Partnership with Parents

18/01/2002

Schools should

- Fully involve parents in all decisions about their child
- Ensure parents understand purpose of any intervention
- Inform parents when first identify SEN
- Welcome and encourage parental involvement
- Actively work with parent partnership service
- Work with parents during lead up and duration of statutory assessment
- Give information about suitable voluntary organisations and seek to develop partnerships
- Publish SEN policy

Parents should

- Communicate regularly with school
- Alert school to any concerns
- Fulfil obligations under home-school agreement

Key principles

- User friendly information and procedures
- Positive attitude
- Acknowledge and draw on parental knowledge
- Focus on child's strengths not just needs
- Be aware of feelings
  - Personal investment in child
  - Emotional investment
- Ensure parents understand procedures
- Respect validity of differing perspectives
- Respect differing needs parents might have
- Recognise need for flexibility in timing and structure of meetings
- ! Always seek parental permission before referring to outside agencies