# Start At My Feet

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## Context

School X is a community school with 126 pupils on roll. 23.6% are Free School Meals, 5.4% are SEN and there are very few from ethnic minority. This school was amalgamated in 2012, from 4 previous primary schools and consists of 4 mixed aged classes. (Estyn,2015) The school places significant importance on involving parents and community into its everyday life and benefits greatly from a strong and active PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association). The area in which the school is situated is one of a former coal and iron background. There was a small ironworks established in the 19th century with a large open cast based just outside the small village. There are two main social venues in the area. These the miner's hall which is a testament to the villages coal mining past and the local rugby club, which involves many of the school's pupils in the forever growing junior section. The school is at the heart of the community.

## Relationships with the community

This school is community based and has a

## Relationships with parents socially

The school believes that engagement with the families is pivotal in ensuring the best outcomes for their pupils. The school strives to be a warm, open, welcoming environment for all partners. This engagement also applies to activities outside of the school's academic curriculum. For example, the school hosts an afterschool coding club involving both the pupils and parents where the pupils teach the parents basic coding skills. The parents can also have easy access to information and progress made by the children through social media sites such as Twitter and messaging service Schoop all of which ensure clear lines of communication and involvement.

## Relationships with parents academically

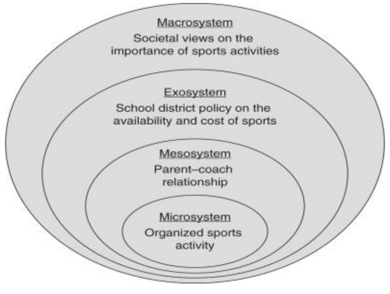
The school has strong beliefs that the parents should be fully involved with the learning process of their child. They provide online and paperback versions of maths to complete with an adult's supervision. This can encourage the parents to participate with the pupil and gain an understanding of the range of work the school provides. Research has shown that the most important aspect of parental support in education is in supporting learning in the home. This could be helping with homework, ensuring the home environment is conducive to study, encouraging conversations about learning and showing an interest in the school day. *How schools and families can work better together* (Education Support Partnership)

## School Impact

The school has exceptionally strong relationships with parents and community. As a result of initiatives run by the school, they have helped the pupils improved their independence, motivation and confidence in learning. Family participation in activities run by the PTFA have allowed parents, pupils and the community to develop valuable life skills, a strong sense of community cohesion which allows greater resilience and a developing sense of local identity amongst pupils.

## Conclusion

When schools consistently involve parents and the community, they can impact the needs of students more effectively. These partnerships result in sharing resources and they help pupils develop healthy behaviors and promote healthy families. Research shows that "students whose parents are involved in their education are more likely to gain a higher attendance record and test scores, more social skills, improved behavior and better relationships with their parents and peers" *Why Family and Community Involvement Is Important* (New Hampshire Department of Education, 2012).


Macrosystem
Societal views on the importance of sports activities
Exosystem
School district policy on the availability and cost of sports
Mesosystem
Parent–coach relationship
Microsystem
Organized sports activity

Bronfenbrenner (1992)

## References

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