

Information for Parents: Parents as partners in their children's education

As a parent you have a right to be involved in your child's education. A strong partnership between home and school, based on caring for children and sharing useful information, is the best way to support children and young people in their learning and their personal development. Your interest and involvement will show your child that you value their education. Getting involved can also be a useful way of making contacts and friends with people who have children of the same age.

How can I be involved in my child's education?

You already make a huge contribution to your child's learning at home and your knowledge of your child is invaluable to teaching staff.

- At home, talk to your child about their day's learning and support them in their homework
- If you have concerns, talk to staff
- Read notes and progress reports sent home and offer your comments
- Attend school events and meetings to discuss your child's progress and plan future learning targets
- Join the Parent Council and help influence plans for your child and others

The best help comes from your relationship with your child; supporting them to have regular attendance, to keep up with homework and coursework throughout the term, and promoting regular sleep, a healthy diet and physical exercise.

How can I help with my child's homework?

Just showing you are interested matters most. Asking children to explain what they have learned - in your home language and/or in English - helps to reinforce their learning, even if you don't fully understand the detail. Asking questions, giving praise, listening - all these help.

Help your child make time and space for homework and reading. Sometimes homework will involve finding things out or doing something practical and you can do this learning together as part of family life - cooking, reading, playing. Help establish good study habits as they grow older and this will help them become independent and successful learners. If homework is really a problem, talk to the school about it.

What should I do if I have concerns about my child's learning?

Some children need extra support throughout their education linked to emotional, behavioural and learning needs. Others may need help at a specific time, for a short period or a number of years, including pupils who are gifted and talented. Staff should be able to identify learning needs as they assess educational progress. Parents might become aware of difficulties and children and young people are likely to know themselves when they are struggling.

The key to making sure your child's needs are met is to ask for help at nursery or at school and encourage your child to do the same. Speak to staff as soon as you think there's an issue. Schools can co-ordinate help from a range of specialists who can provide additional support.

What can I usefully offer the school?

Time, a pair of hands, ideas, energy, skills, support. Depending on the age/stage of your child and how involved you want to be, this could be helping in class, **assisting with reading programmes, mentoring individual learners, helping** with outdoor projects and extra curricular activities, going on trips, sharing your experience and skills, helping out at exam time, joining the Parent Council, fundraising. Ask about the options and you can work out what suits your availability and interest.

Other EAL Service information leaflets for parents:

Education in Scotland

Assessment, Reporting and Qualifications