

June 2009

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Children spell 'love'...T-I-M-E.

Donna Loftman, Programmes Officer

Parental Involvement – a definition

Parental involvement in school is defined as:

- parent reported participation at least once during the school year in attending a general school meeting
- attending a scheduled meeting with their child's teacher
- attending a school event
- or volunteering in the school or serving on a school committee

When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life.

The Parent Institute

Benefits - Research

- Students with parents who are involved in their school tend to have fewer behavioural problems and better academic performance, and are more likely to complete secondary school than students whose parents are not involved in their school.

Henderson, A.T., and N. Berla. "A New Generation of Evidence: The Family is Critical to Student Achievement." Washington, DC: National Committee for Citizens in Education, 1994.

- Research has found that students perform better in school if their fathers as well as their mothers are involved, regardless of whether the father lives with the student or not.

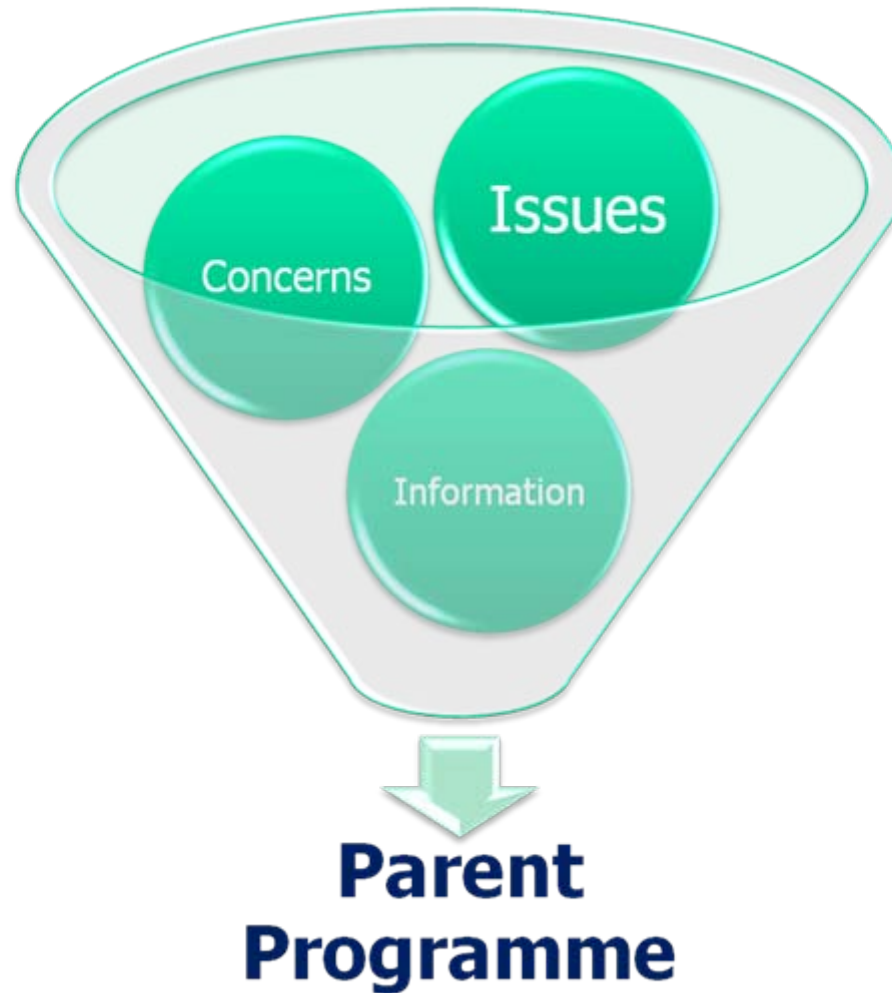
Nord, C.W., D. Brimhall, and J. West. Fathers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools. U.S. Department

Empowering Parents Programme - Aims

- Encouraging effective partnerships between parents, the school and the young people
- Encourage learning and achievement
- Engaging more effectively with schools



Parent Programme - Content



The Programme

Self-esteem & Motivation	Positive thinking Producing focused achievers How to encourage your child's potential
Aspirations & Achievement	Understanding the significance of gaining a profession Gaining employment to match academic achievement
Education – choices & support	Taking the right Career Path Further Education – Options & Choices Ensuring effective school support for your child Goal setting/life planning Learning to think outside of the box
Friendships and influences	Sex & relationships Peer Pressure Personal safety
Choices & Independence	Developing fruitful relationships Friendships Dealing with Conflict Building Independence Resilience
Communication	Engaging with your child Effective communication between parents & children Learning diplomacy



Feedback & reflections

- It was a very informative and interesting session. I felt I gained valuable information to take away and put into practice
- Sharing information and ideas in groups
- Excellent, especially getting know other parents
- Discussed our concerns and although there is no perfect answer at least we shared ideas on how we've coped in different situations
- Time is never enough!
- Showed us that we can all improve ourselves
- Challenged to look at my listening and communication skills and my approach towards my children
- I don't feel alone anymore in the challenges I face as single parent

“The REACH Project is an excellent project and I hope that in time many schools etc would benefit from what their aims are”.

At the end of the day, the most
overwhelming key to a child's
success is **the positive
involvement of parents.**

Jane D. Hull

Thank You!

ANY QUESTIONS?