

# **Parent Council –Hove Junior School**

## **Rationale and Terms of Reference**

At Hove Junior School, there is a commitment in our vision statement to work closely with parents and carers:

***“Parents and carers are true partners in the education of their children”***

and in order to work towards ensuring this becomes a reality, various actions or procedures have been instigated. One initiative is the setting up of a “Parent Council”. We genuinely wish to seek, and take account of, parent’s views and involve them as much as possible in life and work of the school. Research has shown that children behave better and achieve more when their parents are involved in their education. Concerns can be resolved more quickly when parents have a good relationship with the school.

The Governing Body at Hove Juniors have a very specific strategic role to play in the running of the school and have both legal and statutory responsibilities. Generally, the day to day leadership and management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher and other senior leaders employed by the school.

We feel that it is important that parents have a forum where they can express their views, know that they can make a difference, and learn more about how the school operates. The Parent Council will be a place for parents to learn more about the school and a place for the school to learn more about parents.

### **Membership of the Parent Council**

- At least two named parent/carer representatives from each year group in order to ensure a “core group” is established
- Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher
- Parent Governors
- Any “other” parent/carer

The Chair of the Governing Body will have an open invitation to meetings. Other members of staff will be invited to meetings as appropriate. Any parent is welcome to attend meetings in addition to the named year representatives/core group. Meetings will be chaired by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. Parents will be reminded (via the newsletter) of meetings two weeks in advance and issues to be raised at the meeting forwarded to reps for the next agenda.

### **Terms of Reference/Core Purpose**

The Parent Council will:

- Minute all meetings and make them available to all parents/carers.

- Report back to the Governing Body of the school.
- Be involved in identifying priorities for the School Improvement Plan.
- Advise the school on parental views.
- Be the forum through which the school consults parents.
- Make recommendations (this may be in relation to developing policies, procedures, protocols etc) to the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team.
- Liaise with the Infant School where necessary, particularly in relation to transfer and transition.
- Complement the Governing Body and PTA (not be a replacement for them).
- Not be the forum for complaints about individual teachers, pupils, parents or individual issues, (these should be raised with the Headteacher).
- Meet half termly.
- Help to ensure communication between parents and the school is the best it can be.
- Review the impact of its work annually.
- Review terms of reference annually.

October 2014