
Activity 1

Reviewing and developing a home learning policy

Purpose

- To identify and build on how parents already support their children's learning at home
- To make clear links between children's learning in school and at home

Who will be involved

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers

Different methods can be used to gather parent and student views about the school's homework/home learning policy including:

- Carrying out a survey of parent and student views on homework/home learning. This could even be carried out by some students as part of a homework task
- Parent Advisory Council and Principal establish a working group of parents, students, and staff. The group could run a survey or hold meetings to find out parents views about:
 - What they already do to support and extend their children's learning at home and how they do this
 - Any additional support and information from the school they would find useful to support their children's learning.

Collating information

Collate the views and consider:

- What the priorities might be to provide clearer, more specific information for parents, for example, developing Home Learning Logs or Agendas
- Organising activities for parents and children around specific subject areas, for example, involving parents in devising and developing maths games; building up a science lending library; setting up a book/reading club for children and parents
- Whether there are any specific issues or support needs for some parents or children
- What other resources there may be to support learning at home, for example, family learning or literacy teams
- How a policy could be developed to address the priorities

Implementing and reviewing the policy

Once a policy and actions to implement the policy are identified, the next step is to inform all parents and students.

Agree when the policy and actions will be reviewed and evaluated to assess the difference it has made to parents and students.

These materials were adapted from "Parents as Partners in their Children's Learning" produced by The Scottish Government, Crown Copyright 2006. Website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/07091311>