

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.



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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.