

Learning Together

Parental Involvement and Engagement

EdinburghLearns



Definition

Parental involvement describes ways in which parents can get involved in the life and work of their child's school. Parental engagement is about parents' interaction with their children's learning. Schools and partners can play a vital role in supporting families to do this effectively by:

- * enabling ongoing, two-way communications between home and school;
- * supporting parents to contribute to school improvement and making decisions that affect the school;
- * using the skills of parents to enrich the curriculum where appropriate; and
- * providing opportunities for families to come together and engage with learning.

Aims and Rationale

The purpose of our strategy is to ensure excellence and equity in parental involvement and engagement within our schools. It will ensure:

- * that we have the capacity and skills to support parental involvement and engagement;
- * that involvement and engagement is monitored and evaluated;
- * that effective communication is in place between home and school;
- * that parents can see how their involvement is influencing school improvement;
- * that we provide appropriate opportunities to involve all parents, whatever their ability, background or interest, to participate in the design, delivery and evaluation of the services and facilities that impact on their children;
- * that all staff who work with children and young people see the importance of engaging and working with parents.

Parenting

Promote and foster parenting skills to develop home environments that support children as learners.

- * Develop a skilled and welcoming workforce that builds strong, respectful relationships with all parents and carers.
- * Provide opportunities for families to come together and engage with their children's health and wellbeing, play, learning and community.
- * Help parents and carers feel confident in their ability and skills to meet the daily demands of their parenting role.
- * Ensure professional support and help is available for families where there are wellbeing concerns or additional support needs.
- * Support parents and carers to access study, work and community life.

Communicating

Establish regular and meaningful two-way communication between home and school.

- * Clear and regular communication from school to home.
- * Widely known opportunities for communication from home to school.
- * Good use of information technology and school website.



Volunteering

Welcome, value and recruit parental support and assistance in school activities.

- * ALL families know their time and talents are welcome.
- * Training provided for volunteer work as required.
- * Efforts of volunteers recognised and celebrated.

Learning at home

Support families/parents to play an integral role in assisting student learning.

- * Information on homework policies and schedules available to families.
- * Information on homework activities and skills available to families.
- * Support activities available in school or on-line.

School decision-making

Include parents in school decisions and develop parent leaders and representatives.

- * Parent Council active and representative of the wider parent body.
- * Parents involved in improvement planning and decision making at all levels.
- * Networks available for families to link with parent representatives.

Collaborating with the community

Identify and use community resources and services to strengthen schools, families and student learning and development.

- * Information available on community activities for students, families and schools.
- * Collaborative activities supported and promoted.
- * Use of partnership and community resources to enhance the curriculum.

