

ATTENDING PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents' evenings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers, share any concerns, and play an active role in their education.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In primary schools, parents' evenings are usually held during the autumn and spring terms, with a more informal opportunity to respond to your child's annual report in the summer term.

At these meetings, you'll often have the chance to look through your child's books. If possible, arrive early to review their work beforehand—it provides a great starting point for your conversation about their progress and achievements.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In secondary schools, parents' evenings typically take place once a year. Other events, such as curriculum evenings or open days, can also provide an opportunity to speak with teachers.

During parents' evening, you'll usually meet individual subject teachers for short appointments (5–10 minutes). Most secondary schools ask pupils to book these appointments directly with their teachers, so make sure your child knows how to do this. If they need help, the school can support them with this process.

IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

If you need more time to discuss specific concerns about your child's learning or progress, ask to arrange a longer follow-up appointment with the teacher. This will allow for a more in-depth conversation.

If your child has special educational needs (SEN) and is receiving SEN Support, you should also have regular opportunities to meet with the school's SENCo to discuss their progress and support plan.



PREPARING FOR PARENTS' EVENING

Before attending, it can be helpful to make a list of questions you'd like to ask. Here are a few ideas:

- What are my child's strengths?
- What does my child need extra help with?
- How can we support their learning at home?
- What can my child do to help themselves?
- What topics are they currently learning about?
- Does my child engage in class discussions and ask questions?
- How well does my child mix with their peers?

If your child has SEN, you might want to ask about how their needs are being supported in the classroom and the strategies being used. However, parents' evening appointments may not allow enough time to discuss these in detail, so you could request a separate meeting for this purpose.

INVOLVING YOUR CHILD

Talk to your child before parents' evening to see if there are any worries or challenges they'd like you to raise with their teacher.

After the meeting, share feedback with your child. Highlight their achievements, discuss any suggestions from their teachers, and celebrate the work you've seen in their books.

