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TALKING TO YOUR SCHOOL

Information for Parents

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between the home and the school plays a very important part in a child's education.

We cannot overestimate the critical role parents play in successful learning: parents contribute much to their child's development and are among the most important influences on the way in which the child approaches learning.

Teachers are responsible for the more formal aspects of children's learning, and successful teaching builds on the home experiences of the child. This is most effective where there is an active partnership with parents.

Two-way communication is a critical factor in the partnership between parents and the school. Where a partnership exists, it is easier for parents to feel confident about the teaching and learning taking place in the classroom and to solve problems.

What might you talk to the school about?

Issues particular to your child:

- Attitude
- Academic progress
- Participation
- Behaviour
- How he/she gets along with teachers and other students socially and emotionally
- Physical development and well-being
- Development of responsibility
- Non-attendance or truancy
- Learning program issues

School or class issues:

- Quality of teaching
- Homework
- Learning environment
- General student behaviour
- Pastoral care for students
- School policies and procedures
- Conduct of staff

Access to support services:

School and region level student services
Visiting teachers for students with disabilities
Visiting teachers for ESL students
Specialist facilities – language development centres, intensive language centres, socio-psycho educational research units, education support schools, centres and units
Programs for students experiencing difficulties with learning
Programs for gifted and talented students
Instrumental music program

How your school communicates with you

Your school may communicate with you through the following:

Reports on student progress
Regular information about the school through newsletters
Parent-teacher interviews
Notes
Surveys
Displays of children's work
Assemblies
Special events and celebrations
Specialised learning programs
Parent information booklets
Parent information sessions
Learning journeys / Open Classrooms

You are welcome to talk to your child's teacher whenever you need to. However, you should make an appointment to talk with the teacher, to avoid disrupting the learning program.

Information that is available from your school

The school provides you with the following information:

Department of Education policies and policy changes
What is expected in relation to homework
School implementation plan of the Behaviour policy and procedures
Course details
Information about participation in the School Board, Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C), and other support groups
School contributions, charges and fees
Excursions
School dress code

What can you do if you have a problem?

Seeking information as early as possible can solve many problems. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, the homework set or the assessment procedures, contact the class teacher. The best way to do this is to contact the school office to arrange a mutually convenient time for a telephone conversation or meeting.

Interpreters, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officers (AIEO) are available to assist parents in communicating with the school. Please contact the school office if you would like the assistance of an interpreter, or an AIEO. You can have a friend or adviser present during any discussion.

Parents have the opportunity for greater involvement in the school through the P&C, and the School Board. These provide the opportunity for parents to express opinions on policy issues in the school.

You can also consult the brochure available at the school called "Dealing with Problems"