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Working in Partnership with Parents

What is effective partnership working?

Effective partnerships require commitment, trust and respect from all parties. In order for children to benefit the most from their schooling the development of positive relationships between their parents and school is highly important. The standard school procedures and protocols for parental involvement will need to be utilised and any additional arrangements made to ensure appropriate and effective communication and information sharing is possible.

Effective partnerships from all or each partner are facilitated by:

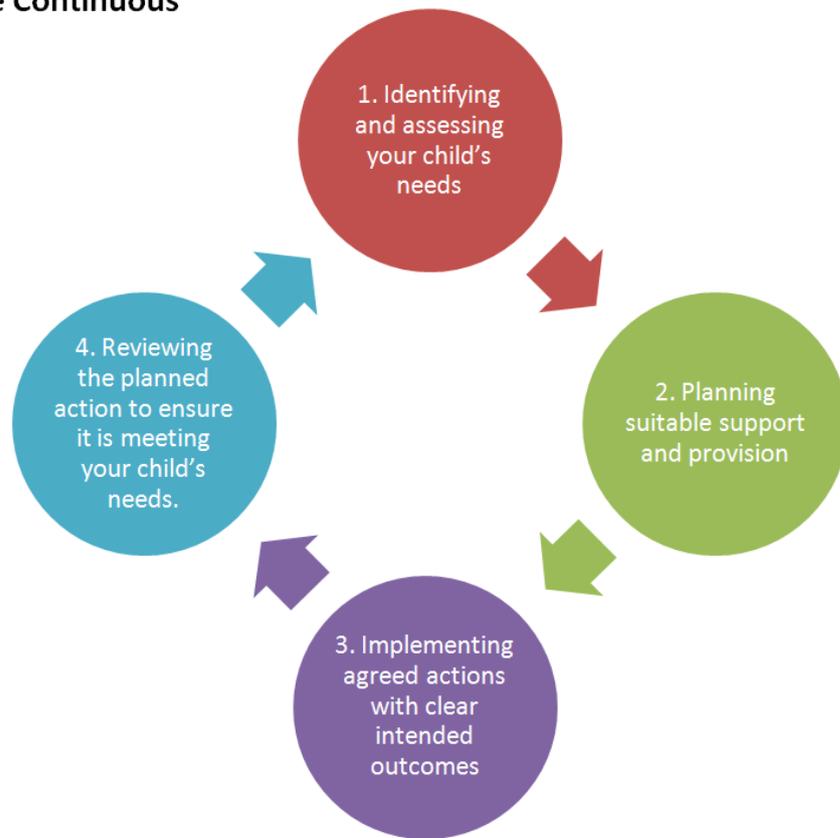
- Recognising the different skills, knowledge and experience of one another.
- Valuing the skills, knowledge and experience of one another.
- Recognising the need for input from all partners.
- Everyone involved feels valued.

To maintain partnership between parents, schools, local authority, health care professionals and outside agencies it is vital to have mutual understanding, maintain trust and respect for one another and have empathy between all involved. This can also help to assist in reducing conflict and disagreement.

The Partnership Process

The process of building a sound partnership between agencies is as important as the outcomes. The involvement of parents in their child's learning has benefits for everyone involved; it can be a healthy, nurturing and positive learning experience. The same partnership process in the assessment, planning, provision and review of children who have or may have additional learning needs is also essential, so that parents feel involved and confident in the services and that their child's needs are being met.

Additional Learning Needs- The Four Stage Continuous Cycle



Where to go to resolve your concerns

If you are concerned about the progress your child is making at school, you should first talk to the class teacher. If your child has additional learning needs you should also talk to your Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) or Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo). You may also talk to the Head Teacher.

If your concerns relate to the support your child is getting, you can ask to see the school's policy on Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

Other concerns should normally be shared with the Head Teacher.

Many problems can be solved informally by talking to the teachers at your child's school. Before taking further action, make sure that you have shared your concerns.