



## CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FOUNDATION SCHOOL)

# A POLICY FOR WORKING WITH PARENTS – OUR APPROACH TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AT CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### **What we aim to achieve**

- Parents involved in the learning of their children in partnership with the college.
- Parents understanding the process of education at the college and with the relevant skills to fully support their children.
- Parents provided with sufficient appropriate and relevant information to understand the progress of their child and to understand what they can do to help develop them further.
- Parents fully informed, understanding and supporting the philosophy and approach to education delivered by the college.

### **Where we are now**

We have a very supportive parent body at Callington who generally support the work of the college. The fact that we are oversubscribed reflects the support parents have for the work of the college. However, as the college attempts to move towards an education provision fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have a great deal of work to do in developing the partnership with parents and to achieve the aims outlined above.

### **Communication**

Communication between parents and the college is essential if a student is to achieve their potential.

#### *Where we were a few years ago*

We have moved from a communication system which consisted of:

- An annual written report sent out to parents at the end of a college year.
- An annual parents evening.
- A few other information evenings.
- Some telephone and personal contacts normally parents of students with difficulties.

### ***The weaknesses of this approach***

- The written report:
  - took a couple of months to put together and was often out of date by the time it arrived home;
  - was also sent home at the end of term so there was little time to take any action to put things right;
  - was often very general and descriptive, with little specific advice on how to move forward;
  - took many hours of staff time to write and compile, taking away valuable time that could be spent on teaching and learning.
- The annual parents evening:
  - was often at the end of the year when little could be done to put things right;
  - was often the only contact parents had with the college;
  - was chaotic with five minute appointments with teachers unable to deliver particularly informative information;
  - made it impossible for parents to see all their children's teachers (could be as many as 15 different teachers) in one evening;
  - created many complaints from parents through lack of information, queuing, missed appointments, etc.;
  - was attended mainly by parents of children doing well, attendance was between 40 and 75%, depending on the year group.
- Telephone contact:
  - staff were discouraged from talking directly to parents;
  - parents felt uncomfortable about contacting the college;
  - very little information went to the parents.

### ***What we provide today:***

- A half termly Student Attainment Level (SAL) report with achievement grades/levels, attitude grades and improvement targets.
- An annual Student Progress Review Day (SPRD) in early February where the student, their parents and their tutor meet to set targets for improvement over the remainder of the year. Each student has an individual tutor these targets are followed up very effectively with regular advice and guidance.
- The facility for parents to contact and speak to a subject teacher at any time.
- Key Stage administrators in place to arrange contact between parents and teachers.
- Immediate contact with teachers if there are any problems/issues. Teachers and parents are encouraged to contact each other whenever it is necessary.
- Regular parent information evenings to discuss the nature of education at the college.
- A commendation system which results in parents being contacted about students successes.
- Termly parent review evenings where parents in each year group can discuss issues with the Head of Year.

- In Years 9, 10 and 11 surgeries where parents of students with concerns are invited in to talk to subject teachers.
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH) – a booklet given out to help parents support the learning of their children.
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – this is being developed so that parents can access college information.

***The issues that need to be addressed:***

- Parents ability to contact the college/teachers easily – the telephone system is impersonal and teachers often too busy to be reached during the day.

## **The Home-College Agreement**

This document outlines what is expected of the college, the student and the parents in relation to the education of each student. All parents are issued with this document when they join the college and it is available on the college web-site.

## **The Music Support Group**

This group is made up of parents, students and staff who meet regularly to support the excellent music provision at the college. The group is primarily involved in putting on music events and in raising funds to support the development of the Music department.