

Attending Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher(s). It is also an opportunity to share concerns and take an active part in your child's education.

Primary Schools

In primary schools, parents' evenings tend to be held in the autumn and spring terms with a more informal opportunity to respond to your child's annual report in the summer term.

As part of the parents' evening, you will usually have an opportunity to look through your child's books. If possible, try to arrive in time to do this before your appointment as it provides a good basis for the discussion of the child's progress and attainments.

Secondary Schools

In secondary schools, parents' evenings are usually held once a year, however other important events such as curriculum or open days provide an opportunity for parents and carers to speak to teachers.

As part of the parents evening you will usually have an opportunity to meet with individual subject teachers for appointments lasting 5-10 minutes. Most secondary schools expect the child or young person to arrange appointments directly with the subject teachers so make sure your child understands this and ask the school to help if necessary.

If you have concerns about your child's learning or progress

If you have concerns about your child's learning or progress and feel you need longer to discuss these with the teacher(s), ask for a further appointment when the teacher will be able to respond to your concerns at greater length.

Meeting your child's teacher

Before you go to Parents' evening, it's a good idea to make a list of questions you would like to ask. These might include:

- What is my child good at?
- What does s/he need help with?

- How can we help at home?
- What can my child do to help him/herself?
- What are they learning?
- Does s/he mix with other children at school?
- Does s/he ask questions and join in class discussions?

If your child has special educational needs, you might want to ask how these are impacting on his/her learning and the strategies being used to support him/her within the classroom. However, it is unlikely that you will have enough time to discuss these issues in detail during parents' evening and you may want to ask for a further appointment. If your child is receiving SEN Support, you should have a regular opportunity to meet with the SENCo to discuss your child's SEN Support in addition to parents' evenings.

Involving your child

It is a good idea to have a chat with your child before parents' evening so that they can share any worries or difficulties which you might want to discuss with the school.

It is important to give your child feedback after the meeting and in particular to take the opportunity to discuss and celebrate the work you have seen in their books.

Where can I get further information, advice or support?

Contact the IASS team on:

Phone: 01743 280019 (Open 10am-4pm Monday—Friday)

Web: www.cabshropshire.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IASSShropshire

Email: iass@cabshropshire.org.uk

Address: Fletcher House, 15 College Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LY