

# Shedding Light On Engaging Families.

Parents Victoria provides practical help for school leaders to assist, complement and strengthen their work with families - creating great outcomes together.

**Family Engagement -**  
the research speaks for itself on the benefits for student outcomes and whole school improvement.

Search for answers and key solutions at  
[www.parentsvictoria.asn.au](http://www.parentsvictoria.asn.au)



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# Shedding Light On Engaging Families.

## Why Family Engagement?

- It's the missing piece / link
- Research proves that engaging families benefits student outcomes.
- If we do the same old things, we get the same results. We can do better
- Attests to academic achievement and social/emotional wellbeing for students
- Family Engagement is an untapped resource
- Parents have 'unique parent knowledge' which is crucial for schools
- Much more can be achieved with an insight into family funds of knowledge
- Enables teachers to deliver on 3.7 and 7.3 of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers

## How?

- Using Family Engagement as a strategy / approach (e.g. such as a maths approach)
- Using Family Engagement as a pedagogy / philosophy
- Making Family Engagement an integral part of the school
- Taking Family Engagement from random to planned
- Bringing family knowledge and teacher knowledge together
- Appointing a school Family Engagement Officer
- Ensuring policy and process supports the role of a Family Engagement Officer
- Having and supporting a Parent Club in every school
- Providing a role for families in decisions affecting them and their children
- Recognising family / parent input
- Creating a family focus in School Governance
- Making decisions together with families

## What does it look like?

### Parent Learning Opportunities

Support parents to learn more about school education (e.g. attending Parents Victoria Conference)  
Work in partnership with local learning and support agencies (eg. learning english, employment readiness)

### Set the tone

Be clear to your staff, students and families about having high expectations and commitment to family engagement in your school

### Create the space

Identify where family members gather, drop off and collect students to ensure welcoming and comfortable environments in your school

### Know your families

Do your diligence in getting to know them. Provide opportunities to have authentic conversations. Provide feedback to reassure families they've been listened to. A Family Engagement Officer could assist here

### Cultural Relevance

Knowing their families and their cultural beliefs around education will assist schools to engage those families in a more culturally responsive way and give all families a sense of belonging. Situate cultural strengths of family and community within the school curriculum, once identified.

### Celebrate the engagement

Families appreciate being valued and acknowledged and this builds pride and confidence in our students and our schools. It's important to celebrate the success of everyone's efforts

### Shift the Mindset

Amplify the success of family engagement rather than perpetuate the challenges, accept this takes time.

### Effective communication

It's the Key. Two-way exchanges with families as genuine partners. In communicating effectively with families it is equally as important to empower and encourage families to communicate effectively with schools

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