

3. Sharing learning – home, school and community

In order for you to help your child achieve, you need to know and understand what your child is learning, how they learn and how you can support their progress.



Learning together as a family is fun, and encourages and develops children's skills for life. Together we want to increase the opportunities to share in your child's learning through a wide range of activities - we want support parents and children learning together both at home and school.

4. Decision making

We will create opportunities to ensure that your views as a parent are heard and included in the decisions that directly affect your child's learning, health and wellbeing – including multi agency meetings.

It is very important that your school has an active parent voice/ council group who represent and consider parent's views about all aspects of school life.



5. Volunteering

Being a volunteer means you are a positive role model for your children. Everyone benefits from volunteering – sharing your time, skills and knowledge supports and enhances the quality of education the school provides. It also allows you to get an insight into how your child's school works and become a partner in their learning. Volunteering may also provide opportunities to develop new skills and experiences which can benefit your own learning and development.



6. Collaboration with Community

We know every community is unique – each has a wealth of resources that can provide support and strengthen opportunities for children and their families. Using community resources families and schools can create and share experiences for the benefit of children and their families.



#AberdeenParents - Children, families and communities learning together



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL



Parental Engagement

#AberdeenParents
- Children, families and communities
learning together

Aberdeen City Council is committed to supporting and encouraging parents to be actively involved in their child's learning. We believe that if children, families and schools *work together*, we can narrow the educational gap, improve health and wellbeing, and help all Aberdeen's children achieve more.

Why get involved in your child's learning?

Research proves that the more parents engage in their child's learning, the more likely children are to grow, develop and achieve more.

"What parents do with their children at home and throughout their education is much more significant than any other factor..."
Desforges 2003

Parents and families have the most influence on their child's attitudes, behaviour and achievement outcomes. A child spends less than 20% of their time at school and over 80% with parents, family and others in their community - that is why parents, school and community all need to work together.



How can you get involved?

Parents have a key role and responsibility in working together with the school for the benefit of their children's education.

Some ways to get involved are coming to school for drop off/pick up, attending parent/teacher interviews, participating in school events, volunteering in the classroom, receiving reports, sharing information about your child's health and wellbeing, and celebrating success. But that's only the beginning...

Getting involved also means actively engaging in your child's learning at home. This means you can make a positive difference by:

- Encouraging your children to be positive and curious about learning everywhere; at home, school and in the community
- Making sure your children are going to school regularly, are on time and have good routines
- Working together with the school to make sure your child's health and wellbeing and progress is going well
- Encouraging your children to have wider interests such as hobbies, after-school clubs or community activities
- Getting involved in the life of the school in as many ways as possible - sharing your skills, time and interests
- Asking for information for yourself or your child's learning so you can be supportive
- Talking to your child about their future, hope and dreams

How will we support you?

Aberdeen City Council's **Parent Involvement Strategy** identifies six key areas where parents, schools and the community can work together to *enhance* parental engagement in children's learning.

Here are the six areas:

1. Communication

Effective communication is a key to building good relationships; we want to ensure everyone is welcome, valued and respected. We will make sure all our communication is clear and in plain English, translated where relevant to the context, readily accessible with no jargon and timely. We want to be clear about how, when and who to contact when you need help, information, or want to share concerns.



2. Supporting Parenting

Being a parent is one of the most important jobs there is – it is also one of the hardest. Raising children can be a physical and emotional rollercoaster. It is important that you feel supported, valued, confident and able to contribute to your child's learning. We will work with you to access information, services and resources that support you as a parent and as a family at home.

