

Checklist – working together to increase parents' involvement in school

<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the school welcoming to parents – both in terms of how it looks when parents come in and in the way staff greet people?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a special area for parents within the school?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you asked parents and students for their ideas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you identify the range of ways parents and staff are able to meet and share ideas about ways people could support the school?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do activities happen at various times including weekends, holidays, evenings, daytime?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are parents informed of and involved in new initiatives? Is there effective communication about these and opportunities for parents to discuss how they will be taken forward in the school and what their involvement will be?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there opportunities to do one-off things with no long term commitment as well as taking on longer-term tasks and roles?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there fun activities to take part in and let people get to know each other outside the school – such as a barbeque in the summer?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is information made available in ways that reach everyone? Are there any groups of parents or parents in particular situations, who might be missed out?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there practical support to help parents be involved? For example, on a parents' evening. Does someone organise lifts for parents who don't have much time after getting home from work? Is child-minding available?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is it clear that members of the child's extended family are also welcome to be involved?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the school aware of any specific skills that parents have and are parents encouraged to share skills and experience in the school setting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there any opportunities to take part in, that don't need much skill or confidence?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there information in the school and in other places about access to adult learning?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do parents and teachers understand about the respective roles and responsibilities when parents (and other people) are there as volunteers and are working with other children as well as their own?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do schools and parents have easy access to resources for translators, getting information into several formats, etc.? How have they been asked about what they support they would find most useful?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is it easy for schools and parents to get access to advice and practical support on matters such as recruiting and supporting volunteers?

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>