



Everyone benefits from a good parent–teacher relationship

The parent–teacher relationship can be one of the most important contributing factors to a child’s success at school.

Just as parents and teachers share responsibility for educating a child, so too do they share responsibility for developing a relationship that promotes the child’s general wellbeing and provides a basis for success.

The Association of Independent Schools of Queensland Executive Director John Roulston said that close parental involvement in a child’s education brought many rewards.

‘Extensive research shows that if parental involvement continues throughout children’s schooling, the benefits are many and far-reaching,’ he said.

‘Students gain from parents’ participation, and teachers, schools, families and communities are strengthened when supportive relations are developed between children, parents and the school.’

Education Queensland Senior Guidance Officer Robyn Lloyd said effective parent–teacher relationships rely on open communication.

‘A good relationship between the parent, teacher and student allows all three parties to have a shared understanding of learning goals, the curriculum and ways they can work together to achieve the most for the student,’ she said.

‘Each of you shares responsibility for making the relationship work.’

Ms Lloyd said there were many ways in which parents and teachers could share information and insights about a child’s development at school.



‘Parent–teacher interviews and activities like fetes and school dances all offer opportunities to meet teachers. Helping out with classroom and extracurricular activities is another way of getting to know school staff.’

Good parent–teacher relationships continue to be important even when students get older and become more independent.

Ms Lloyd said the start of secondary schooling was particularly significant because it was a time of change for parents and children.

‘Make a point of meeting teachers and letting them know you are interested in what is happening in the classroom and the school,’ she said.

Ms Lloyd advised parents to contact teachers if they had any concerns about their children’s education. This could prevent minor problems escalating.

If there is something that needs to be discussed, parents should phone the school and make an appointment. This ensures both parties have enough uninterrupted time to resolve the matter, and that parents are speaking to the relevant person. In some cases this will be the teacher, but in others it may be someone such as the guidance officer, learning support teacher or community education counsellor.

Ms Lloyd also encouraged parents to let teachers know when they had positive comments to make.

‘Everyone likes to hear positive feedback,’ Ms Lloyd said. ‘If you think the teachers are doing a good job, then let them know.’ ■