



MAXIMISING YOUR TIME AT PARENTS' EVENING:

A guide for parents from the
Perins Progress Team

Parents' evenings are an excellent opportunity to gain insights into your child's academic progress, social development, and overall well-being at school. By being prepared with the right questions, you can ensure you make the most of the limited time you have with teachers. In only five minutes you can gain a fantastic insight into your child's learning in a subject if the right questions are asked.

Below is a guide to help you make the most of these meetings. Be selective with the areas you want find out greater detail and then prepare the right questions to ask.

1. Before parents' evening

- Encourage your child to attend Parents Evening with you: Many benefits can be gained when students take an active role in the discussions.
- Review your child's recent work and reports: Take some time to go through your child's homework, assessments, and any recent report cards. This will help you identify specific areas of strength or concern.
- Talk to your child: Ask them how they feel about each subject, which areas they are enjoying, where they are struggling, and any specific issues they may be experiencing. This will give you more context for your discussions.
- Prepare questions: Have a list of key questions prepared for each teacher to ensure you cover key areas without getting off track.



2. General questions to ask any subject teacher

Start with these overarching questions to get a broad understanding of how your child is performing:

- How is my child progressing overall in this subject?
- Is my child on track to meet their minimum expected targets (MEP's)?
- How do they compare with the expectations for their age group?
- Are there any noticeable strengths or areas for improvement?
- How can I support my child at home with this subject?
- Are there any concerns regarding my child's conduct, focus, or participation in class?

3. Other potential areas to discuss

Social and Emotional Development:

- How does my child interact with their peers?
- Are there any concerns about their emotional well-being, behaviour, or friendships?
- Do they show signs of leadership, empathy, or resilience in the classroom?
- How can I support their social and emotional growth at home?

Study Habits and Motivation:

- Does my child demonstrate good study habits, both in class and at home?
 - Are they motivated and engaged in their learning?
 - How can I help them stay organised and manage their time effectively?
 - Is there anything specific that hinders their progress or focus?
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Learning Support:

- Does my child need any additional support (e.g. extra tutoring?)
- What are the specific strategies the school uses to support children with learning difficulties, if applicable?
- Are there any recommendations for external resources or services that could help?

4. After parents' evening

- **Talk to your child:** Share positive feedback and any areas for improvement, making sure the conversation is encouraging rather than critical.
- **Create a plan:** Work with your child to set specific goals and strategies to improve in areas where they may be struggling or to challenge them in areas of strength.
- **Stay in touch:** Keep an open line of communication with teachers if you have follow-up questions or need further clarification as the school year progresses.

By asking the right questions and actively participating in your child's education, you can ensure they are supported both at school and at home. Parents' evenings are a key moment to strengthen the partnership between school and home, so make sure to prepare and engage fully in the discussions.
