

# Parental Involvement & Engagement Strategy

## Baltasound Junior High School - Peerie School, Big Dreams



**Overview** This document is the Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy for Baltasound JHS. It localises and builds upon the Shetland Islands Council Parental Involvement and Parental Engagement Strategy. This document is available on the Shetland Islands Council webpage - [www.shetland.gov.uk](http://www.shetland.gov.uk).

**Communicating** Communication between Baltasound JHS and parents should be prioritised, regular, jargon free, clear, accessible and specific. Communication throughout the year will include the following:

- At least one formal Parents' Event to speak to the class teacher, Pupil Support, DHT and HT.
- At least one opportunity for parents to learn in class, with their child (Bring Your Parent To School Days for P1, P4, P7 and S4) - literacy and numeracy should be prioritised during these days.
- At least one opportunity for parents to come in to school, view classwork, achievements, wall displays and discuss informally with the class teacher, Pupil Support, DHT or HT.
- Opportunities to feedback made available at each parental engagement opportunity.
- A twice termly newsletter highlighting achievements, opportunities for involvement and diary dates (printed and bag dropped, emailed and on school website).
- At least one written report per student, per year.
- At least one anonymous survey/questionnaire for parents to complete; the feedback from this to be shared with staff and parents in the following session with action points to be addressed or to feed into the School Improvement Plan.
- An up-to-date school website and Facebook page, highlighting achievements, events, dates, policies, documents and contact information.
- A yearly celebratory event for all students, highlighting the achievements of the past session including personal, group, volunteering and fundraising achievements/milestones.



Bring Your Parent To School Day

Baltasound JHS take pride in being an open door school, whereby parents feel comfortable discussing any issues with SLT, without appointment.

**Volunteering** Baltasound JHS will provide opportunity for, and promote, volunteering amongst the parent forum. This will include opportunities to:

- Assist, modify and initiate improvements within the school estate (inside the building and in the playground).
- Assist with school trips (fundraising and being a member of the adult support team).
- Assist with literacy/numeracy/health & wellbeing interventions in school.
- Support school events (creatively, artistically, organisationally) such as fundraisers and school shows or performances.
- Support lunchtime and after school activities and clubs.



BJHS Community Day

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### Learning At Home

Baltasound JHS will regularly seek feedback from parents with regard supporting parents to support their child. We will also initiate interventions to support children achieve their potential. This will include:

- Information Evenings suggested by Parent Council or Parent Forum, i.e. Internet Safety/Social Media/CfE.
- Information sharing and awareness raising with regard Additional Support Needs.
- Interventions in Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing; with associated resources and learning games.
- Shared Family Learning activities and strategy sharing, to promote working together as a family unit.
- Access to parent friendly resources on our school website.

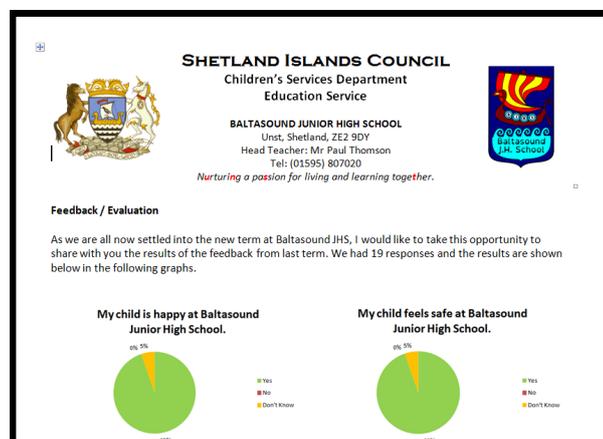


Information Evening

### Decision Making

Parents are able to be part of the decision making process at Baltasound JHS through the Parent Council, feedback opportunities throughout the year and as part of the end of year anonymous survey.

The wider parent forum is consulted throughout the year and the wider community is able to feed into school improvement electronically (email, Facebook), by phone or in person. We feel it is vital that parents feel empowered to discuss any issues and help drive forward change in Baltasound JHS.



Feedback Survey Results & Action Plan

### Parenting

Baltasound JHS support parents through our Bookbug Programme (with Shetland Library) and parenting support/respice is available through the Bruce Family Centre and Short Breaks facilities in Lerwick. This is a Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), multi-agency approach to:

- Promote early intervention.
- Support vulnerable children, young people and their families.
- Support young people with complex additional support needs and their families.

The Bookbug Programme has been an excellent way of encouraging our parents to read and sing with their child and enables a smooth transition into Baltasound JHS Early Years. The school has strong links with Voluntary Action Shetland, Children & Families Social Work Team, NHS Shetland, Police Scotland, Community Learning and Development, Youth Services, North Isles Learning Partnership and Active Schools.

### Collaborating With The Community

Baltasound JHS is the cornerstone of Unst; with organisations, clubs and groups either linking directly with the school for inter-disciplinary or inter-generational learning activities or members of school staff being integral to the committee or organisation structure.

This allows the school to be at the forefront of community projects and for school opportunities to involve the wider community and serve the needs of both parents and Unst residents.