

Activity 7: Auditing your school's engagement with parents

Reflect for a moment on your school and consider the statements in Table 2, scoring your school out of 10 for each one (where 10 is full agreement).

Table 2 Audit of your school's engagement with parents.

Statement	Score out of 10
My school holds meetings at least once a term with all parents to discuss their children's progress	
There is an active parent–teachers association, or some forum that does not limit its activities to fundraising	
Parents are welcome in the school and have easy access to their subject teachers to discuss their child's progress or to express concerns, including a suitable space to meet	
The school get back promptly (within three days) to parents when dealing with complaints	
There are current parents who are members of my SMC	
There are events for parents that focus on how to help their child at home with their studies	
Sometimes parents visit classrooms to contribute their knowledge and skills to the learning	
Parents have a calendar of important dates in the school's academic, social and sport-related events	
A range of parents attend events such as special assemblies	
The school recognises the diversity in parents (literacy, language, prior education, availability, etc.) and is committed to including all of them as stakeholders.	
Total	

Look carefully at the list you have generated.

- Are there any other activities that you could easily take on?
- Which activities would involve more changes for you?
- Which activities are the parents involved in more?
- Which activities contribute most to your school goals and development plan?

Note down your thoughts in your Learning Diary. At the end of the unit you will have the opportunity to revisit this audit and make a plan for next term.



Figure 5 It is important to engage with your students' parents.

While these are not all the ways in which parents could be involved in their child's school, the audit may give you some ideas about how to improve. If you total up your scores, you will end up with a percentage score as to how far you engage parents in your school.

This audit may have prompted you to think about other ways that you might engage with parents and involve them more in school life. Make a note in your Learning Diary of any ideas you may have for engaging parents more. In Activity 9 you will have the opportunity to revisit this audit and make a plan for next term.