The Wren School

Home-School Agreement policy

Purpose and Background

It is a statutory requirement that The Wren School has a home-school agreement, which is a statement explaining:

- the school’s aims and values;
- the school’s responsibilities towards its students;
- the responsibility of each student’s ‘parents’ ¹/carers; and
- what the school expects of its students.

This home-school agreement takes account of all relevant legislation.

Policy objectives

This home-school agreement aims to establish a partnership between The Wren School, parents and students, in accordance with the school vision and ethos. We want to work with parents to support our students during their teenage years so that together we can ensure they fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character. This home-school agreement does not include any terms or conditions which could be considered unlawful or unreasonable, such as requiring parents to make a financial contribution to the school, or refusing to waive any requirement on school uniform in cases where the parent and child cannot comply for religious reasons. Any breaches of the terms of the agreement will not be actionable through the courts. Furthermore, a child will not be excluded from school, or face punishment, as a result of a parent’s failure to sign the agreement or abide by their declaration. Neither will parents face any sanction for either not signing the home-school agreement or failing to abide by its requirements.

Management of the policy

School  This policy is implemented and managed by ... 
Governing body  The ... will review and update this policy .... in line with all relevant legislation.
Approval  Updated and approved by The Wren Single Academy Trust - March 2015
Next review due  The Wren School will review the agreement every three years or sooner if the guidance changes and the current agreement is no longer appropriate. Before revisiting the home-school agreement, all parents of registered students at the school will be consulted.

¹ For the legal definition of parent see section 576 of the Education Act 1996
Associated policies

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Equality
- Uniform

Practice and procedures

The Wren School will take reasonable steps to ensure that:

- all registered parents of students sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-school agreement;

- all parents/carers both within and outside the child’s home (giving equal weight to mothers and fathers jointly and severally) are given the opportunity to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-school agreement, and review the content of the agreement regularly during the time their child is at school;

- where parents have separated, both mothers and fathers are given the opportunity to sign a copy of the agreement’s parental declaration.

The Wren School will not:

- seek the signature of a parent where they consider that there are special circumstances relating to the parent or student in question that would make it inappropriate to do so;

- invite a parent or child to sign the parental declaration before the child has been admitted to the school;

- make the signing of the parental declaration a condition of the child’s admission to the school; or

- base a decision about admitting a child to the school on assumptions about whether his or her parents are or are not likely to sign the parental declaration.

The Wren Schools will also invite all students to sign the agreement as an indication that they acknowledge and accept the school’s expectations.

The original signed version of the Home-School agreement will be kept in the student’s folder, which will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the school office. A copy will be sent home for parents to keep. The wording of the home-school agreement will be reproduced in the student planners.

Associated documents

School Standards and Framework Act 1998 - sections 110 and 111

Home-school agreements. Guidance for local authorities and governing bodies July 2013
Appendices

A. The Wren School Home-School Agreement.
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Our vision and ethos at The Wren School is that

“each child, regardless of background, will receive a world-class education and be nurtured, challenged and inspired to aim high”

We want to work with you and your child so that together we can ensure they fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character.

A. The School’s agreement

We agree to:

• treat your child fairly, care for and nurture them, promoting their well-being;
• ensure that your child is well taught and provided with clear feedback to secure good progress;
• keep you well informed about:
  o your child’s academic progress and achievements
  o any concerns with your child’s work, behaviour or relationships,
  o school events and
  o general school matters;
• give you opportunities to discuss your child’s achievement, behaviour, progress, records or any other concern;
• take prompt action when we are worried about attendance and/or unauthorised absence;
• help your child to develop a sense of responsibility and to be considerate of others;
• provide a broad range of subjects and a variety of extra-curricular activities;
• provide appropriate guidance to enable your child to fulfil their potential and to make informed choices at each stage of their learning;

Signed: ................................................................................................................. Headteacher

B. The parent or carer’s agreement

I agree to:

• ensure that my child attends school regularly, on time, wearing school uniform, with all the necessary equipment;
• inform the school by telephone, text or email on the first day of absence and follow up in writing giving the reason for my child’s absence on his/her return;
• request time off in advance for my child if he/she needs to be absent from school;
• support the school policies, including the behaviour and discipline policy;
• attend meetings with relevant members of staff to support my child;
• encourage positive attitudes towards school, learning and extended learning activities;
• keep the school informed about changes to my contact details;
• make early contact with the school on any matters affecting my child’s progress, welfare or behaviour, including any medical conditions;
• talk to my child about the internet sites that they use and report any concerns via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) button or the student expectations email address (studentexpectations@wrenschool.org);
• ensure that if my child rides a bicycle to school, he/she rides it safely, it is well maintained and that my child wears a cycle helmet as recommended by the school.

I give my consent for photographs/video of my child to be used to celebrate success through publication in newsletters, on the school website, in promotional materials and, occasionally, in the public media. They may also be used as part of display materials in corridors and for staff training purposes. I understand that when images are published, the school will ensure that the young people cannot be identified by their names. I understand that this consent is considered valid for the entire period that my child attends this school unless I notify you otherwise and in writing.

Please delete: Yes/No

Signed: ........................................................................................................ Parent or Carer

C. The student’s agreement

I agree to:
• come to school on time each day and be punctual to all my lessons;
• bring the things I need every day and look after them properly;
• wear my school uniform with pride;
• obey the school’s rules and be prepared to learn;
• ensure that my mobile phone and other electronic devices are switched off and out of sight during lesson time unless my teacher agrees that they can be used for learning.

• work to the best of my ability and be proud of my achievements;
  • complete extended learning activities to develop my skills as an independent learner;
  • try to respond to teacher suggestions for improvement;
  • help look after our school environment and keep it free of litter;
  • behave responsibly and safely, respecting people in the local community and their property, being polite and courteous to other students, staff and visitors;
  • tell a member of staff at the school if something worries me;
  • behave responsibly and appropriately when using social networking sites, the internet and websites, reporting any concerns via the CEOPs button or the student expectations email address (studentexpectations@wenrschool.org);
  • pay attention to road safety on my way to and from school, ensuring that if I ride a bicycle to school, I ride it safely, it is safely maintained and following the school’s advice that I wear a cycle helmet.

Signed: ........................................................................................................................................... Student