

Bolsover Infant and Nursery School



Parent Voice and Parents as Partners

Getting involved with school...

Parent and School

Parents getting involved in school and the school getting it right!

As a school we value parents, careers and the wider family and what they can offer to a child's education. We aim to build an open, honest and respectful relationship with Parents, careers and the wider Family, working together to support children emotionally and academically. With this in mind, we offer a lot of opportunities for Parents to become involved in school. Some of the more commonly known opportunities are:

- Our home/school agreement, which was drawn up in consultation with school staff/parents/governors. This outlined what parents can expect from the school right from the start, it also helps give guidance to parents, and children, about what is expected of them.
- We send regular newsletters to every family, each Friday.
- There are parents' notice boards outside every classroom and on the exterior of school.
- We hold parent / teacher evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms when parents can meet with class teachers to find out about their child's learning, progress and achievements.
- Yearly reports are sent home in the Summer term
- Parents and Grandparents are actively encouraged to become involved in school life. Taking part in lessons, activities and trips, as well as homework clubs and events.

There are many reasons school would get involved with parents or that Parents would get involved with school. We believe these can be categorise into 6 categories. These include:

1. **Parenting** - Helping with parenting and childrearing skills and setting home conditions to **support a child's abilities to access school**.
2. **Communicating** - Communicating about school, **attainment, achievement and child's progress**
3. **Participation** - Supporting school and school programmes. Improving **involvement in school activities**, inc audiences at school events, PFA etc
4. **Learning at home** - **Learning at home**, homework and curricular based activity.
5. **Decision Making** - Participating in **decision making**, school governance, questionnaires, information sharing about the school to benefit the school, children, other parents and stakeholders and the community.
6. **Collaborating with the community** - Services for parents in the community, liaison with the school and **outside agencies**.

Involving Parents in School

As a school we have outlined what activities we already undertake in these 6 areas.

Parenting	Communicating	Participation	Learning at home	Decision Making	Collaborating with the community
Helping with parenting and childrearing skills and setting home conditions to support a child's abilities to access school.	Communicating about school, attainment, achievement and child's progress	Supporting school and school programmes. Improving involvement in school activities , inc audiences at school events, PFA etc	Learning at home , homework and curricular based activity.	Participating in decision making , school governance, questionnaires, information sharing about the school to benefit the school, children, other parents and stakeholders and the community.	Services for parents in the community, liaison with the school and outside agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dadding about project • Open access to staff am/pm • Behaviour policy • Work with social care and MAT • Outside agency sign posting • Learning Mentor • Attendance Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's best work displays • Topic overviews / Helping children to learn leaflets • Text messages about achievement • Friday night note home celebrations • Teacher/Parent Meetings • 16th day • Parents' evening / open evening • IEP reports and Learning Pathways • Website • Parent workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips • Cross generational work - Gardening / baking • Assemblies • PFA • Sports Day • Parents in class • Welcome Wednesday • Calendar of school events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework policy • Homework club • Helping at home • Magic moment slips • Backpack work • Education city • Website support • Workshops • Library visit • Toy library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Governors • Parent Questionnaires • Report feedback • Parent view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-nursery visits • Visits in the community • Speech and language therapy • CAF's • MAT and Children Centre work • SEN Support • Library visits • Community cohesion work • Work around life in modern Britain

Future work

- Sharing learning journals / School App / School Council and Parents

Listening to Parents...

We are really interested in ensuring that Parents have a voice in school. We want them to be involved and feel that they are listened to. Here is a list of ways we have listened to parents.

Academic Year...	You said...	We did...
2009-2010	You said Parking outside school before and after school was not good at all and often dangerous. (Parent questionnaire, letter of complaint and verbal feedback)	We ran a travel to school campaign and encouraged children to walk to school, park and stride, to lift share (share and ride), or catching the bus (Pay to ride!) and run reminders about this each travel smart week.
2010-11	You were unhappy with information given to parents about travelling on coaches (ie had they arrived safely etc), when children were on their trips and with dismissal on their return. (Parental complaints in writing)	We arranged for parents to be texted when the children arrived at their destination safely. We also revisited dismissal procedures, after trips, and reorganised to ensure all children were safe at all times while dismissing quickly and efficiently.
2010-11	You said you wanted to have more regular access to your child's work to see how they were doing (Parent Questionnaire)	We introduced 16 th day, to enable you to see your child's work and help set targets to support future progress.
2011-12	You wanted regular after school clubs. (Parent Questionnaire)	We employed people to deliver Homework Club (Monday), Film club (Wednesday) and Zumba (Friday). As well as employing a coach to deliver 6 week slots of Active club (Thursday).
2011-12	Information sharing was difficult when letters came out on different days. (Parent Questionnaire)	We produce a note home, which comes out on a Friday and has all information on for the following week. We invested in a texting system so that we can send information and reminders straight to your phone. We have also invested in an app that will be coming on line ASAP.
2011-12	You said that you wanted to know more about what you child was doing at school and more help with how to help your child at home (Report feedback form)	We introduced the 'Helping your child to learn' project and sent out topic webs and help at home and out and about idea webs.
2011-12	You said you children were worried about moving to the juniors (Parent verbal discussion)	We arranged for more access to the juniors, in school time, and put together a comprehensive transition programme to support the children's emotional and academic transition.
2011-12	You said that as working parents you did not feel that access to school was easy and that working parents found being actively involved in the life of the school difficult (Report feedback form).	We implemented a number of changes to support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We always offer email addresses and phone number when asking parents to contact school 2. We ensure staff are available at different times of the day 3. We hold parents evening until as late as possible 4. We always hold a later evening workshop option

		<p>5. We discuss with parents how they are best contacted and through who</p> <p>6. We use the home school diary to communicate</p> <p>7. We allow our books to go home with children, who have working parents, for them to comment on</p> <p>8. We will hold meeting with parents at their convenience wherever possible</p>
2012-13	It was hard to get out of the front gate at home time. (Parents Verbal Complaints)	<p>We arranged for the gates to be open at the front of school by having a rail fitted to keep children safe when they are open and the front step to be shortened to allow two pushchairs to pass.</p> <p>We had a path built to join us to the juniors, in turn lowering the flow of parents leaving by the front gate.</p>
2012-13	Some parents wanted to be able to purchase school uniform with a logo on. (Parent Questionnaire)	We sourced a supplier which could produce this without any more work for the school.
2012-13	You said our website was not great and often, not fit for purpose (Complaints to a parent governor).	We have made a concerted effort to update it and work with our provider to re-design it and ensure it is fit for purpose.
2013-14	You wanted more family members to be able to see the children's assemblies. (Parent verbal complaints)	We arranged for each year group to do their own Christmas performance, which meant we could offer each family 3 tickets instead of 2. We also arranged for the children and parents to see the performances separately, on different days, which meant that anyone could come to see the Easter and end of year performances.
2013-14	You complained about snacks at film club being unhealthy (Verbal and letter to governors)	We sourced healthy alternatives and also offered fruit as an option for after school clubs
2013-14	Children were upset that Sports Day was cancelled in 2014, for key stage 1 children, due to strike action. (Parents verbal complaints)	We arranged for a 'Family Fun, race day' to replace the cancelled sports day so that children didn't miss out.
2013-14	You complained about Dog mess outside school property. (Parental verbal complaints)	We wrote to the Bolsover District Council and worked with them to address the issue.
2014-15	You complained about how parents were Parking before and after school	We wrote to Parents requesting they park more safely, as well as making suggestions about how else they could get their children to and from school. We also contacted the PSCO to support with this issue.