

Case Study - Glenboi Primary school Family Engagement

Glenboi Primary School has 65% of pupils eligible for free school meals, well above the national average of 18.4%. 44% of pupils have Additional Learning Needs and there is a Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties unit on site.

Parental and family engagement has been a school improvement priority in the school for four years. The appointment of a Family Engagement Officer (FEO) has been key to successful parent engagement. The FEO has put a number of strategies in place to promote family engagement and to help parents to support their children's learning. This includes:

- undertaking home visits before children start at nursery to help children and parents be prepared for the transition to school
- offering social, emotional and practical support to parents and families in need, for example issuing Foodbank vouchers to vulnerable families.
- leading an effective parent Council who meet termly to discuss school improvement priorities and observe teaching practices, as well as providing an opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns raised by parents.
- working with external agencies to provide interventions which support parents to engage with their children's learning, for example Families Connect and Valleys Kids, as well as providing parenting courses.
- closely monitoring attendance, contacting families on the first day of absence and if attendance becomes a concern, working closely with the local authority Attendance & Wellbeing service. Good attendance is also celebrated in assemblies.
- providing wellbeing support to pupils who have been identified as needing additional support (the family engagement officer has undertaken training in both ELSA – [Emotional Literacy Support Assistants](#)- and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- liaising with external agencies and co-ordinating referrals e.g. speech and language, to ensure pupils receive relevant support.

As a result, there is a positive relationship between the school and its families, which has had a positive impact on pupil outcomes, attitudes to learning and wellbeing. School attendance at Glenboi has been comparable or better than attendance at similar schools for the last 2 years. Parent questionnaires state that 100% of parents are satisfied with the school and feel well informed about their child's progress and 99% feel the school communicates well with them. In the March 2019 inspection of the school, Estyn commented:

“The family engagement officer is highly effective in engaging with parents and external agencies. She supports the delivery of highly successful programmes, which have a very positive impact on pupils' wellbeing, attendance and attitudes to learning...The family engagement officer monitors attendance carefully and liaises closely with parents and staff. She offers outstanding practical support to families who find it a struggle to send their children to school on time.”

This case study is based on an Estyn good practice case study and a more detailed version can be found at the [Estyn Website](#)