

Learning Together

Parental Involvement and Engagement

EdinburghLearns



What is parental engagement?

It is about parents showing an interest in their child's learning

- * at school
- * at home.

Why is parental engagement a good thing?

Because being interested in your child's learning helps them to do better at school.

What is parental involvement?

It is about parents getting involved in the life and work of their child's school.

Why is parental involvement a good thing?

Because being involved helps you and your child to know what is going on at your child's school.

This booklet is divided into six sections, each describing ways in which you can be involved in the life of your child's school and engaged in your child's learning.

Parenting

Using parenting skills to develop home environments that support children as learners.

What can parents do?

- * Help your child to get to school every day on time.
- * Ask your child about their school day.
- * Get to know who your child's friends are.
- * Find out what your child needs to take to school with them – pencil, gym shoes.

What can teachers do?

- * Be welcoming and respectful to all parents.
- * Arrange for families to come together and play, talk about health issues, find out about learning.
- * Help parents to feel confident in their parenting ability and skills.
- * Know where professional support and help can be made available for families if necessary.

Communicating

Making sure there is regular and meaningful two-way communication between home and school.

What can parents do?

- * Let the school know if your child is going to be absent.
- * Give feedback when asked – in surveys and questionnaires, on your child's report.
- * Tell the school if you or your child are worried about anything.
- * Go to parents' evenings to find out about your child's progress.

What can teachers do?

- * Provide clear and regular communication from school to home.
- * Provide school information in relevant languages in addition to English.
- * Make sure that parents know how to get in touch with the school.
- * Make good use of information technology to communicate with parents, eg social media, email, the school website.



Volunteering

Organising parental support in school activities.

What can parents do?

- * Support your child at school events, eg football match, school concert.
- * Help to serve tea/juice and biscuits at a school event.
- * Offer to help with a reading group.
- * Offer to talk to senior pupils about your job.

What can teachers do?

- * Ask for parents to help at school events.
- * Provide appropriate training and support for all parents who are volunteering in school.
- * Provide a room in school for parents to meet each other.
- * Thank parents for their help.



Learning at home

Supporting families to learn at home.

What can parents do?

- * Play, read, write, and count with your child.
- * Ask your child what homework they have to do and when it should be done by.
- * Talk to your child about what they want to do when they leave school and what they need to do in order to achieve that.
- * Do things together as a family, for example, cooking, sport, watching films.

What can teachers do?

- * Make sure information about homework and deadlines is available to parents.
- * Put on relevant information sessions, eg about school subjects, careers, how to support your child's learning in literacy and numeracy.
- * Share examples of school work on the website so that parents can see what is happening in class.
- * Provide feedback, comments and next steps so that parents know how to support their child to make progress.

School decision-making

Including parents in important school decisions.

What can parents do?

- * Give your opinion when you are asked about decisions being made in school.
- * Find out who is on the Parent Council and how you can get in touch with them.
- * Offer to take part in focus groups.
- * Get involved in how funding decisions are made.

What can teachers do?

- * Consult parents on school decisions.
- * Support the Parent Council to be representative of the wider parent body.
- * Include parents on working groups and in improvement planning activities.
- * Share examples of 'you said, we did'.

Collaborating with the community

Making good use of people and resources in the community.

What can parents do?

- * Find out what clubs, workshops, holiday activities are on in the area.
- * Take part in community fun days as a family.
- * Borrow books from the local library.
- * Offer to help another parent who is new to the area or who does not speak English.

What can teachers do?

- * Hold meetings for parents in the community.
- * Display school information in centres, businesses, shops, doctors' surgery.
- * Offer the use of school premises for clubs and activities.
- * Invite local partners, faith leaders, business owners to school events or a business breakfast.



