

The London Borough of Bromley Education Covenant



This Covenant compliments our 17 Education Commitments approved by the Full Council on 21 January 2013

Our 17 Educational Commitments set out the Council's educational philosophy and general principles. In it, we make clear that we welcome and encourage all schools to become academies with the independence that brings. We support the creation of new 'free schools' and the expansion of selective education.

We are mindful of the fact that education is being provided by public funds, in buildings which in many cases were paid for by the local community or by the churches and with public support to provide education for the children of the borough and surrounding area. We all have an obligation to children and young people and we outline our commitments and our expectations below:

The Council:

We retain more than 250 statutory educational duties including some major overarching responsibilities. As the civic leader of the community, we have a duty to the residents of the borough: to ensure that there are sufficient school places; that the quality of the education provided is of the highest standard; that our children leave school prepared for a successful and fulfilled adult life; and that our young people are able to play their part as citizens in a democratic, economic prosperous Britain.

Parents:

We will provide a choice of good and outstanding schools (including academies and Free Schools) in which your children can thrive socially and academically. In return, we expect you to support your children by ensuring they attend school, behave well, undertake school and homework, and co-operate with school staff.

Pupils:

We will work to ensure that your school provides a first rate education suited to your needs in safe and secure buildings. In return, we expect you to attend regularly, work hard, be well behaved and co-operate with your teachers.

Governors:

We are grateful for the voluntary service you give to your community. Your school or academy will give you access to high quality training and development. In return, you will be expected to take an active part in the governance of your school, ensuring that it delivers a high quality education in a safe and secure environment, providing good value for public money.

School Leaders:*

To work with children and young people is a huge privilege. We expect all our schools to co-operate with the local authority in delivering on the five outcomes given in Every Child Matters.

Residents:

We will ensure: that there are sufficient school places in the borough; that schools are monitored to ensure a high quality of education and behaviour; and that there is value for money provided by the tax payer. In return, we hope that you will support your local school in fundraising, charitable and other activities to support the wider community they serve.

Business:

We will encourage schools to ensure: that pupils leave school well equipped for the world of work; and that they have the skills and attributes to be good citizens. In return, we hope that you seek to employ local young people wherever appropriate and provide Saturday part-time work or work experience where possible. We will also encourage and welcome applicants from local businesses to play an active role as school governors.

*** Academies**

Academies have a Section10 duty to co-operate with the LA to ensure children's well-being. The LA has a duty under Section11 to safeguard children in its area.

There is a statutory obligation on academies to co-operate with LAs pursuant to Section10 of the Children Act 2004; Section10 provides for "co-operation and well-being".

It is considered that such obligations do not interfere with an academy's independence; the creation of an academy does not rid the LA of its (pre)existing obligations regarding the welfare of children. Academies should view this in the spirit of co-operation rather than bureaucracy.

(We would expect that this duty to co-operate would include the provision of statutory information and data to the Council.)