



ROWAN WOOD - School Development Plan 2026 - 27



To engage with and promote our new building to our school community.



Engaging the school community with the new building will ensure that stakeholders develop a shared sense of pride, belonging, and ownership, supporting strong relationships and establishing Rowan Wood as a thriving and inclusive specialist school.



All staff will be confident with approaching, discussing and advising parents/carers with barriers to learning, sensitive issues and achievements. Building on areas such as attachment theories and safeguarding regulations. Links between Rowan Wood and the local community will develop and strengthen. Rowan Wood will start to develop a strategy for the use of the new building outside of school hours.



Drawing on the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, DfE guidance on parental engagement and community involvement, and the SEND Code of Practice.

Contributing to the development of a strong school culture, effective partnerships with families, and a sense of pride, belonging, and ownership within the Rowan Wood community.



Will contribute to a strong, connected Trust community where best practice is shared, while positioning Rowan Wood as a leading autism specialist provision that actively engages and positively influences its local community and professional networks.

AUTUMN

What? (action)	Why? (is the change needed)	Success (what will it look / sound like?)	Evaluation (sources of feedback)
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Develop Strong Community Connections • Establish a programme of regular tours to showcase the school's vision, facilities and curriculum offer. • For: • Parents - current and prospective • Local residents • Community groups • Local councillors • Local Schools • Wider Trust staff	To realise school/Trust vision: ensure a great school thrives at the heart of a thriving community providing a broad range of services to families, communities and wider stakeholders. Developing strong community connections will ensure Rowan Wood is established as a thriving and valued part of the local community. Regular opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the school will promote understanding of the school's vision and specialist provision, strengthen relationships, and create a culture of collaboration, mutual responsibility, and inclusion.	A school characterised by collaboration, mutual responsibility and risk-taking leading to the inclusion of all stakeholders. Parents, prospective families, local residents, community groups, councillors, local schools, and Trust colleagues will engage regularly with Rowan Wood through a planned programme of tours and events. Visitors will have a clear understanding of the school's vision, values, curriculum, and specialist autism provision. Strong partnerships will be evident through positive feedback, collaborative projects, and increased community involvement. Rowan Wood will be recognised as a welcoming, inclusive, and outward-facing school that actively contributes to its local community and the wider Trust	Annual calendar of tours and community engagement events. Parent and carer questionnaires. Prospective parent feedback. Visitor feedback forms and visitor book records. Pupil voice activities. Staff feedback and surveys. Attendance records from tours and community events. Feedback from local schools, community groups, councillors, and Trust colleagues. Records of collaborative projects and community partnerships. Website, newsletter, and social media engagement. Governor and Trust monitoring visits. Case studies demonstrating the impact of community engagement activities. Stakeholder surveys evidencing increased awareness and understanding of the school's vision and provision.
Environment Internal • Establish opportunities for CYP to be an active and valued members of the	To realise school/Trust vision: Ensure a great school thrives at the heart of a thriving community providing a broad range of	Pupils will develop confidence and become active contributors to school life. High-quality classrooms, displays, and outdoor spaces will support engagement, communication, and pride in the	Pupil voice activities. Learning walks and environmental audits environments. Classroom and display monitoring

whole school, through jobs, • Staff maintain autism friendly classrooms • Displays are of a high standard and maintained. • Mural to be completed in playground • Welcoming entrance to school External • Positive impact on immediate local environment by researching and establishing links with neighbours and local community groups • Develop initiatives that encourage pupils, staff, and families to care for and improve the local environment. • Embed sustainability and environmental awareness within the curriculum and school culture	services to families, communities and wider stakeholders. To create a welcoming, autism-friendly and aspirational environment that promotes pupil wellbeing, independence, and belonging:	school. Strengthening links with the local community and embedding sustainability will enable pupils to make a positive contribution beyond school while developing an understanding of environmental responsibility.	Feedback from pupils, families, staff, visitors, and professionals regarding the school's welcoming environment. Records of pupil leadership roles, responsibilities, and participation in whole-school jobs. Parent and carer questionnaires Community partner and neighbour feedback Photographic evidence, newsletters, website updates, and social media celebrating environmental developments and community engagement. Governor and Trust monitoring visits
Strengthen Parental Engagement • Organise regular open/coffee mornings to provide parents with opportunities to observe learning and engage with school life.	Strengthening parental engagement will ensure that families are active partners in their children's education from the outset of Rowan Wood's development. By creating meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in school life, observe learning, and access support and guidance, the school will build strong home-school relationships that promote pupil achievement, wellbeing, attendance, and personal development	There will be meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in school life, observe learning, and develop their understanding of how to support their children at home, the school can build strong, positive partnerships with families. Through reading open mornings, play and stay sessions, workshops, and	Parent and carer questionnaires. Attendance records for coffee mornings, workshops, reading mornings, and play and stay sessions. Feedback forms Parent voice activities and focus groups.

