



OPEN
SCHOOL
DOORS

WHY BECOME INVOLVED?

All parents want the best for their children, just like you. Becoming involved in school and learning is for the best interest of your most beloved one. **If all parents are involved, school will serve children best.**

If you become involved, your **child will learn more** and will also **be happier to study**. If you are more involved, **teachers** can also **build more on what your child is learning at home** and other places outside of school.

Being involved is also good for **your personal lifelong learning** journey, you are becoming a **better parent of your child.**



WHAT TO BE INVOLVED IN?

BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE LEARNING OF YOUR CHILD

The **teacher** may be an **expert of his/her subject and teaching**, but **you are the expert of your child**. Work together more closely for better learning outcomes.

Ask your child's teacher(s) to explain **why and what they do** in school. **Reflect** on it, and **tell them** about your **own experiences** with the given topic/subject. **DON'T BE SHY TO ASK** questions, if you don't understand something. Seek **opportunities to discuss** things you don't agree with or you see your child is struggling with.

BECOME INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

You know a lot of things that teachers do not. Offer your **help in teaching** children about **your own culture, passion, profession or hobby**. If you cannot join during school hours, **find other ways** to help. You may manage *social media, raise funds or give advice*. Find occasions to **participate** in activities at or related to school.

All parents in your child's school can be **elected as representatives** and also to choose who should represent them. Take part.



WHO TO TURN TO

TEACHERS

Your child's **teacher is an expert of** certain **school** subjects, the **teaching** of these subject and **the age group** of your child. You can expect him/her to be **able to answer your questions** in his/her field of expertise. You can also expect them to **treat you as an equal partner**. Their **role is to support you** as the person responsible for the education of your child.



OTHER PARENTS

All schools have **elected parent representatives**. They are there to **raise the voice of parents** in front of school leadership and/or teachers, be it **general or special issues**. You will always find other parents who are happy **help you** in case you find it difficult to **navigate in a new school**. Feel free to **ASK QUESTIONS** and **EXPRESS YOUR OPINION**, **you are equal**.

If you don't **feel comfortable** about talking **to** the teacher on your own or accompanied by a parent representative, **invite your partner, a relative or a friend along**. If you go together with somebody who is not the other parent, make sure you have your **child's consent** first.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

SCHOOL STRUCTURES

The **smallest unit** of each school is the **class**. You need to know which **teacher** is **responsible for** the class of your child when it comes to **administrative or other general issues** (class head or form teacher). There are also elected **representatives of parents** in each class. Be aware who they are. You can turn to them if you have questions or a problem.

You should also find out who are the members of your child's **school leadership or management**, and what their **roles** are. The school head and deputy heads **can** always **be approached**. If you don't feel comfortable approaching them on your own, find other parents or elected parent representatives. In many schools there are also **others to support you**: eg. social worker, psychologist, nurse.

If you cannot settle a problem with the class teacher or school head, even with the help of parent representatives, there is always a **higher forum**, the body your **school is accountable to**. It can be the municipality, a government office, a foundation, a church, etc.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are responsible for the education of their children.

You have enrolled your child in this school, so you are also responsible for **what is happening to your child in the school**. You are the **primary educator** of your child – not only the **first** one, but also the one who has the **biggest impact on their learning**. You are also the **primary protector of their rights – to education that suits them best, to have enough free time and play, to health and well-being, to protection, and to mother tongue and native culture.**



This means that you have the right to **raise your voice in school**, to ask questions, **get answers**, and to **be asked for permission** when something new is about to happen to your child. You can also **become a parent representative** if you are a candidate and get elected.

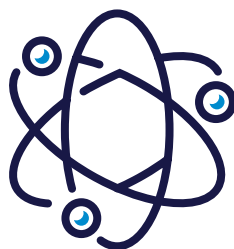
Parents are responsible for protecting the best interest of their children, but you also have to consider that your **child is a rights holder** and his/her opinion is equal to yours in most questions.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND DATA PROTECTION

Nowadays we often use **digital tools** and especially **social media** for communication. You need to find out what means are used **in the class/school** of your child. General communication channels **must be accessible for all parents**, so you have to **inform the school if you have problems**. If digital communication is used for official communication, the **school is obliged to help you** if you do not have access.

Get **acquainted with the digital tools** used. Be aware **how to communicate safely**. Make sure **only** people you **targeted read your posts** or comments, **adjust your settings** to that. Be conscious of what you share on social media, **avoid oversharing** (sharing too many photos or too much information about your child) and **oversharing** in general.

Children's data need to be protected more than that of adults. You are the guardian of your child, so it is **your job to guard what is shared about your child online**, even if it is only shared with a small group or the teacher.



HOW TEACHERS WILL HELP YOU?



You should **work with teachers as a team**. You are **educating your child together**. You need to consider that while **you only educate one child or a few children, they work with several** who are equally important to them.

Teachers will help you **in ways and at times you have agreed on**. You can **expect** them **to provide answers**, but you also need to **consider their other responsibilities in and outside of school as well as their right to relax**. This means the **answer may not come instantly**.

You can expect **teachers** to be **aware of diversity** in their class and to **act considering it**. In case of any **misunderstandings and problems**, they should be available for you to **DISCUSS** with them. You may **not** have a **common language** with the teacher or may not have a high enough level of majority language to directly communicate with them. In this case you can **expect the school to offer a solution**. **Digital** means are especially suitable as more and more **platforms offer instant translation**.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN OSD SCHOOLS

In an OSD school **doors should be literally open.** In an ideal case it means that **you are welcome there at all times.** Some countries implement restrictive measures, so it may mean that the **door is open for children and teachers to do things outside of school.**

Teachers have received training to be more aware of **diversity, the needs and role of parents,** and the **role of family and community in education** in general. They are also aware of **specific needs of children and parents of migrant background,** but they are also trained to **consider individual needs** rather than generalise.

You can **expect** the school and its teachers to **treat you as an equal partner,** to **seek your knowledge** and expertise in the school. Your **personal experiences are important** for them, and they will **work together with you** for the best **learning and development of your child** as well as the **interest of society and local communities.**

