

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



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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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