



Devon Parent Partnership Service
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We provide independent and impartial support to parents who have children with additional educational needs (age 0-19 years).

SECURING THE BEST OUTCOME FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

As the new coalition government tightens the purse strings, services such as the Devon Parent Partnership Service (DPPS) are likely to become even more important to parents. The DPPS is free to parents who have children with additional educational needs and can help you to improve educational outcomes for your child at a time when the Local Authority will be operating on limited resources.

Both the Government and Ofsted recognise that strong partnerships between schools and parents have a real and positive effect on the educational achievement and behaviour of children - not just in early life but also into adolescence and adulthood. It is not so much about having a strong PTA or good parent input at the school disco, but about successfully involving parents in their child's learning to reinforce the fact that **parents really do matter**. For children with special educational needs, really involving parents can have an even stronger impact on achieving positive results.

The Devon Parent Partnership Service can help you to achieve a stronger relationship with your child's school by:

- **Supporting you to have an effective voice.** You have expertise and knowledge to share about what works well and how your child responds. We can help you to communicate these views effectively and could support you to prepare for school meetings if needed.
- **Helping to manage the emotional journey.** Caring for a child with special needs can sometimes be emotional and stressful. We take the time to listen to you, as parents, and can help you to communicate your anxieties in a constructive way so that your meetings with school can be more productive and less frustrating.
- **Supporting a two-way conversation.** Engaging with parents is a two-way process and does not simply mean that the school informs you about your child's progress or difficulties. The DPPS can help you to build strong communication links with school to enable you to have a good working partnership for the future. Our independence and impartiality means that we do not take sides.
- **Encouraging realistic expectations.** We can spend time with you to explain the role of school staff, such as SENCOs, teaching assistants, learning support assistants etc. We can also explain the reasonable adjustments that a school would be expected to make in order to meet the special educational needs (SEN) of a child.
- **Providing information and training.** We can run short training sessions for staff or parents on all aspects of SEN, including developing strong working relationships and understanding SEN procedures. We can also supply information on the SEN process, help to interpret documents, support you to write letters to other professionals and signpost you to other organisations and charities that might be able to offer you support.

To find out more about the DPPS, ask for support or request information leaflets, contact us on 01392 383080 or parentpartnershipservice-mailbox@devon.gov.uk