

Parent Forum:

Parental Engagement

Aims:

To discuss the ways in which the school communicates with parents

To share how we currently involve parents in supporting pupil learning and development

To provide a sneak peek at the new school website and explain how it will enhance communication and access to information.

To gather feedback on how parents feel about communication and engagement at Gilbert Colvin

Why Parental Engagement Matters

Parental engagement plays a pivotal role in enhancing children's learning experiences and academic outcomes. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that effective parental engagement can lead to an average of four additional months' progress over a year.

Key Findings from EEF Research:

- ✓ **Positive Impact:** Parental engagement has a positive impact on average of 4 months' additional progress. Engaging with all parents is key to ensuring that no gaps in attainment widen.
- ✓ **Effective Communication:** Tailoring school communications to encourage positive dialogue about learning is essential. Personalised messages linked to learning can promote positive interactions.
- ✓ **Support for Home Learning:** Providing practical strategies and resources to assist learning at home is more beneficial than general advice or one-off resources.

Parental Engagement at Gilbert Colvin

At Gilbert Colvin, we value strong partnerships with parents and carers and are committed to keeping you informed and involved in school life. We engage with parents in a variety of ways, to try and ensure clear communication and opportunities to participate in your child's learning journey.

How We Share Key Updates:

- **School Ping** – Our main platform for general messages and emails.
- **Termly Headteacher's Update Letter** – Providing information about school developments.
- **Weekly Newsletter** – Keeping you informed about upcoming events and school news.
- **Website Updates** – Featuring important information and resources.

Parental Engagement at Gilbert Colvin

Opportunities to Connect and Engage:

- **‘Meet the Teacher’ Session (September):** An introduction to your child’s class and curriculum.
- **Three Parents’ Evenings:** Dedicated time to discuss your child’s progress.
- **Open Classroom Sessions & Stay and Plays:** A chance to see learning in action.
- **Curriculum Workshops:** Insight into how we teach key subjects and strategies for parents.
- **Monthly Parent Forums:** A space to share feedback and discuss school initiatives.
- **Invitations to Pupil Performances & Community Events:** Celebrating our children’s achievements together.

In addition to these opportunities, we offer tailored support to individual families based on the needs of their child.

Next Steps - Your Feedback Matters

We value your thoughts and invite you to share your opinions on our current engagement strategies. Parent feedback:

- School Ping reminders for parents to check book bags for comms
- Flexible scheduling for parent forum
- Ensure announcements are made in good time so that parents can plan accordingly e.g. for big events or performances, parents need as much notice as possible
- Parents would like to see more performances
- Parents asked whether there was a way to share pupil achievements – on an internal school group or community forum
- Stay and Play sessions for parents whose children do not attend the school yet