

# Parents as Partners Policy

August 2025

## Overview

### *Introduction*

Villa Nola recognises that parents and guardians are their child's first and most influential educators. We believe that children flourish best when school and home work in genuine partnership underpinned by mutual respect and open communication. Our aim is to foster a collaborative culture where parents are actively involved, valued, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to their child's learning and wellbeing.

# Policy Details

## *Building a Partnership Ethos*

At Villa Nola, we commit to the following principles:

**Mutual respect and trust:** We honour and respect the knowledge parents have of their child, and we invite families to share insights into their child's strengths, interests, and unique needs.

**Open communication:** We maintain consistent and accessible communication through multiple channels—digital platforms, newsletters, parent–teacher meetings, and informal conversations—so that parents are fully informed about school life and their child's experiences.

**Inclusive practices:** We offer communication and involvement opportunities in various formats that meet the diverse needs of families, including translated materials and flexible event scheduling.

**Welcoming environment:** Parents are warmly invited to visit the school, take part in stay-and-learn sessions, workshops, social events, or curriculum showcases to observe and contribute to their child's school experience.

**Supportive partnership:** We encourage shared learning, offering workshops, resources, and guidance to help parents support their child's development at home.

## *Communication and Information Sharing*

We strive for a two-way dialogue that fosters transparency and collaboration. Parents receive regular updates about curriculum themes, school policies, events, and their child's progress through newsletters, the school app, emails, and noticeboards. Parents are invited to contribute to their child's learning journal and maintain ongoing conversations with key staff about interests, routines, challenges, and celebrations. We provide materials and reports in accessible formats and work to ensure information is understandable and meaningful for all families.

## *Engagement Opportunities*

Villa Nola offers a variety of structured and informal ways for parents to engage:

**Stay-and-play/curriculum sessions:** Parents can participate in activities with their children, gaining insight into our educational approach and routines.

**Workshops and forums:** We host workshops on themes such as learning through play, wellbeing, language development, and managing transitions.

**Social and cultural events:** Seasonal fairs, cultural celebrations, and coffee mornings welcome families

to connect with staff and each other.

Volunteering and expertise sharing: Parents are invited to contribute their skills, hobbies, or cultural knowledge—such as storytelling, arts, or guest presentations—to enrich school activities.

## *Supporting Learning at Home*

We view parents as essential partners in extending learning beyond the classroom. Parents receive suggestions for simple home-based activities aligned with school themes—for example reading strategies, sensory play ideas, or daily routines that reinforce learning. Staff share observations and insights that inform how home activities can support individual growth, creating cohesive learning experiences between school and home.

## *Addressing Barriers to Engagement*

We recognise that families face different challenges and seek to respond proactively. We offer flexible meeting times, childcare, and interpretation services when needed to ensure all parents can participate. The school values the input of less engaged or underrepresented families and seeks to build trust by being welcoming, respectful, and responsive. Record and report to parents any persistent toileting difficulties or medical concerns observed.

## *Governance and Feedback*

Parents are encouraged to participate in decision-making through the Parent Council, feedback surveys, or consultation forums. The school welcomes input on policy development and improvement of practices—suggestions are listened to, recorded, and responded to transparently.

## *Roles and Responsibilities*

School leadership and staff determine and uphold partnership practices, design engagement opportunities, and facilitate open communication. Parents and guardians are invited to inform, support, and engage in their child's learning and school life, offering insights and collaborating with staff. The Community Engagement Coordinator (or similar role) supports implementation of the policy, organises events, and serves as a liaison between families and school leadership.

## *Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review*

The policy will be reviewed annually, incorporating feedback from parents, staff, and community data such as event attendance and survey responses. Effectiveness is assessed in strengthening home—

school communication, enhancing student wellbeing, and improving learning outcomes. Findings from evaluations inform improvements to engagement strategies, policy content, and implementation practices.