

Parents Make a Difference

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Research consistently demonstrates that where parents are involved with their children's education and learning both at home and in partnership with the school, their children do better and achieve more. These benefits can be long lasting and extend to better health and relationships, and improved employment prospects.

Parents make a difference



Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of education.

For example, where parents are actively involved in reading with their children at home, their children's reading scores improve, on average, by between 12 and 18 months. In the secondary sector, parents' active support for their child's learning can make a difference into adolescence. Evidence shows that most differences in achievement by 14-year-olds in English, maths and science are due to home influences.

Parents in partnership with schools

The active involvement of parents in the life of the school helps to promote a learning community in which pupils can engage positively with school staff and their peers. Schools can benefit from developing positive partnerships with parents by involving them in all decisions affecting their children's education and learning.



Where there is a relationship of mutual trust and respect there can be effective communication that supports both parents and teachers. The better the information that schools provide to parents, the more they can support their children's learning and the school. Information that parents share with teachers can assist them in adapting their teaching to suit the learning styles of pupils and take account of any particular issues that there may be.