

IslamicRSE – School Engagement Tips



EFFECTIVE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

To enable your child to gain the best education, form a positive relationship with his or her school. Here are some points to consider and actions to take to help you with this.

1. Acknowledge that teachers educate your child

Remind yourself that the school is serving you. You are relying on the teachers to educate your child who will be attending the school for a long time.

2. Recognise the school's hard work

Inform the school that you appreciate that they work hard to

protect your child's wellbeing. After which, take a subtle approach to pointing out your concern.

3. Establish a positive relationship

Establish a positive relationship with the school through a positive partnership. Getting angry and marching into the school arguing will not help.

4. Engage but do not complain

Engage with the school in a productive and meaningful way. If you have a genuine issue to raise with the school, do so, but do not complain.

5. Be solution-focused

Approach the school with a view to seeking a solution. It is better than shouting and demanding your rights as a parent. Think about how you would like the teacher to approach your child.

6. Write a letter

After exhausting other means, if an issue is still unresolved, write to the headteacher. He or she will look into your concern before responding. Contact the school if you do not get a reply within a week.

7. Ask specific questions

Present your concern in detail and ask specific questions if you require information. Ensure your concern is always child-centred and relate it to your child's progress, development and wellbeing.

8. Become a school governor

Get yourself elected as a school governor and influence real change. This is one of the most effective ways of getting involved with your child's school. Parent governors can wield great powers and impact change at the highest level.

9. Do not attack staff

Do not make personal attacks on staff, as it will not benefit anyone. Stick to the issue at hand, be factual, and provide evidence when possible. Do not present a situation as true if it is based on suspicion and assumptions.

10. Do not be "that parent"

Do not be a 'habitual complainer'; the one teachers refer to as "Oh that parent". You do not want to be the parent who is mentioned in the staffroom.

11. Do not leave a phone message

Do not leave an answerphone message as the school may not save it for later use. A staff member will need to write notes about your message and pass it on in which you are relying on their interpretation of your issue.

