

Checklist – questions to help develop a strategy

Developing a strategy

- Do you have arrangements in place to develop or review a strategy for parental involvement?
- Do you involve parents in the process of developing or reviewing your strategy?
- Do you consult and involve students about the strategy? For example, Student Councils.
- Do you include other partners in developing or reviewing your strategy?

Promoting parental involvement

- Does your strategy cover the three levels of engagement with parents:
 - Learning at home?
 - Home/School partnership?
 - Parental representation (PAC)?
- Does your strategy provide a clear statement of how barriers are being removed to promote more parental involvement?
- Does your strategy outline how your district and schools work with parents who find it difficult to support their children's education due to family circumstances?
- Does your strategy take account of the needs of cared-for children?
- How does the strategy promote equal opportunities and take account of the needs of particular minority groups in your local area?
- Does your strategy make appropriate links with other relevant policy areas? For example, curriculum, support to students, pre-school, additional support needs, and other relevant agencies.
- Does your strategy take account of the training and development needs of staff and others working with children and families?

Establishing and supporting Parent Councils

- Are your parents aware of their rights as members of the Parent Advisory Council and what this means?
- Does your school promote your Parent Advisory Council?
- Does your PAC provide training for parent representatives?

- Are parent representatives able to identify what they need, to carry out their functions and access appropriate resources?
 - Does your school assist parents' representatives to ascertain the views of the wider Parent body?
 - Does your school/district offer guidelines for parents' representatives?
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Advice, information and handling complaints

- Does the strategy set out the policy and procedures your district and school has for giving advice and information to parents?
 - Do these procedures apply in the case of parents who do not live with their children?
 - Does your district and school have arrangements in place for dealing with concerns/complaints from parents or anyone acting on their behalf?
 - Are parents in general made aware of your district's complaints procedure?
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Communicating the strategy

- Do staff and parents who want to get more involved have a general knowledge of the parental involvement legislation?
 - Do all school improvement plans include parental involvement?
 - Are parents of pre-school students made aware of the benefits of parental involvement in children's education?
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Monitoring and reviewing the strategy

- Does the strategy include arrangements to monitor and evaluate the impact of your district's policies on parental involvement?
- Do you consider and respond to parents' expectations and views on how they are involved in school education?

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