

'Start at my Feet'

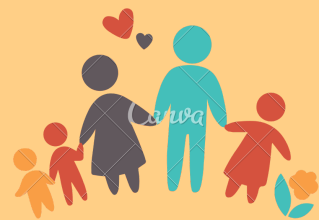
HOW DOES SCHOOL X WORK WITH PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE EDUCATION AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILDREN, WHO ARE AT THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL NETWORK?

Relationships Built with all Families and Children, from the First Point of Contact

Building a grounded relationship with families puts children at the centre of care within a school environment. This promotes a supporting unit around the family as well as the child. School X have a thorough process that is carefully planned and organised that allow children within the school environment to be ensured of the optimum safety and the best educational outcomes for the benefit of the child's holistic development.

School X aim to achieve an exceptional level of knowledge of the families surrounding the children they are educating within the community. Before the child even begins to be educated within School X, lengthy phone calls, online and in person meetings and even home visits take place.

This allows the practitioners within School X to gather data into the vital information regarding the home environment. It also builds upon the relationship with the family. Home visits take place with the head of the year group, and the class teacher. They aim to discover the home the child lives in, to meet the child and the family before entering the learning environment. This is an opportunity for the teachers to discuss any concerns or barriers the child may have before beginning the course of their or their child's education. This could often link to addressed information such as ALN diagnosis that would have been raised within the initial phone calls to the family. These home visits allow families to become a part of the school community by not only building a relationship, but allowing them to be apart of their child's education, by informing them of parent engagement activities, support groups or opportunities and a very necessary welcome meeting that takes place after the necessary information in gathered and the home visit has taken place. These are the key stepping stones to provide a solid ground for the success of a child's ability to develop, with the best possible support of the family, the community and the school.



Additional Support Provided to Families if Needed

Educational environments are a great resource for supporting the child or the home and family setting. Each day in education has a purpose and is vital for a child's ability to succeed both academically and developmentally. School X puts interventions in place to ensure that the child and the family are supported when they need additional assistance, to benefit the whole family, but the child in particular. School

X provides transport via a mini bus to collect the children if their parents cannot get them to school. Several families can often struggle to get children to school if they share a family car, work in the mornings, have other children or family members to take care of, or even if they are just simply running late. School X ensures that this is an easy method of ensuring that children miss as little school as possible throughout the academic year. This also puts less pressure on families to get their children to school on time if they are trying to work or example. Which is essential for parents and families, even more so, when they are trying to start a career or are young parents. This is common in areas of high deprivation, like School X. Furthermore, School X provides a variety of different resources for families to take or borrow to support them. Within the school there is a small area that contains, toiletries, toys, books, nappies, parenting guides and leaflets that families have access to support them and their children. School X have found a great success and need for this kind of support with the area. This intervention is something School X always ensure they have in place to support the families and community.



Community Engagement and Opportunities

Community engagement can often be a great resource for building support for children, especially within a deprived area. Due to the locality of School X, it is considered a deprived area, which make community engagement even more important for the children and families. Due to the significant amount of early education programmes School X provided, such as the flying start programme, it means taking children on at a very young age. Therefore, meaning the school often have children that lack basic skills such as being toilet trained. Parents within this area may often find parenting overwhelming or may struggle with ways to teach these vital skills to their children. So, School X have toilet training classes, parents and toddler groups. weekly coffee mornings and ELSA support. All of which are an excellent way of using the school as a resource to benefit the children of the community. School X hope that these interventions will give families and the community the support they need to give the children within the community the best possible start in life for better development.

Additionally, School X provide job opportunities to tackle the levels of unemployment within the area. This programme is called 'Doc Leaf'. It aims to engage with the community by providing NVQ training for adults who wish to train or gain qualifications in childcare or teaching and learning. It entails people within the community volunteering at School X for sixteen hours a week alongside working with a local college and a school mentor. This aims to put employable citizens back into the community. This allows families to feel security from the financial benefits of securing qualifications and jobs to provide for themselves and their families.