Engaging challenging parents to bring about positive change

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Engaging challenging parents to bring about positive change

- **Policy background**
- **Commitments made in December**
- **Building a 21st Century Schools System – commitments made this week**
  - Home School Agreements
  - The Parent Guarantee
- **When changes will be made**

Policy background

- **Parents are the biggest influence on their children's development, - parental involvement and aspirations shape children's achievement**
- **Mothers, fathers and other carers should be made welcome by schools as valued participants in their children's learning and wider development.**
- **Parents should be given the information, support and opportunities they need so they can support their children to do well.**
- **Everyone should understand where each child is in their learning and development, where they need to get to and how to get there**
- **Parents should have access to family learning and parenting support**
- **The best schools are doing much of this already**

Commitments made in the Progress Report in December 08

Commitments to empower parents to engage:

- refocus years 2 and 3 of the £30m Family Learning Impact Fund

And…..more widely

- align support for parents with improvement
- IAG services for young people - working with parents
- mechanisms to share best practice
- further work to improve our understanding of parents and share it.

Commitments to mainstream support for parental engagement:

- guidance to schools and LAs on working with parents and families.
- support National and City Challenge schools in engaging parents
- raise profile in Ofsted processes
- support for the workforce

Your child, your schools, our future

***Your child, your schools, our future* outlines plans to:**

- legislate to strengthen Home School Agreements (HSA); and
- introduce a Parent Guarantee to ensure that parents can have a consistent expectation of the services and support they receive from their child's school.

HSAs

- will articulate for each child and family support including that outlined in the Pupil and Parent Guarantees
- Schools are to get new powers to ensure parents take proper responsibility for the poor behaviour of their children
- will detail the particular responsibilities of all parents and children as well as the particular support provided for each child

HSAs – How they will feel

1) *Pre-choice of school* - parents given information on each school's policies and performance (with help for parents unable to read or understand)

2) *Post allocation of a place but pre-joining* - the reception teacher or personal tutor will contact parents before the child joins the school.

3) *On admission to the school* - discuss and agree an HSA for each child.

4) *Whilst at the school* - progress reported through existing mechanisms (online reporting, annual pupil report, face to face meetings...)

5) *Each year* - refreshed through the target setting/reporting cycle and updated to reflect goals achieved or needs identified

If problems arise

6) Parents can use the complaints system

7) Pressure from other parents on schools will help make sure that schools enforce HSAs and behaviour policies

8) If parents and schools can't agree the HSA process would provide evidence to be used in existing behaviour mechanisms or new complaints processes

The Parent Guarantee

1. **Have opportunities, information and support to exercise choice with and on behalf of their child**

Parents can already:

-have confidence that the Admissions Code will ensure that there is a fair process in place to allocate a school place to their child;

-get help and support from choice advisers;

-have their views on some issues listened to and acted upon by the school;

-influence school inspections and in decisions about when to inspect;

-access information on school policies; and

-become involved in school governance.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

-a package of information on every school on school performance and policies

-information and advice on the career and subject choices open to their child;

-parents are asked for their views on how the school is doing which will be included on the School Report Card; and

-LAs will listen to parents' views on the quality of schools in their local area.

The Parent Guarantee

2. Have a Home School Agreement outlining their rights and responsibilities for their child's schooling

Schools are already expected to:

-have a Home School Agreement that outlines the school's and family's responsibilities.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

-the new Home School Agreement will make clear parents particular responsibilities, especially around the behaviour of their child;

-schools will have new and stronger powers to enforce support for behaviour; and

- all parents understand the expectations of them and their child - and the consequences of not supporting the school on behaviour issues.

The Parent Guarantee

3. Have the opportunity, information and support they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning and development

Schools are already expected to:

-provide parents with annual reports on their children's progress; and
-provide parents with access to their children's school record when requested.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

-a single member of staff who knows their child well

-parents understand their child's learning and development priorities and needs;

-parents understand how to help their child progress and develop;

-parents have information on their child's behaviour, attendance, SEN, progress and attainment online;

-parents have the results of a new progress check during year 7; and

-parents understand the extra challenge and support their child will receive if they are identified as gifted and talented

The Parent Guarantee

4. Have access to extended services including support and advice on parenting

Schools are already expected to:

-Work with local authorities to offer support for parents, including Parent Support Advisers or other similar professionals who work with parents who need additional support.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

-parents have access to a range of extended services by 2010

-parents' views of the additional needs of their child are taken into account when the child joins the school and if problems occur.

When proposed changes will take effect

-Call for effective practice – July 09

-Communications for parents and for schools to use with parents will be in the field later this year.

-Changes to the school SEF and Ofsted inspector guidance from September 09

-Broad non-statutory guidance on parental engagement is being developed for schools and LAs with the intention of publishing guidance and launching a bank of practice in Spring 2010.

-Changes to the school prospectus and school records (including the annual pupil report) regulations are planned to come into force in September 2010.

-Statutory guidance based under new HSA legislation (as proposed for the 5th Session Bill) outlined above would come into force in September 2011.