



Broadmeadows Valley Primary School FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

BACKGROUND

Research indicates that the educational outcomes of children are significantly advantaged by the engagement of families in their child's education. Family engagement has been shown to reduce absenteeism, increase retention, increase engagement in school and school work, improve transition and contribute to higher educational aspirations.

Family engagement has been found to have a positive impact on children's self-esteem, their social competence, their academic outcomes and their participation in post compulsory education

RATIONALE:

Broadmeadows Valley Primary School recognises that Family Engagement in school benefits students; by solidifying the connection between home and school, complementing and enhancing classroom achievements, fostering a good attitude to learning and providing an opportunity for students to incorporate their family context and culture into their learning journey.

We are committed to developing a positive relationship with each student's family, which will enable parents/family members to develop a greater awareness of the BVPS learning principles, classroom practice and expectations, and give them the confidence to be participants in a range of school experiences

AIMS:

- To enable parents to play an active part in their child's learning and to understand what is taking place at school.
- To recognize parents/family members as vital learning partners in improving student outcomes.
- **To encourage and provide opportunities for parents/family members to take a meaningful role in contributing to the school community.**
- To value the diversity of families and use this as a resource for building partnerships and a strong community.
- To better mobilise our parent community and encourage proactive communication between home and school.
- To establish procedures and practices at the school that encourages and facilitates family engagement.
- To maximise the number of families participating in school activities and events.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Family Engagement will occur in both a strategic, planned way, and as spontaneous opportunity allows.

- The school will develop a Family Engagement Policy in conjunction with the school's Strategic Plan.
- Families will be welcomed into the learning spaces.
- Information will be provided in community languages wherever possible.
- The BVPS Community Hub will provide family members with an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and skills.
- Family Engagement will be considered as part of all Professional Learning and Curriculum Design sessions.
- A culture of recognition for Family Engagement will be established and celebrated.
- The school will survey families annually in response to Family Engagement initiatives.
- The Newsletter and school web page will be used as key modes of communicating family engagement information, activities and initiatives.
- Professional Learning programs for parents aimed at enhancing student learning will be offered by the school.

Family Engagement may include but is not limited to:

- Contributing to the student learning and school activities within learning neighbourhoods.
- Participating in BVPS Parent Ambassadors Program.
- Joining School Council.
- Participating in school events and celebrations.
- Introducing other families to BVPS.
- Community Hub participation.

Family Engagement Expectations

1. Parent and family members will be encouraged and expected to:

- Communicate regularly with the school through the school office, learning neighbourhoods or school leadership.
- Talk with teachers about how they can best support their children's learning.
- Attend and participate in school based activities.
- Attend organised meetings within the school to build a strong home/school partnership.
- Have regular conversations with their children, thereby showing a positive regard for education.
- Stay informed about what is happening in the school and the school community.
- Be a positive role model when talking about and engaging in learning at home and at school.

2. School leaders will be encouraged and expected to:

- Consider family-school partnerships in the development and implementation of the school's Strategic Plan.
- Ensure that decision making structures provide genuine opportunities for families to participate.
- Provide appropriate support or families who participate on school committees or in school programs.
- Provide training and learning opportunities for staff to foster family/school partnerships.

3. BVPS staff members will be encouraged and expected to:

- **Recognize that each child arrives at school with an identity that is informed by their culture and family narrative and values.**
- Make families feel welcome and a valuable part of their child's learning journey.
- Provide a range of ways family members can contribute to and be involved, and validating all contributions when made. Parents want to feel their time was not wasted.
- Provide students with reading and/or appropriate learning suggestions that can be undertaken at home and include family participation.
- Consider and document in PLCD sessions, how families might be included in learning experiences, particularly enrichment initiatives.
- Establish and employ learning neighbourhood strategies and procedures to specifically meet, greet and engage with parents and carers.
- Vary the approaches to providing feedback and be sensitive to language and culture, given that many families speak a language other than English.
- Provide information in community languages whenever possible.

4. Students will be encouraged to:

- Invite their parents/family members to come and be part of the school community.
- Engage in discussion about their learning at home.
- Introduce parents/family members to teachers and staff members within the school.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

Ratification

This school policy was ratified at the Broadmeadows Valley Primary School Council meeting on
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School Council President _____

Principal _____