

Schools

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next generation  
learning

# Exploiting ICT to improve parental engagement, moving towards online reporting

## Getting started



“Parental interest in their child’s education is the single most powerful predictor of achievement at age 16”.  
Attainment in secondary school report,  
Feinstein & Symons

### **Discuss how to improve parental engagement with all stakeholders**

- Involve governors in visioning and planning.
- Ask pupils how to make information more timely.
- Consult parents about what would be meaningful information.
- Engage all staff in understanding their contribution to information management and parental dialogue.

### **Challenge the effectiveness of the solutions and processes you already have in place**

- Discuss appropriate solutions with your local authority and improvement partners.
- Ask suppliers to demonstrate how they support parental engagement.
- Find out how other schools have benefited from an effective information management strategy.
- Innovate with technologies, for example, email, websites, learning platforms and text messaging.



## Benefits of online reporting

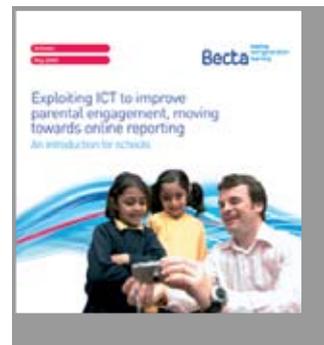
- More meaningful and timely communication enables parents to become more responsive.
- Better informed parents are able to work closely with the school to support their children's needs.
- Information held electronically is more easily managed and shared where and when it is convenient.

Every school in England is now expected to provide secure, online access for parents to support their child's progress – all secondary schools by September 2010 and primary schools by 2012

## A framework for online reporting

Becta has worked with schools who are moving towards online reporting to create a framework which can be used to review progress and identify actions. The framework together with advice and guidance is online: visit

 [www.becta.org.uk/schools/parentalengagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/parentalengagement)



## Use Becta's framework to baseline your current position

- Decide who has the lead on improving parental engagement.
- Identify current good practice and quick wins available using existing systems.
- Agree whole school actions to move towards manageable online reporting.
- Agree how often you will review your practice.

Pupils' achievement in the schools where the impact of parental involvement was (judged to be) outstanding has clearly improved. (Ofsted 2007)

## Find out what current good practice is and what other schools are doing to move forwards

- Watch the DVD on exploiting ICT to improve parental engagement.
- Look online for case studies and examples of real school experiences.
- Visit schools who are advocates for online reporting.
- Actively participate in online communities of practice.

### Checklist for online reporting:

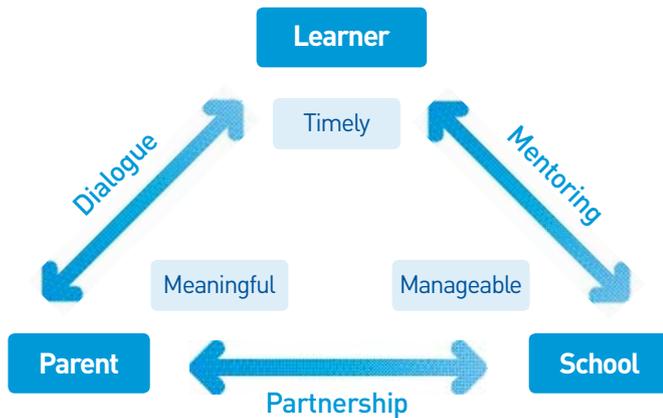
Consider what information you currently hold about your learners and what is appropriate to share with parents.	Attainment	Progress	Attendance	SEN	Behaviour
Is data currently held electronically in information management systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Does recording of information happen sufficiently frequently to keep information up to date?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there high confidence in the accuracy, quality and appropriateness of the information?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Can appropriate information be communicated in a timely way to parents electronically?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Can appropriate information be accessed by parents via secure online access?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

### Have you considered using the following technologies for parental engagement?

The school public website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMS text and phone messaging	<input type="checkbox"/>
Learning Platforms (VLE, MLE, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A secure intranet/extranet/portal with parental access	<input type="checkbox"/>
Podcasting or other ways of broadcasting and sharing content	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handheld and mobile devices such as PDAs or cameras	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowing parents access to school computing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing home access devices for learners and families	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Key questions to ask

- Do all staff understand how online reporting can be used to better manage parental engagement and raise achievement?
- What information do we currently hold that could be better shared in a meaningful and timely way with parents?
- How will we engage “hard to reach” parents and support those who don’t have internet access?
- How will we support parents in better understanding and making use of the information available to them?



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