

Parent Councils have a statutory role – Parental Involvement Act 2006

Support the school in
its work with pupils

Improve links between
parents, schools, local
authority and local community

Right to be
involved in
recruitment of
Senior
Management
Team

Right to be
involved in
school
inspections

Should be
involved in
School
Improvement
Planning &
action

Report to
parents

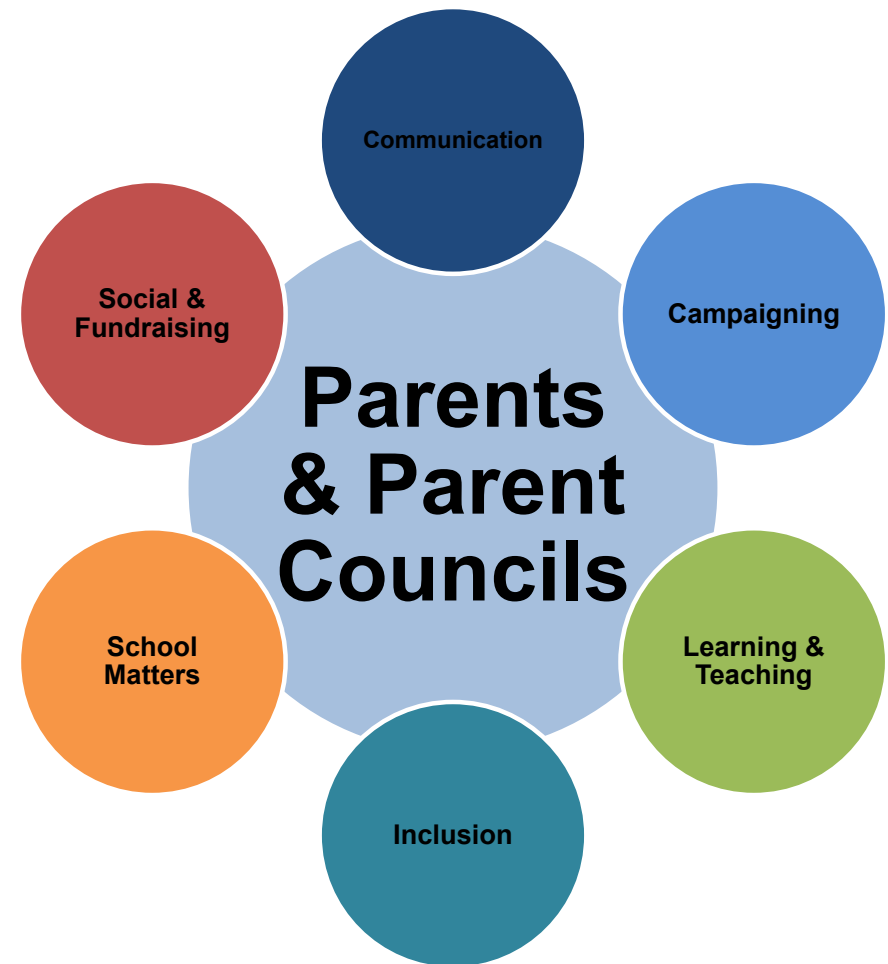
Represent
views of all
parents/carers

Take
part/organise
social and
fundraising
activities

Discuss any
issue of
interest to
parents

Role of Parent Councils is still the same and even more important

- Support parents and families
- Communication with, and between, all
- Partnership with school
- Partnership with wider community
- Campaigning – on behalf of the Parent Forum and school community





Communication

- Make sure all communication from the school/local authority is in parent-friendly language
- Online communication now more important than ever but remember, not everyone has access
- Looks like online meetings attract more parents
- Use different methods of communication
- What are schools like in COVID-19 times? Help parents understand how things are now and how things may change
- Relationships have changed
- *How have you communicated since COVID-19?*



Communication

- Surveys & questionnaires <https://bit.ly/Connectsurveyleaflet>
- Facebook Groups/Twitter/WhatsApp/Email
- Online meetings – Zoom/Google Meet/Teams etc
- Films/videos
- Posters in local community
- Use information from Connect website
- Welcome new parents/families
- Class/year representatives
- Virtual noticeboard
- Make contact with local community groups/services
- Audit of skills
- Contact list of parents – remember data protection rules!
- Generic email address for your Parent Council

Campaigning

- The Parent Council is the representative body and an important voice for parents/carers in the school
- You represent all the parents/carers – seek their views, SurveyMonkey, Mentimeter, FB Polls, Google Forms, Microsoft Forms
- May raise issues with the local authority, school and politicians – eg digital exclusion
- Make sure the school and local authority are keeping parents up-to-date and parents are involved in decision making – ask what happens in COVID-19 recovery?

Learning and Teaching

Helping parents to support their child's learning

- Online workshops/presentations
- Film parent/child/teacher showing learning activities
- Discuss and help draft school policies
- Get parents to share home learning experiences and what skills their family has picked up
- Share information on topics of interest to parents, eg mental health & wellbeing and healthy eating
- Help set up mock online interviews, provide information on different post-school options, eg with local employers
- Get parents to share how they use science, maths, etc in their job



Inclusion

Reflecting families within the school community

- In partnership with the school, celebrate difference
- Help provide resources for families who are struggling
- Working with school/local community, provide information on local services, financial help, how to access grants, etc
- Make sure all parents know how to get help
- Help support parents of children with additional support needs



Inclusion, continued

- Work with the school to provide information in different languages: ask parents/pupils to act as translators
- Make sure communication/activities/meetings are inclusive for those with disabilities, differing religious beliefs and differing lifestyles
- Remember not all families have digital access – few or no devices or poor connectivity
- Be aware of mental wellbeing and money worries; many families are struggling
- Work with families to gather good ideas for supporting one another



School matters

Working in partnership with the school community acting as a “critical friend”

- Family engagement strategy
- Help develop school's COVID recovery plan
- School improvement planning
- Budget discussions
- Pupil Equity Funding
- Senior Management Team recruitment
- Child protection
- Health & Wellbeing
- Bullying & Behaviour
- After-school activities /support

Social (& fundraising) events

- Parents won't be in school in the near future, but we need to build connections and build relationships
- Important to form a network for parents and families
- Remember – *fun, family & food!*

Remember to have a balance of fundraising and no-cost events

- Online fundraising activities/events for current times
- Virtual coffee mornings/afternoon tea
- Online family/community quiz
- International events

Key Messages for Parent Council members

Focus on building relationships

Communication is key

Liaise with the school on behalf of parents

Gather feedback and good ideas from parents

Encourage schools/teachers to speak to parents

Help schools make sure children/families who need support are getting it

Make sure everyone is included

Handover to new committee

- Constitution
- Accounts
- Minutes
- Connect information
- Events and activities
- Licences
- Venue Hire
- Online meeting host
- Communication
- Code of conduct/Policies
- Sub-committees/Clubs and Groups
- Stocktake
- Child protection
- Charitable status



Useful Links and Resources

- [Parent Council Essentials Resource](#)
- Our Data Protection guidance [Data Protection Resource](#)
- Connect's webpage of information to support mental health: <https://bit.ly/ConnectMH>
- Our webpage of information for those with additional support needs and their families: <https://bit.ly/ConnectASL>
- [Social and Fundraising Resource](#)
- [Equality and Equity Toolkit](#)