

## **College Mission Statement**

Inspiring our community through learning for all

### **1. Vision Statement**

- 1.1. South Devon College is committed to working in partnership with the parents, carers or legal guardians (hereafter referred to as guardians) of its learners, including apprentices, seeking to engage them wherever possible in shaping the learning experience offered by the college
- 1.2. The college believes that the effective and systematic involvement of parents, carers and guardians in reviewing the learning experience of their children provides a valuable source of feedback.
- 1.3. This Parental Involvement Strategy aims to foster and promote parental involvement as a key element in the college's learning culture.
- 1.4. The college acknowledges that the kind of parental involvement promoted by this strategy is sought mainly on behalf of younger learners (minors). For any other learner over the age of 18, where for some legitimate reason the involvement of a parent or guardian might be deemed appropriate or necessary, consent would be sought before sharing any information about them with their parents.

### **2. Developing Parental Involvement**

- 2.1. South Devon College invites parents, carers and guardians to contribute to the development of the learning culture at the college using a combination of feedback from events where parents, carers and guardians visit the college (open evenings, meet the tutors events), annual surveys and consultation events with course tutors, curriculum managers and senior managers.
- 2.2. The college and the parents, carers and guardians of the learners will work together to:
  - develop a learning culture that promotes and supports the development of professional behaviours, cultivates progression to higher levels of study and encourages aspirational career pathways.
  - ensure the "you said this ... we did this" protocol applies to all feedback gathered.
  - consult widely about more effective or innovative ways of gathering feedback from parents, carers and guardians.
  - ensure the activities used to consult parents, carers and guardians are inclusive and welcome "hard to reach groups".

### 2.3. Promoting Parental Involvement

Positive leadership and a clear message that the college welcomes partnership with parents is essential for good parental involvement. Successful partnerships should be based upon:

- a genuine two way exchange of information
- trust and openness
- a commitment to shared goals
- the development and maintenance of high expectations among learners, staff, parents, carers and guardians
- a commitment to ensure that each learner will progress and achieve their potential

## 3. **Recognising Equality and Diversity**

3.1. The college will work with parents, carers and guardians to create equality of opportunity with participation in the parental involvement activities organised and used by the college.

3.2. The college recognises the need to ensure recognition of diversity and that the contributions from all parents, carers or guardians are welcomed regardless of age, gender or transgender, race, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation.

3.3. The college recognises the diversity among parents, carers and guardians, their location and living arrangements. The college will endeavour to accommodate this diversity when communicating with parents to ensure the involvement of hard to reach groups.

## 4. **Involving Parents in Quality Improvement and Development**

4.1. The college will work with parents, carers or guardians to:

- Ensure all parents, carers and guardians are encouraged to take part in parental involvement and consultation.
- ensure feedback is reviewed, acted upon accordingly and evidence is collected of any actions taken.
- ask course teams to keep evidence of the use of parent, carer or guardian feedback to improve performance and support mechanisms.
- investigate the direct role of parents, carers or guardians in college quality processes and procedures to enhance and improve the learner journey.

4.2. Encourage workshops or training events to assist parents, carers or guardians in developing their role with the college.

## 5. **Developing Parental Involvement – Creating the Culture**

5.1. The parent, carer and guardian involvement vision statement and the features and proposals set out above are designed to ensure that parental involvement becomes more deeply embedded within the college. The college recognises the important role parents, carers and guardians play in promoting its own core values namely aspiration, inclusion, innovation, support and progress with our learners and the part played by the college in promoting these values through parents in the wider community.

5.2. The college, parents, carers and guardians will work together to:

- make parents, carers and guardians aware of the college's vision statement and how they can contribute to its success
- help parents, carers and guardians to understand and support the core values informing the college's teaching, learning & assessment activities
- provide opportunities for parents, carers or guardians to improve their own study skills or confidence with maths, English or digital skills.
- provide opportunities to support parents, carers or guardians in being able to help their child's learning at home.
- help parents, carers and guardians to understand their role and contribution to the safeguarding of our learners
- provide appropriate training for staff to support those activities aimed at communicating and consulting with parents, carer and guardians.

## **6. Improving and Developing Parental Involvement**

6.1. This Parental Involvement Strategy is a living document and will be reviewed and amended annually as part of the college's self - assessment process.

6.2. In assessing the impact of this strategy the college will take account of key performance indicators (attendance, progress, retention and achievement) as well as feedback from staff, learners, parents and employers. Examples of outcomes against which the success of this strategy will be assessed are:

- growing numbers of parents, carers or guardians participating in the activities listed within this strategy.
- parental involvement activities lead to auditable trails regarding actions and improvements.
- the college can evidence how feedback from these activities is used to identify and spread good practice.
- surveys of parents or guardians produce consistently high levels of satisfaction with the learning, teaching, assessment and other services offered at the college.
- monitoring the use of the Parent Web Site and the feedback provided from the website.
- quality of responses returned to OFSTED on line surveys for parents and carers

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the college's Data Protection Policy.**

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