



## Parental Engagement and Involvement

***“The more engaged parents are in the education of their children, the more likely their children are to succeed in the education system”***

(Goodall and Vorhaus 2011)

**At Cargenbridge, Parents can be involved in their child's education in a variety of ways.** You may be able to help on a regular basis or occasionally, either during the day or after school. It is important to recognise the skills, knowledge and experience that you have which can benefit your child and all the pupils. You could help with -

- art, drama and other art-related activities
- the school library
- working with computers
- after-school clubs
- school trips
- general help in the classroom
- school events

We sometimes have focus groups who meet up to discuss particular topics and to gather views and feedback. You could get involved in these. These are held either after school or in the evening.

### School Improvement

School improvement looks at the quality of education, learning and teaching and assessment that is being provided in the school.

You as Parents often have helpful and creative ideas about how to improve your child's ELC setting or school and what can be done to improve the standard and quality of children's learning. make a positive contribution to improving children's learning.

There are many ways that you can be involved in and contribute to school improvement here at Cargenbridge. You might already be taking part in some. These include:

- completing parent surveys or taking part in consultation meetings with parents
- reading school improvement plan each year
- making suggestions through a suggestions box or email address
- working in partnership to plan activities, events or meetings
- identifying opportunities and spending priorities for Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) in the school
- getting involved in refreshing the vision and aims of the school/setting
- taking part in working groups
- letting staff know if you have any feedback or suggestions about the way the school operates
- getting involved in the parent council

### **You can also share your skills with us**

- Gardening
- Painting and artistic talents
- Artistic talents
- Story-telling
- Costume making
- Sports - helping with the school sports teams
- Organisational skills - parents can help in the library or with mail drop or with photocopying, laminating or display work
- Sharing knowledge and experiences from your own life can give children a first-hand account of topics they are learning
- Our World of Work (a week of activities run by schools to promote careers) You can talk about your work or even arrange a visit. Learning about the world of work and what people do in their jobs is an important part of Enterprise in Education.

- Grandparents and older members of the community can talk about their experiences of things young people learn as history. For example, living through WWII or talking about the games you used to play. Children are encouraged to undertake research and may want to interview you for a project.
- Parents who come from, or who have lived in, other countries can talk about their experiences.
- Just being there. For school trips and special events, schools welcome the presence of extra adults to help supervise and make sure the children are safe

### **Learning At Home**

*Parents are the first and on-going educators of their own children and, as such, should receive information and support to help develop their child's learning at home, in the community and at school'.*

**(Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006, Guidance)**

Learning at home can happen through a range of events including play, leisure activities, fun events, sports, trips, cultural or volunteering experiences. It can also happen through curriculum related activities, homework, reading and sharing books. Parents and families can also engage in these activities at home as part of everyday routine activities.

Being actively involved in other fun learning activities such as gardening, baking, cooking and outdoor learning can motivate your child's desire to learn as well as promote their curiosity. The role of parents in helping their child to learn at home will change as they get older and become increasingly more independent. Learning at home activities can help raise a child's attainment. Some suggested learning at home activities might be:

- encouraging your child to play with letters or numbers
- drawing your child's attention to sounds and letters
- teaching your child nursery rhymes or songs
- having toys available
- reading with your child
- visiting libraries, museums, galleries
- encouraging and helping your child to cook a meal and/or set the table
- allowing your child to help you with DIY jobs around the house
- researching a topic of interest on the internet, in a library or from other sources
- helping your child to learn about political parties before they go to vote
- working together with your child on different activities eg gardening, baking,
- showing your child how to play a musical instrument

### **General tips for learning at home**

- Listen, talk, and encourage - this can have a big influence on children's learning
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their learning, what learning is happening at school and do what you can at home to build on that.
- Talk to your child about their strengths and interests and how they are progressing.
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their next steps in learning and find out how you can work with the school to support this
- Ask for help if you think your child needs it for any reason.
- Praise your child if he/she is working hard at something or has achieved something within or out of school.
- Encourage any reading.

- Look for opportunities at home to develop literacy and numeracy skills: money, number problems, time, measuring, matching, size, reading, writing, understanding instructions, questioning information.
- Encourage your child to take part in activities, for example hobbies or clubs which will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills.
- Help them work on tasks on their own and then talk about it with you afterwards.
- Do things together where appropriate - learn together, for example if your child has a project or task to do, take an interest and discuss with them what they are doing or offer support if this is needed.
- Help prepare for change, particularly at key transitions - talk about the change together.
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling.
- Work together with the school by taking part in discussions about your child's learning and progress, for example at our parents' evenings and learning conversations.