

Main Aims of the Parental Involvement Act:

Help Parents become more involved with their child's education and learning.

Welcome Parents as active participants in the life of the school.

Provide easier ways for Parents to express their views and wishes.

The Role of the Parent Council:

Support the School in its work with Pupils.

Represent the views of all parents.

Encourage links between the School, Parents, Pupils, Pre-school groups and the wider community.

Report back to the Parent Forum.

The Parent Council will also have a role in the appointment of Headteachers and Depute Headteachers.

Supporting the school

The Parent Council can support the school in a variety of ways:

Be involved in drawing up the school development plan and consider how parents might support its implementation.

Consider ways parents can be involved in children's learning to improve achievement.

Build positive relationships between parents and school staff.

Support the school in consulting with the wider parent forum on school policy decisions and other matters.

Use its own formal and informal channels for communicating about school events and how parents can become involved.

Fundraise to provide additional equipment and resources for the school.

Facilitate school events and work with the headteacher and staff to devise events which are enjoyable, encourage parental participation and that suit the needs of parents and fit into their schedules.

The headteacher has both a duty and a right to attend all Parent Council meetings.

Representing the views of parents

The act gives Parent Councils the right to represent the views of parents on a wide variety of educational matters:

Make representations to the school's headteacher and the education authority about the arrangements the school has to involve parents in their own child's education and that provided by the school generally.

Make representation to authority or headteacher on any matter of interest or concern to parents or Parent Council.

Have arrangements in place for ascertaining the views of members of the forum on the standards and

quality of education provided by the school, or on other matters that appear to the council to be of interest or concern to members of the forum.

The Parent Council may want to work with the school to look at trends to see whether standards are improving across the school or if there are areas where further development might be needed.

Be involved in consulting the Parent Forum about the full range of school policies, eg. in relation to uniform, drugs, school ethos etc. It can collate the views of parents and report them to the headteacher and to the education authority as appropriate.

The Parent Council can request and receive advice, information and reports from education authority or headteacher.

Promoting Contact

The Parent Council can play key role in supporting the work of the school within the wider community. The Act provides that one of its functions is to promote contact between all those with an interest in the work of the school. This includes parents of pupils at the school, parents of prospective pupils, the pupils themselves, providers of nursery education and community representatives.

Parent councils have considerable flexibility under the Act to decide on how they carry out their functions. It is for parents to decide how their Parent Council is organised and how to take forward those issues that matter most to Parents.