

# Toronto Waldorf School

## Parent Engagement and Communication Policy

Updated Sept 13 2018

### Parents

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and have a responsibility to support the efforts of faculty and staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill this responsibility in the following manner by:

- Showing an active interest in their child's school work and progress
- Communicating regularly with the school
- Helping their child to be neat, appropriately dressed, and prepared for school
- Ensuring that their child attends school regularly and on time
- Promptly reporting to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- Adhering to the Communication Policy (see below)
- Encouraging and assisting their child in following the rules of behaviour
- Assisting school faculty and staff in dealing with discipline issues
- Demonstrating respect for all students, faculty, staff and parents

### Parent Council

The Parent Council includes all current parents and is led by the core group of class parents and an executive body. This core group strives to create a positive environment for parental involvement in the governance of the school through collaboration with the Faculty Council, Administration, and Board of Directors. In order to achieve this, members will do the following:

- Promote positive parent participation in school life
- Work collaboratively
- Facilitate positive, constructive communication as per the communication policy (see below)

**The relationship between child, parent, and teacher is an important one, dependent on mutual respect, compassion, and openness. The following communication policy is intended to foster this relationship.**

### Community-Wide Communications Policy

- Practice respectful communication at all times.
- Take your questions or concerns directly to the teacher, parent, employee, or colleague involved
- Do not engage in third-party conversations, gossip, "parking lot conversations," and hurtful or critical speech
- Do not speak about your concerns when your children or other parents are in earshot
- Important discussions should take place in person or over the phone not via electronic communication
- Electronic communication should be used for information dissemination, requesting and coordinating meetings, as well as follow-up documentation from conversations

- All electronic communication will be responded to within 48 hours excepting holidays and weekends. If urgent please specify in the subject line.
- Be proactive; don't wait to bring something forward.