

Parental Engagement at Magna Academy Strategy 2024/25

Vision:

Parental engagement at Magna Academy focuses on providing parents and carers with the appropriate information, advice and guidance to support their child in all aspects of their education and wellbeing. This includes:

- approaches and programmes which aim to provide advice and guidance for parents and carers;
- general approaches which encourage parents to support their children with, for example reading, homework and effective revision techniques
- use of parent voice to empower families in driving forward the academy improvement plan;
- the involvement of parents in their children's learning and enrichment activities; and
- more intensive programmes for families who require additional support

Why engage parents?

Almost every academy that demonstrates academic success has succeeded through the support, involvement and partnerships between academies, families and the community. (Source: Chadwick, 2004)

Parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress. (Source: The Education Endowment Foundation)

Students whose parents are engaged and involved are more likely to gain qualifications and complete schooling than students whose parents are not involved in their school. (Source: Childs Trend Data Bank)

- Parent engagement makes a difference to student behaviour and academic success
- Students value parental praise over teacher praise for learning
- Students are less likely to misbehave in class if there are clear and consistent parental boundaries and sanctions

Benefits for parents... (Source: Henderson, A.T. & Berla, N., 1994)

- More confidence in the academy
- Greater confidence in themselves as parents and in their ability to help their children at home
- Greater likelihood that the parents will enrol in continuing education to advance their own schooling
- Ability to make contacts and build social networks that they can use to create opportunities for their children and themselves
- Develop closer ties to their communities and neighbours
- Learn how to influence decisions made in their academy and communities

Benefits for the academy... (Source: Henderson, A.T. & Berla, N., 1994)

- More support from families
- Academies that work well with families have improved teacher morale and higher ratings of teachers by parents
- Academy programs that involve parents outperform identical programs without parent and family involvement
- Academies where children are failing improve dramatically when parents are enabled to become effective partners in their child's education

What matters... (Source: Annie E Casey Foundation)

- Parents' attitudes and expectations about learning
- Provision of a home environment to support learning
- Parental involvement in supporting their child's learning
- Providing parental information doesn't equal parental engagement
- Parental presence doesn't equal parental engagement
- Parental awareness of curriculum, expectations and academic challenges.

Objectives

- To foster an ethos and atmosphere where all parents feel welcome and valued.
- To maintain an 'open door' approach so that parents are able to communicate with staff on a regular basis, both formally and informally.
- To provide as much information as possible in timely, specific, targeted and accessible ways so that parents feel confident and knowledgeable in supporting their children's learning.
- To ensure clear channels of communication are established and maintained.
- To seek parents' views and opinions and act upon them where possible.
- To provide support and encouragement for families facing challenges, or barriers to involvement.
- To work with parents in promoting positive behaviour at home and within the academy.
- To seek to provide a range of activities, courses and workshops, to promote parental involvement in children's learning, and also 'lifelong learning' for both children and adults.

Levels of Engagement (Source: DfE: Review of best practice in parental engagement)

Different levels of Engagement can be categorised into the following headings:

1. Supporting learning at home
2. Home/Academy partnerships
3. Parental representation
4. Community engagement

How Magna Academy will engage parents/carers...

Magna Academy will employ the following strategies to ensure robust communication and promote effective parent engagement:

1. Supporting learning at home:

- Clear homework policy and guidance that is shared widely for a clear understanding of what is required.
- Providing guidance on activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning and knowledge retention.
- Provide information and guidance for parents regarding any policy changes, for example curriculum and/or teaching and learning developments.
- Give parents support on how students can prepare and revise for exams.

2. Home/Academy relationships

- Issuing regular newsletters and letters that update parents on a range of in-school dates and opportunities.
- Offering a range of opportunities for parents to participate and volunteer within the academy, for example, academy trips, extra-curricular clubs/fixtures, Christmas fates, the PTFA and Parents' Forum meetings.
- Arranging social events that create opportunities for building relationships, for example, concerts, coffee mornings, drama productions, PTFA quiz events, charity fundraising.
- Consulting on whole academy improvement plans and policies.

