

## **Parents as Partners in their Child's Learning- How this might look in your school**

Learning starts at home; most of the language adults use has been learned before they start school and there is so much that parents can do to teach and support their children particularly in the early years. Parents need educating about this in terms of what they can do and how we know it will benefit their child.

When schools engage parents in their child's learning it might look like this:

- Parents get lots of encouragement from the school to take part in their children's learning – and there is evidence that they do take part
- Questionnaires are sent out every year to each parent concerning about aspects of school life including involvement in children's learning with results being discussed with senior management and staff
- The ways of communicating with parents reflect the diversity of parents and their needs
- Schools and teachers keep parents informed of what their children will be learning in school so that they can support this with their children at home
- The school holds regular workshops to introduce new programs or to upskill parents in teaching methods
- The school invites guest speakers to talk at workshops such as the community police, from the local sports centre or librarian. People from different professions and sometimes parents to talk about their work in relation to students and learning.
- Parents are invited into schools to offer support in different ways e.g. helping in class, going on school trips, hearing readers, talking about a particular interest or

their profession. They may help make resources or form part of a working bee to improve the school environment

- Information about teaching methods and new programs are communicated in different ways for those who can't or do not attend school workshops such as emails, hard copies, on the website with a text to speech option or in different languages.
- Parents are provided with information about ideal games and activities to support their child in different areas of the curriculum
- Parents of children with learning difficulties are informed of additional games/activities that might appeal to their children
- Parents support their children's learning by helping with homework
- Homework, project or assignment activities are communicated to parents through different means e.g. school diaries, the school website or via email.
- There are open channels of communication so that parents feel comfortable talking to teachers and asking if they need advice or support
- Parents know that they can raise concerns or ask for support if their child is experiencing difficulties
- Parents and staff tackle areas of difficulty and concern together
- Information is provided about technology and tools such as text to speech software that can assist children in their learning. As above the information is distributed and made accessible in a variety of ways