

Keep the focus on learning

I. Activity type and description

Schools exist for one reason: to support the societally-agreed learning of young people – and within learning, we include a wide variety of things, such as ‘learning to be well’ in all senses of the word. This emphasis on learning is also vital in relation to engaging parents in children’s learning – so that children will have the best chances in life. Here are some strategies to help you maintain learning at the centre of all you do.

II. Material/resources needed

None

III. Instructions

- Keep asking yourself, and your colleagues, ‘What does this have to do with learning?’. Consider whether or not things really need to be done, if their connection to learning is tenuous or difficult to find.
- Suggest that ‘What does this have to do with learning?’ becomes a part of every meeting or discussion.
- Look at all new initiatives through the lens of learning: how will this make learning better? Or, how can I use this to make learning better in my classroom?

Keep learning at the forefront of connections with parents: that’s what this is all about. Make a list of all the information you send home in a given term. Out of this, make a (usually much smaller) list of the things that actually relate to learning. Do you really need to be sending the rest of this home?

IV. References

‘Getting your priorities right underpins everything else – and learning has to be the number one priority.’
Everything schools, and school staff, do is secondary to learning and needs to be judged against learning as a standard.
Goodall, J., & Weston, K. (2018). *100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Engaging Parents*, Bloomsbury Publishing. Page 8

V. Alternatives

n/a