

## STRATEGY

Falkirk Council Education Services recognises the importance of having parents as partners in the educating of children and this is a key priority for us.

Education Services' Parental Involvement Support Policy and Strategy describes ways parents can be involved in their child's education. It also provides advice to parents on how they can work in partnership with the school so that their children achieve more, reach their potential and become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors

## OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to:

- Promote effective partnership between parents / carers, schools and ourselves
- Increase parents' understanding of the education their children are getting in school
- Involve as many parents as possible in the education of their children, in a way that suits them best
- Provide as many opportunities as possible for parents to be involved in the wider life of the school
- Ensure clear channels of communication
- Provide equal opportunity for all parents to be involved in their child's education

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement describes a variety of activities in a range of circumstances. It is not limited to parents visiting the school or helping children with their homework.



There are lots of ways parents can be involved at home, in school or in the local community. It can also be about parents helping to influence decision making and changes to their child's education.

Here are some examples:

- Developing a good relationship with the school and your child's teacher(s)
- Attending parents' meetings and open evenings regularly to learn more about your child's progress at school
- Supporting school events and activities
- Encouraging your child with their homework and helping them to enjoy learning
- Discussing school work at home
- Taking part in setting your child's personal learning plan
- Getting involved in family learning projects - parents and families can teach children skills for life
- Helping your child to take part in out of school hours activities and family outings
- Encouraging your child to take advantage of additional study support if required
- Promoting the importance of good physical and mental health

## PARENTING WORKSHOPS

Every parent, child and family is different. Being a parent varies from family to family. It depends on the needs of the child and the skills and confidence of the parent as well as additional external support the family gets from relatives or the community.

Education Services work with partner agencies such as the health service on a variety of support networks and services

to improve the range of help offered to parents across the whole authority. This includes parenting workshops held in schools and community centres to help meet family needs.

## ANNUAL PARENTS CONFERENCE

One way Education Services can meet with parents is at the Annual Parents Conference which is usually held in May. At this event, parents and carers of children of all ages (nursery-secondary) can find/ out about the education their children are getting. Previous topics have included health, bullying, helping your child to learn and giving our children skills for life.

As well as parents and carers finding out about good practice in our schools, they can also ask questions and express their opinions about education in the Falkirk Council area.

## EXPRESSING VIEWS

The Parental Involvement Act (Scotland) 2006 provides a framework for ensuring that parents have the opportunity to express their views and have these taken into account on policy and practical matters affecting the education of their children. All parents with a child at school are automatically members of the Parent Forum at that school. At most Falkirk Council schools, parents have chosen to set up a Parent Council to formally represent their views.

Any parent or Parent Council can contact the school or members of the Parental Involvement Team by telephone, in writing, by e-mail or in person.



# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SUPPORT POLICY AND STRATEGY

Information and Guidance for Parents and Carers



## PARENTS FOCUS GROUP

The Parents Focus Group was set up a few years ago and acts as a sounding board for policy and service delivery at an Authority and Scottish Executive level. The remit of the group is to assist in developing the agendas for the following meetings and to help in the consultation process for major issues arising outwith these meetings:

- Annual Report Meeting in September
- Service Performance Meeting in November
- Budget Meeting in March
- Parents Conference in May

Representation on the group consists of two parents from each cluster. Two of these parents also represent the parent body on the Education and Leisure Committee which extends the consultation process further.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT TEAM

Education Services Parental Involvement Team consists of staff who are able to help and advise parents through:

- Providing information and opportunities for parents to find out how they can help their child develop learning / study skills
- Establishing links to help schools and parents find out about opportunities on how they can get involved
- Promoting parental involvement
- Informing parents of teaching techniques
- Advising parents on available support
- Promoting good practice across the authority
- Organising parents activities
- Supporting the new Parent Councils
- Actively seeking the views of parents on major issues

## INVITATION TO PARENTS/CARERS

If you would like to become more involved in your child's school(s) or would like to contribute in any way, please contact your local school in the first instance for further information. Your support will be welcomed, valued and will make a difference. You can also contact the Parental Involvement Team if you have any questions or would like some advice.

**If you would like a copy of this leaflet in a community language, braille, large print or audio tape, please telephone 01324 506602.**

此文件設有其他  
語言。請向有關  
方面索取。

هذه الوثيقة متاحة عند الطلب  
في اللغات الأخرى في المجتمع.

ਇਹ ਪੱਤਰ ਸਮਸ ਵੀਯਾ ਹੋਰ  
ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਤੇ ਮਿਲਦਾ ਹੈ।

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