



Link Primary School Vision: We link hands to ensure every child is understood so that they will achieve their full potential. We overcome barriers today so that children and parents can look forward to a bright future tomorrow.

Parent Support Vision: Parents, teachers and therapists, share their knowledge and understanding, supporting one another to bring about the best opportunities and outcomes for each child. Parents feel empowered with knowledge and skills and are able to partner with school in providing the best for their child's education and welfare.

Where were we?

Communication with parents has always been important and the school has sought to keep parents well informed by different means. Regular meetings with teachers and therapists have given parents details of their child's progress. Parents have engaged well with the school programme and turn out for special events has always been high. There has not previously been opportunity for parents to contribute to the development of the school. Until recently, the school has not offered training or skill sharing with parents as a means of facilitating active partnership with them.

Where are we now?

Partnership with parents at the Link Primary School can be sub-divided into three categories:

INFORM: School strategies that give parents general information about school policies, strategies and activities

Currently, parents are 'informed' by way of:

- Weekly news letter
- School website
- Welcome evening
- Parent mail
- Photo books
- Progress reports

ENGAGE: School strategies that enable parents to have two way communication with school staff.

Currently, parents are 'engaged' by way of:

- The Link Association meetings and events
- Home/school contact books
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Annual reviews (EHCP meetings)
- IEP meetings
- Parent Futures Group
- Parent questionnaires
- Mother's Day lunch/tea
- MacMillan coffee mornings
- Christmas and Summer fairs

EMPOWER: School strategies that give parents knowledge and skills that will enable them to be an effective partner in their child's education and welfare.

Currently, parents are 'empowered' by way of:

- Training workshops
- Handouts from workshops
- Additional conversations and consultations (to those listed above)
- Augmentative reality videos
- Extra meetings with parents (additional to IEP and EHCP meetings)

What are the reasons for change?

Charles DesForges Research shows that: 'Achievement is greater where parents and teachers work together'

At the moment, it is felt that :

- The majority of parents are successfully able to access the current inform, engage and empower package.
- There are some parents who need some further support – perhaps in terms of additional time with the class teacher/therapist, to help them understand their child's needs further.
- A third group of parents require something supplementary to the support package offered by the school. These parents will need a bespoke package of support which is designed and delivered in a very individualised way to meet their needs.

Over the course of the last academic year, through communication with parents it has been noted that:

- Parents would appreciate more time to read through reports prior to meetings.

				part of IEP and EHCP meetings.
Regular (termly) reporting of progress across the curriculum and the Link Priorities, as well as reporting and updating on IEPs and EHCPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of each term, parents will be provided with a copy of the progress their child has made within the 'SOLAR' system and how this compares to the targets that were generated for their child. Parents will receive a termly copy of the Link Priorities showing where skills have remained the same, skills have been lost, the child has gained new skills, and where skills have been generalised into other areas. 	Sue D	July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will have received 'SOLAR' progress updates at the end of each term Parents will be aware of the progress their child has made in the Link Priorities over the year – also at the end of each term
Support in preparation for and throughout the process of transition to secondary school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition workshops to continue Meeting with HT at the beginning of Year 6 in preparation for the move to secondary school. Ongoing support from class teacher and therapist as well as from SLT 	Sue / Rachel Sandy Anita	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will be well informed about the options and process for transition. Parents will chose appropriate Year 7 placements when they name suitable schools.
Opportunity for parents to contribute to the ongoing development of the school by attending and having input in the Parent Futures Group Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents will continue to engage with the Parent Futures Group meetings. Over the academic year, parents will have input and involvement in at least one project from the school development plan. 	Sandy/ Anita	July 2019 - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A growing number of parents will attend the Parent Futures Group meetings One project within the SDP will have been undertaken/ ongoing with the Parents Futures Group taking an active role.
Get-togethers which are celebratory and informal, and un-threatening to those parents who may find official meetings stressful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a longer term target, staff will meet to discuss the possibilities and practicalities for this, with a plan being formatted by July 2019. Informal get-togethers to be offered instead of/in addition to IEP meetings for some parents throughout the year 2019-2020 		JULY 2019 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan of action for who will be invited to and how these informal get-togethers will work. Some parents who have not previously engaged, will have accessed this type of engagement with school.