• Increase parental participation through workshops, information sessions, and family learning opportunities. • Develop effective communication channels to foster positive home-school partnerships. • Reading open mornings • Play and stay opportunities		effective communication channels, parents will be actively involved in their children's education, leading to increased confidence, engagement, and success for all pupils.	Communication audits and engagement statistics (newsletters, apps, website, social media). Pupil attendance, wellbeing, and engagement data. Staff feedback regarding parental engagement and communication. Records of parent participation in school events and activities. Case studies Governor and Trust monitoring visits.
Establish a Planned Programme of Assemblies and Community Events • Create an annual timetable of assemblies that celebrates achievements, promotes school values, and involves parents and the wider community where appropriate. • Use assemblies to strengthen pupils' sense of belonging and community responsibility. • Sharing assembly with parents. • Diversity assemblies • School Fairs	To strengthen Rowan Wood's inclusive school culture by creating meaningful opportunities for pupils, families, staff, and the wider community to come together, celebrate success, and promote shared values. A planned programme of assemblies and community events will foster a strong sense of belonging, raise aspirations, celebrate diversity, and ensure pupils develop an understanding of their role within the school and wider community. This will support pupils' personal development, confidence, communication skills, and pride in being part of the Rowan Wood community.	Pupils will actively participate in assemblies and community events, demonstrating increased confidence, engagement, and pride in their achievements. Families will feel welcomed and valued through regular opportunities to attend celebration assemblies, performances, and school events. Diversity and inclusion will be visibly celebrated throughout the year, promoting understanding, respect, and acceptance. Community events, enterprise projects, and seasonal performances will strengthen relationships between school, home, and the wider community, establishing Rowan Wood as a thriving and connected school at the heart of its community	Annual calendar of events Parent and carer questionnaires Pupil voice activities Attendance records for assemblies and events Staff feedback Visitor feedback forms Community partner feedback Evidence through newsletters, social media, and school website Governor and Trust monitoring visits

• Winter performance / Enterprise projects			
Develop Effective Multi-Agency Partnerships • Build strong relationships with external agencies and professionals to support pupil wellbeing, inclusion, safeguarding, and achievement. • Ensure families can access appropriate support and guidance through coordinated partnership working. • Establishing key outside agencies to support families. • Close links with trust schools	To ensure every pupil and family benefits from a coordinated, holistic approach that addresses educational, social, emotional, health, and wellbeing needs. Establishing strong partnerships with external agencies, Trust schools, and community organisations will strengthen Rowan Wood's capacity to provide specialist support, remove barriers to learning, and promote positive outcomes for all pupils. Effective multi-agency collaboration will enable early intervention, improve communication between professionals, and ensure families can readily access the guidance and services they need.	Rowan Wood will have established, effective working relationships with a range of external professionals, including health, social care, therapy, safeguarding, and family support services. Families will report that they feel well-supported and know how to access appropriate help when needed. Staff will work collaboratively with agencies and Trust schools, sharing expertise and best practice to improve outcomes for pupils. Referrals will be timely, communication will be effective, and support plans will demonstrate a coordinated approach. Pupils will experience improved wellbeing, engagement, attendance, and progress as a result of targeted interventions and collaborative working.	Parent and carer questionnaires and feedback Multi-agency meeting records and action plans Records of referrals and service engagement Pupil progress and wellbeing data Attendance and safeguarding data Case studies demonstrating impact on pupils and families Feedback from external agencies and professionals Staff surveys and evaluation activities Evidence of collaboration and professional learning with Trust schools Governor and Trust monitoring reports