Home-School Link
what is it?
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Part 1 of a series of 12 of Macmillan’s Home-School Link

Research shows one of the things successful schools have in common is a strong home-school link. This is achieved by promoting contact between teachers and parents.

What is a home-school link?
A home-school link is about developing a positive relationship in which both parents and teachers respect one another and feel comfortable communicating. This relationship is centred around the child’s welfare and development.

Benefits for the child
When teachers and parents work together and have a good relationship:

- the child feels more supported in their learning
- parents are more likely to actively promote their child’s learning at home
- the child’s academic development and performance will improve and so will their behaviour
- the child is likely to feel more settled in the classroom
- teachers are more likely to be able to help resolve problems and even spot them in advance and help prevent them.

Benefits for the teacher and school
A strong home-school link can:

- improve test scores and grades
- make students adopt a more positive attitude to school and behave better at school
- result in fewer special education referrals and lower dropout rates
- improve student attendance
- help teachers to have a more positive outlook
- help parents adopt a more positive attitude to the school and make them more likely to support school activities and initiatives
- enhance the school’s relationship with the community.

Top ten tips on setting up a strong home-school link

1. Make parents aware of the benefits of a good home-school link.
2. Make it clear to parents why you are contacting them.
3. Provide opportunities for two-way communication, e.g. make yourself available to parents at a set time every week.
4. Try to make individual communication with each home on a monthly basis.
5. Provide specific feedback about each child.
6. Get in touch with parents to share positive feedback about their child.
7. Avoid negative feedback, but if there is a problem set up a separate dialogue.
8. Encourage parents to let their children know they are talking with a teacher.
9. Make sure your communication is clear and concise but be positive and friendly.
10. Choose your timing for communication carefully.