

# Believe & Achieve at Brightlingsea Junior School

## Parental Involvement Factsheet 2014-15

### Department for Education:

*“The research shows that parental involvement in children’s learning is a key factor in improving children’s academic attainment and achievements, as well as their overall behaviour and attendance.*

*The role of parents during a child’s earliest years is the single biggest influence on their development. Good quality home learning contributes greatly to children’s intellectual and social development .”*

### Believe & Achieve

At Brightlingsea Junior School we believe that your child will do best if we are helping them in school, they are trying their best in all that they do, and you can offer support and encouragement at home.

Research has clearly shown that children who are actively supported in their learning at home do better in school. One of the aims for Believe & Achieve is to open a more meaningful dialogue with parents. Through our Believe & Achieve system you will:

- Be able to support your child with their learning, as details of what they are currently working on will be shared in their Learning Log every fortnight.
- Be able to support and guide your child in their personal and social development. At the end of each term you will receive an update on how well your child is doing in the six Attitude strands outlined previously. With this knowledge you will be able to praise your child for the areas they are doing really well in and, if necessary, offer guidance in those they are not. Children who come to school with a positive attitude and are committed to trying their best will make progress. You can help by instilling these qualities in your child.
- Be invited to attend a Parents Evening appointment twice a year in school. These are similar to the traditional parent consultations we have held in the past, but differ in the way the teachers manage the meeting and the clarity of the information they will provide you with. During the meetings you will have an opportunity to review your child’s Believe & Achieve Folder and look through their work. It is important to note that this session will have maximum impact if your child is present with you at your Parents Evening appointment.

### Extract from our school prospectus:

#### Parental Involvement

We encourage parents to take an active interest in the education of their children and to feel involved in the work and life of the school. The school welcomes the involvement of parents who feel able to help in the classroom.

At the start of each school year, in September, each year group holds a ‘Meet the Teacher’ session. Information on topics for the forthcoming year along with other useful information is shared with parents. There are opportunities for parents to discuss their child’s progress at Parent Evenings and to find out about various aspects of the curriculum.

If you have any concerns about your child please let us know as soon as possible. You can call into the office and leave a message or book an appointment with the classteacher. Please don’t wait until the next Parents Evening if you are worried about something or think there is anything we need to know about your child. If you are still concerned after your chat with your child’s teacher

then please make an appointment with our Assistant or Deputy Head or our Headteacher.

We want to work together with you, in partnership, to ensure your child is happy and reaches his or her full potential in our school. The Headteacher and teaching staff believe a child will only develop fully if school and home act together as partners with a shared responsibility for the child.

### **Family Learning**

At Brightlingsea Juniors we try to provide regular opportunities for Family Learning. Here is a review of our recent 'Family Maths' course:

### **Family Maths**

As a parent with a child that seems to be allergic to maths and who panics when times table sheets are mentioned, I decided to sign up for the family maths sessions offered free by the junior school.

The "Family Learning" tutors are funded by Essex County Council and offer a range of courses from literacy, numeracy and confidence building (amongst others) for parents and carers of KS1 and KS2 children. The courses are run at participating schools throughout the county depending on what is required.

The Family Maths sessions promised to make maths "fun" offering strategies and games to interest and stimulate learning, exploring the curriculum over ten sessions. Each session lasts two hours; the first hour is spent with the tutors giving advice and explanations to the parents/ carers, the second hour with your child joining the group and all playing a team maths game to win points. There are about 9 parents in our group being quite informal and relaxed until we start the team game, when it can get quite competitive...

We are currently on week 8 of the programme and it has been really enjoyable. I have come away each week with a stack of useable resources, strategies that work and a renewed confidence in my own abilities to be able to help with homework. A little bit of extra help has made all the difference at home and helped us talk about maths in a way that was not possible before.

As a result of last session, and building on the school lesson that day - we can now tell the time (but not bedtime of course!).

I thoroughly recommend it to any maths phobic parent or child.

For more information : [www.familylearning.org.uk](http://www.familylearning.org.uk)

Review by Karen Cooke - Parent Governor