

Information and Advice for Parents
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews (Primary 1 to Primary 7):

Parent/Teachers are scheduled to take place before the end of November each year.

These interviews are one of the most important events of the school year as they give you a chance to discuss your child's progress with his or her teacher.

If you have any questions you particularly want to ask, write them down or have them clear in your mind. If there are things you would like to discuss at greater length, arrange to come back at another time, which is suitable for both you and the teacher.

The teacher will have prepared notes of important things he or she wants to discuss with you. These will include:

- Your child's progress in the different subjects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.
- Any particular areas of difficulty in your child's learning or behaviour.
- How you can help at home.
- Some idea of what the teacher will be focusing on with your child over the next few months.

Make sure you ask your questions. If there is anything you do not understand, ask for it to be explained. If there is something you want to tell the teacher about your child, make sure you do so. The following are some questions that may be useful for you to have in mind:

- What progress has my child made since I last met with a teacher?
- What does he/she seem to be doing well?
- What does he/she seem to be having difficulty with?
- How can I help at home?
- Is my child happy at school?
- What is his/her attitude to work?
- How is he/she getting on with her friends?
- Is he/she working at a level the teacher and I would expect for a child of his/her age?
- Is he/she doing his/her best?

Your child's teacher may have to give you some news you do not like, but it is better to know and then find a way of dealing with it together, rather than not to know.

Please be aware that it is always difficult for teachers to keep to the time during parents' meetings, so if you are kept waiting for a while, try and not get too annoyed. It means that a parent with an earlier appointment has kept the teacher for longer.

Finally, remember that at other times throughout the year, individual meetings with the teacher can be arranged by you or the teacher to discuss progress and/or any specific concerns you or the teacher may have.