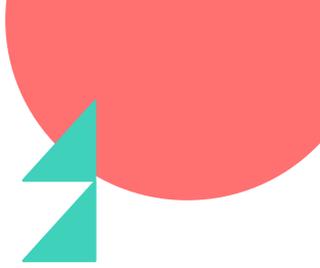




Stakeholder engagement

How engaging parents can help



Fulfilling your school improvement plan

Engaging with parents as partners in school improvement can help your school fulfil the school improvement plan. Attendance, behaviour and attainment are all examples of areas where engaging and developing solutions in partnership with parents can support the school in achieving its aims to the benefit of pupils.

Holding executive leaders to account

Engaging with parents provides a valuable opportunity to obtain information on the effectiveness of a school in areas such as performance. It can also help to identify potential issues that might otherwise go undetected. Knowing the views of parents, therefore, can enable governing boards to ask the right questions when supporting and challenging school leaders, informing the strategy and prompting lines of enquiry.

Shaping ethos, culture, vision and strategy

It is essential that the board promotes an open culture which welcome, listens and responds to parents' views when setting the vision, values and ethos of their school(s). Being proactive in this aim is also important and can create a positive relationship, which will give parents the confidence that their views are valued and are taken into account in decisions which will directly impact them and their children.

It is also necessary that the governing board communicates the ethos of the school to parents, as a minimum on the school website and preferably beyond.

Questions governing boards should ask: Does our school's value and vision statement promote and value parental engagement? How do we enable this?

Legal duty and governing board's responsibilities on parental engagement

By law, governing boards must consult with parents on some specific changes such as the admission criteria and, in maintained schools, the behaviour policy [see section three for more details].

Additionally, while there is no statutory obligation on governing boards to report to parents on progress toward achieving the school's strategic aims, NGA think it is



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good practice to do this annually. This will give the board the opportunity to share the strategic plan, celebrate the successes of the school and demonstrate the impact of governance on pupils' outcomes and experiences.

Accountability to parents and the community

Engagement with parents is not a one-way relationship, and it is important that parents engage with the governing board as much as the governing board engages with parents.

Governing boards should be held accountable to ensure that they are performing to their full potential, providing value for money and being responsive to the community they are serving. To be accountable, engaging with parents is paramount. As part of good governance and practice, the board must provide clear information, be transparent and ensure that parents have a voice in key decisions.