



Connecting with the school

@LYNDHURST



The connection between home and school is a vital part of the Learning Partnership. Connecting with the school can be difficult for parents for all sorts of reasons. Below are a few ideas and strategies to assist you to make better connections with the school and your child's learning.

Be informed. Be respectful of school's policies and procedures. Connecting with the school in a mutually respectful way is one of the best ways to, not only stay informed, but to also model appropriate communication to your children.

Meet your child's teacher. Early in school year, try to find a way to meet your child's teacher. Attending our Partners in Learning meetings is a great way for you to connect with the teachers and to understand what you can expect in the year ahead. If you feel uncomfortable speaking English, don't let a language barrier stop you. What you have to say is more important than the language you say it in. The school has access to free interpreters. Share experiences that might be affecting children's feelings, behaviour, learning and sense of security. Keep in regular communication.

Get to know who's who at school. There are many people at the school who are there to help your child learn, grow socially and emotionally, and navigate the school environment. Know your child's teacher's name and the name of your sub-school Assistant Principal. They will help you. We have a team of well-being staff who can support you and your child through times of difficulty. Simply make contact with the school office and they will be able to steer you in the right direction.

Attend parent-teacher meetings and keep in touch with your child's teacher. We have one or two parent-teacher evenings each year. You can also ask to meet with your child's teacher any time during the year. If you can't meet face-to-face, send the teacher a short note or set up a time to talk on the phone. You can call the office anytime if you need to make an appointment or send an email to lyndhurst.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and we will forward it on to your child's teacher.

Try to make it to the community events like assembly, school sports, fundraising events and performances. Volunteer for excursions or for special days like Harmony Day. Look out for opportunities to share your knowledge, ideas, experiences and contacts e.g. volunteering, sharing culture, suggesting speakers and contacts from within your community and networks.

Come and celebrate children's learning by attending assembly or Learning Expos. Read the communication boards outside the junior classrooms and access the school's Parent Portal on Compass. Read the noticeboard outside the office for up-to-date news on school events. As parents/carers, recognise that you don't have to be an expert in a particular subject area to support your child's learning. Just by taking an interest, you can encourage them to persist and learn.

Learn what the school offers. Read the newsletter, Compass announcements, notices and any information that we send home. You can ask for translated versions if you need them. Make sure your child gives you any letters that are sent home. Check their bag every day. Talk to other parents to find out what programs the school offers. Check out the school's comprehensive website.

Volunteer at the school and/or join the PFA or School Council. Teachers appreciate it when parents help out at the school! There are many ways you can help. Speak to your child's teacher. Parents can also support school excursions and camps. Look out for requests for support from your child's teacher.

Working with Children Checks: If you are thinking about volunteering at the school, especially for excursion and camps, it's a good idea to apply for a free Working with Children Card. You don't always need one but it's best to have one in case.

Resources:

Take a look at the parent-friendly information sheets on the Australian Curriculum website.

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/>

Or find out about the Victorian Curriculum at <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

Find information about Working with Children Cards at <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check>

For more information about Victorian education got to <https://www.vic.gov.au/education-information-parents>