



Home School Agreement

St Nicholas School is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School with Gold Status and promotes rights respecting values in all its policies



The Governing Body of St Nicholas School formally adopted

this agreement in September 2023

It will be reviewed and updated as necessary

Signed _____

Head Teacher

Signed _____

Chair of Governors

Home-school agreement

A home-school agreement is a statement explaining the school's aims, values, policies and procedures, its responsibilities towards its pupils, the responsibilities of the pupil's parents, and what's expected of pupils.

At St Nicholas School, we recognise each pupil as an individual and aim to give all pupils every opportunity to realise their full potential. We believe that a close partnership between the school, parents and pupils is essential if we are to achieve this aim.

The aim of our home-school agreement is to encourage consistency, equality and fairness in all matters pertaining to the school. This can be done most effectively when all staff, parents and pupils understand their responsibilities and work together towards the same goals.

We require all parents and pupils to sign the home-school agreement and maintain an awareness that advice from the DfE states that refusal to sign the school's home-school agreement does not provide exemption for any pupils from the rules outlined by the school.

St Nicholas School Vision

Our school motto is 'Shining Together – Embracing our Differences' as this encompasses the collaborative approach to helping our special pupils achieve their full potential, regardless of their ability. **The children at St Nicholas are given daily learning experiences that enable them to be equipped with the skills, knowledge, resilience and life experiences to become healthy, active and respectful learners.**

We want our pupils to:

- Learn independence and life skills so that they can reach their full potential in the future
- Communicate and express their wants and needs
- Make friends and develop social skills; building healthy relationships with pupils and adults
- Understand and manage their self-care routine
- Self-regulate their sensory needs, understand their emotions and to be emotionally safe
- Be respectful of others; knowing that they will meet people from all walks of life
- Feel safe in their school environment and to know how to be safe online, in the community and what a safe environment is
- Be prepared for the next stage of their educational journey
- Be happy, to have fun learning and to build on their self-esteem and self-worth

Staff, parents and governors facilitate this by being knowledgeable and confident themselves in a wide range of strategies and pedagogy that support our varied learners.

St Nicholas School Ethos:

St Nicholas School prides itself on its child centred approach starting from Early Years moving up to our older children in Key Stage 2. Children always come first and the staff at St Nicholas work hard to build up strong relationships with the children.

We further strive to build close relationships with our parents and carers. The staff know each individual child, how they best learn and what support they need. We are empathetic to their needs.

The school community work as a team; there is a shared value among us all. Communication is key and, by being approachable and demonstrating transparency, we openly communicate with families and professionals to support the child.

We provide a warm and welcoming place of learning for our pupils where they feel respected, nurtured and safe. Children are happy, positive and calm in all areas of the school.

We are supportive of each other, our pupils and their families. Staff are committed professionals; they share knowledge and expertise, and provide a well-resourced, multi-sensory approach in all lessons.

St Nicholas School Core Values:

We are proud of our vision and school ethos and these are underpinned by our core values of

- Inclusion and Resilience
- Empathy and Compassion
- Trust and Respect
- Community Spirit and Team Work
- Safety and Nurture

Home-school agreement

As a school we will:

- Support your child's well-being and safety by providing a safe and secure learning environment
- Teach and encourage pupils to do their best and achieve their full potential
- Promote positive values and a caring attitude towards the school community
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum which challenges pupils to reach their full potential and meets the individual needs of every pupil
- Support the pupils with their communication needs
- Offer opportunities for parents to become involved in daily life of the school
- Contact parents as soon as concerns are raised about a pupil's work, behaviour, attendance and punctuality
- Have a clear and consistent approach to Behaviour support, as set out in the school's Behaviour Policy so that we can maintain a safe environment for all children
- Communicate between home and school through notices, newsletters the school website, Arbor messages and emails, and general meetings
- Keep parents informed about their child's progress and behaviour, as well as the termly curriculum
- Welcome parental input and respond to questions or concerns as quickly as possible
- Promote good attendance and punctuality
- Provide opportunities for every student to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities
- Respond to communications from parents within 48 hours



Katie Goodwin

Head Teacher

Signed on behalf of St Nicholas School

As a parent/carer I will:

- Accept the school's vision, ethos, values, policies and procedures to positively support the school
- Make sure my child is ready when school transport arrives
- Ensure that my child attends school punctually during term time, unless there is a good reason for their absence
- Notify the school via Arbor or telephone in the event of absence on the first day of absence
- Follow the Health Protection Agency Guidelines including keeping children away from school for 48 hours in cases of vomiting and diarrhoea
- Support the school's policies and guidelines on learning, behaviour, attendance and uniform
- Promptly inform the school of any concerns or problems that may affect my child's learning, behaviour or happiness at school
- Work in partnership with the school to resolve any issues that may arise
- Stay informed and up-to-date with the school community by regularly reading notices, newsletters, the school website and emails
- Support the school in the teaching of safe and secure internet use at home
- Attend parent meetings – including medical appointments - and annual reviews with teachers to discuss my child's achievements and progress
- Inform the school immediately of any changes to my emergency contact details
- Ensure school trips are paid for in advance, via payments on Arbor
- Make sure communication with the school is respectful, and that I make every reasonable effort to address my communication to the appropriate member of staff
- Understand that I should communicate with staff during core school hours, and although they may at times respond outside of school hours, I can't always expect this
- Understand that staff have up to 48 hours to respond to communication (this does not include weekends and school holidays)
- If as a parent/carer I am unhappy with something that has happened at school I will use appropriate channels to resolve this. I will avoid aggression, rudeness, or using social media to air grievances about the school, staff, pupils and other parents.

Together we will help our pupils:

- Work hard and listen carefully to instructions
- Encourage children to keep school rules
- Be polite, friendly and helpful to other pupils and adults
- Tell a member of staff – in their form of communication – something they are not happy about
- Where appropriate, bring all the equipment they need to school

Parents to sign their agreement on Google forms sent via Arbor.