.
2. The committee will gain evidence from reports submitted by the Academy.
3. The chair of the committee will review the findings from reports.
4. The committee will be provided with the findings of the reports.
5. Visit the Academy to follow lines of enquiry as a result of the committee meeting (adhering to the protocol for governors vision).

REVIEWING

The Governing Body is responsible for reviewing its policies and the Principal is responsible for reporting on the implementation of the policy.

1. Has the policy been successfully implemented?
2. Has the policy had the intended impact in the Academy and on the young people?
3. Are the current objectives to remain the same and do they support other policies and development priorities?

NOMINATED MEMBER OF STAFF:

HEAD OF COLLEGE

APPENDIX 1

Operating Statement

The Academy recognizes the importance of involving parents and carers in their child's education, this will be achieved by involving them in setting targets and monitoring homework, providing advice through workshops and other activities, providing opportunities for parents and carers to meet each other and identifying the commitment restraints of parents and carers.

APPENDIX 2

Effective Communication

Aims and Principles of Parental Involvement

Genuine partnership between teachers and parents calls for:

- respecting and supporting all parents as the primary educators of their children
- valuing one another's different but equally important roles
- listening to uncomfortable messages without defensiveness
- establishing joint aims and jointly setting the agenda
- putting time into developing the relationship

Parents can play many roles within the partnership - as co-educators of their children, as providers of additional support for the Academy, as decision-makers, and as an important part of the Academy's community.

Home-School links

Many links between the Academy and parents already exist, and the Academy is committed to extending and improving them continuously in conjunction with parents. These links include:

- Welcome Evenings at the start of each Academy year to explain classroom structure, daily timetable and homework timetable. They also provide information on what the children are studying, with the learning objectives: this may be accompanied by suggestions on how these activities may be followed up at home. The Welcome Evenings provide an informal opportunity to look at the children's work so far, in addition to meeting the teaching staff and asking questions.

- Use of parent-teacher consultations to set targets and agree action on the part of the teacher, parents and child
- Home-school weekly reviews for regular two-way communication
- Curriculum evenings which offer parents explanations and hands-on experience of the curriculum, and provide clear examples of ways in which learning can be extended and reinforced
- Support and advice on parenting skills - for example, sessions for parents on: friendships, encouraging positive behaviour, managing aggression, encouraging concentration, listening skills and on saying 'No' to your child
- The Academy offers parents opportunities to meet and work with other parents in supporting the Academy through social, fund-raising and educational events
- Newsletters and other items of information are sent home with the children in their book bags. All up-to-date newsletters are also to be found on the Academy's website
- Encourage parent/carer participation as volunteers to support classroom activities
- Promoting relevant accurate and timely communication between the Academy and families about student progress, all aspects of Academy programmes and policies with respect for the diversity and differing needs of families

Working and communicating together

Expectations

We all expect things of each other.

Children can expect:

- to feel valued and listened to
- to take responsibility for their actions
- to be consulted on their education and involved in decisions
- to be responsible for making sure they understand their homework task, taking it home
- and giving it in on time

Parents expect:

- to feel valued and welcomed by the Academy
- information and guidance on supporting their children's learning
- clear feedback on their children's progress
- involvement in decision-making
- specific opportunities for familiarisation with the classroom routine
- to be informed of any recurring issues that arise during the Academy day which concern their child
- To be treated as collaborators in the students learning
- Views are sought in developing policies and addressing Academy-wide issues

The Academy expects:

- parents to support children in taking responsibility for their actions
- that children are supported at home in their homework by parents who:
 - provide a suitable, reasonably peaceful place where children can do their homework (whether independently or sharing with an adult)
 - make it clear to children that parents value homework, and support the Academy in explaining how it can help children's learning
 - encourage pupils and praise them when they have completed their homework
 - that parents make sure that children complete their homework and sign and return the child's weekly review
 - that parents will help their children to organise themselves to work at home
 - that parents will ensure that their children are appropriately dressed in the Academy clothing and equipped for their various lessons including PE
 - that parents will be responsible for the prompt collection of their children after extra curricular activities and for the supervision of their children on the Academy site outside Academy hours
 - that children are always healthy and alert when they come to the Academy in order that they can cope with the physical and mental demands of the Academy day
 - Academy expects students never to act in a violent way either inside or outside the Academy, never possess or use a weapon inside or out of the Academy and never possess or use drugs inside or out of the Academy

Homework

The Purpose of Homework

Homework has several purposes: to consolidate skills and understanding; to extend Academy learning (for example by additional reading; use of parents' skills and knowledge, reference books etc.); and, during their progression through the Academy, to develop the confidence and self-discipline in pupils that is needed to study on their own and to prepare them for the wider world.

Feedback on homework

- Teachers will ensure that homework is marked and that appropriate comments or consultation with the child are given where they will identify priorities for development
- Where homework is unsatisfactory or unfinished the details will appear on the appropriate original work and may be returned for completion or correction

- Homework will usually be marked and discussed with the children the day after it is handed in

AYLESBURY VALE ACADEMY HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

FULL NAME:	FORM:
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This document is an agreement between The Aylesbury Vale Academy, the Parents/Carers and the Student. It summarises what the Academy will offer the Student and our expectations of all Parents/Carers and Students who attend this Academy. **It is important you read, agree and sign this document.**

THE ACADEMY

The Academy agrees to:

- provide a safe and caring educational environment in which each student can develop and achieve to their full potential
- establish and continue to develop close links with our students and parents/carers
- promote high standards of work, attitudes and behaviour for all our students
- adapt a curriculum which is suitable for the student's age, aptitude and ability
- maintain a monitoring system to evaluate the student's progress and achievement
- offer regular parents' meetings, interim and annual reports
- keep the parents/carers informed about the day to day life of the Academy via letters home and the Academy's termly newsletter, 'Q2U'
- investigate and provide a written response when issues/concerns are raised about the education of the student
- provide homework on a regular basis, and facilities for the student to access out of hours assistance and support through the homework club

THE STUDENT

I agree to:

- follow the guiding principles of the Academy's code of conduct in and out of the classroom
- show respect towards others in word and deed
- always arrive at the Academy and at the start of every lesson, on time
- apply myself to my work to the best of my ability
- ask and accept advice and guidance from the Teacher/Learning Support Assistant
- work quietly and not distract or annoy other students in the class
- arrive each day with a pen, pencil, ruler, homework planner, reading book, suitable bag, and any other equipment needed for all lessons
- complete all class and homework which is set
- wear the Academy uniform and be tidy in appearance
- look after the Academy environment
- make a positive impact on the local community

THE PARENTS/CARERS

I/We agree to support the Academy by:

- ensuring that the student attends school regularly and is on site by 8.20 am each day
- showing an interest in the student's education by regularly checking the work that is being done at the Academy
- ensuring that homework is completed by signing the homework planner weekly
- telephoning the Academy on the first day of absence and each day thereafter and provide a note of explanation when the Student is unable to attend the Academy
- communicating with the Academy when I/We have concerns about the student's progress and attend meetings to discuss these concerns
- ensuring that the student is correctly dressed in the Academy uniform and properly equipped for the day
- supporting the Academy's code of conduct
- attending parent's evenings
- avoiding taking holidays in term time
- keeping the Academy informed of change of contact details