- Ensuring that whole academy improvement plans include proposals to improve parental involvement to support learning.
- Making sure there is plenty of information at key transition points
- Accurate and timely information provided regarding any SEND needs, safeguarding needs including referrals to external agencies (where appropriate), attendance updates, attainment and progress updates
- Tailoring all relevant communications to include regular positive dialogue about learning

3. Parental Representation

- Hold regular parent evenings where parents can find out more about their child's progress and attainment
- Hold regular expectations and Raising Achievement evening where parents find out more about key dates and preparing for examinations and future destinations
- Hold meet the tutor evenings at key transition points
- Continue to review parent attendance figures at key events and reflect on how to increase numbers
- Hold regular meetings between the academy and home where a student may require additional support and guidance
- Monitoring attendance at academy events and collating feedback where possible
- Use of Parents' Forum to continue to actively involve parents in sharing leadership functions

4. Community Engagement

- Ensuring that the vision and plan for the school remains at the heart of partnerships and in community engagement initiatives
- Work with the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) to widen academy events to include the local community and other links
- Have a clear equalities policy in place to ensure that diversity within the school and the broader community is recognised, and embraced
- Include outreach work as part of any charitable giving initiatives

Parents' Forum

The Parents' Forum is a meeting for ideas, development, support and review. It enables direct contact between the parent and the academy. The Forum has enabled a network of parents to enjoy their similarities and differences. Whilst this meeting is an open forum there is always a development agenda item; recently these have included: personal development provision, effective revision, assessment and reporting and communication methods. The development agenda items will be selected based on current academy priorities and any prior feedback received from our parents and carers. The Principal and invited members of the Senior Leadership Team attend parent forum meetings and discuss the academy priorities. Any parent/carers of children currently at Magna Academy are welcome to join any parent forum meeting.

Development Agenda Items 2024-2025:

Meeting	Discussion Area	Date	Staff Member
Unit 1	Meet the New Principal	14/10/24	PMH
Unit 2	Behaviour, Attendance, Rewards, Arbor App		JTY
Unit 3	Teaching and Learning Priorities-How do students learn?	14/01/25	MOD

Unit 4	Phoenix Centre/Additional Support	25/02/25	AHG
Unit 5	Careers in the curriculum	13/03/24	KSD
Unit 6	End of year review	07/07/24	PMH

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

The PTFA is an organisation of parents, friends and staff of the Academy. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and the academy, therefore enhancing the quality of all education for all students. The PTFA will;

- Provide a platform to hear stakeholder opinions;
- Increase parental input and engagement with the Academy;
- Build community relations;
- Organise fundraising events, providing an opportunity for parents, friends, staff and students to work together and further celebrate success in driving outcomes forward

Money raised by the PTFA through events is primarily to provide 'extras' not already provided by the Academy's main income - often essential items or resources that aim to make learning more interesting and exciting. The PTFA committee and the Principal decide how to spend PTFA funds. All parents are welcome to join the PTFA, and can do so by either attending a meeting, or contacting the PTFA using the email address provided on the website.

Other whole academy approaches to parental engagement...

- Events for key points of transition e.g. Year 6/ 12 induction, options process, sixth form enrolment, meet the tutor/expectations, curriculum evenings, UCAS info evening, Year 12 futures planning
- Letters/ parentmail/ calls home about upcoming events e.g prom, Year 13 graduation, visits and journeys, assessment and examinations
- Academy newsletters
- Regular parent meetings, phone calls/postcards home, re. attendance, punctuality (HoHs, tutors) and CW/ HW (teachers, HoDs)
- Student reports e.g. to HoH to tutor, mentoring, sixth form student impact reports
- Text messaging service via Arbor
- PTFA events
- Regular monitoring and tracking of progress through school reports
- Open evening information sessions and parent voice questionnaires
- Parental meetings with disadvantaged families
- Trips e.g. parent helpers
- Website, including Arbor for attendance information and messages
- Social media accounts
- Quick responses to phone calls/emails into academy and prompt investigations into any concerns raised by parents
- Swift communication about concerns and worries if applicable
- Consultations, parental surveys annually for each year group
- Governor contact with parents whenever required
- Parent governors feedback

- All residential / foreign trips hold a parent consultation meeting prior to the event to reassure the parents of the nature of the trip
- Raising achievement presentations
- Coffee mornings for parents/carers
- Home visits
- Hospital visits