

Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system –

The Parent Guarantee



The 21st Century School Parent Guarantee will ensure that every child goes to a school that has high aspirations for them and is given the opportunity to do the best they possibly can to succeed in school and in adult life.

In addition, the Parent Guarantee will ensure that schools work with mothers, fathers and other carers as full partners in their child's learning and wider development.

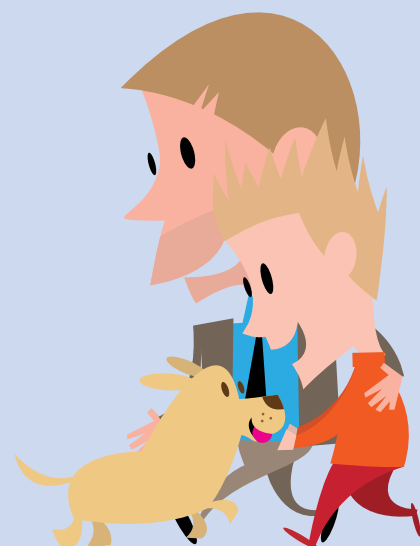
To make this happen:

- a. every parent will have opportunities, information and support to exercise choice with and on behalf of their child;
- b. every parent will have a Home School Agreement outlining their rights and responsibilities for their child's schooling;
- c. every parent will have the opportunity, information and support they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning and development; and
- d. every parent will have access to extended services including support and advice on parenting.

1. Have opportunities, information and support to exercise choice with and on behalf of their child

Parents can already:

- have confidence that the Admissions Code will ensure that there is a fair process in place to allocate a school place to their child;
- get help and support from choice advisers;
- have their views on extended services, behaviour, the curriculum and travel listened to and acted upon by the school;
- have their views listened to by Ofsted during school inspections and in decisions about when to inspect;
- be confident that the Government will take action where schools or local authorities are not delivering a high-quality education;
- access information on school policies including on SEN and usually covering behaviour and uniform expectations; and
- become involved in school governance.



The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

- parents get a package of information on every school in which they are interested that includes the School Report Card, giving information on school performance, and its prospectus, giving information on its policies, including expectations of behaviour;
- parents get high-quality information and advice on the career and subject choices open to their child as outlined in the forthcoming Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy;
- parents will be asked for their views on how the school is doing and their views will be included on the School Report Card; and
- local authorities will seek and listen to parents' views on the quality of the schools in their local area.

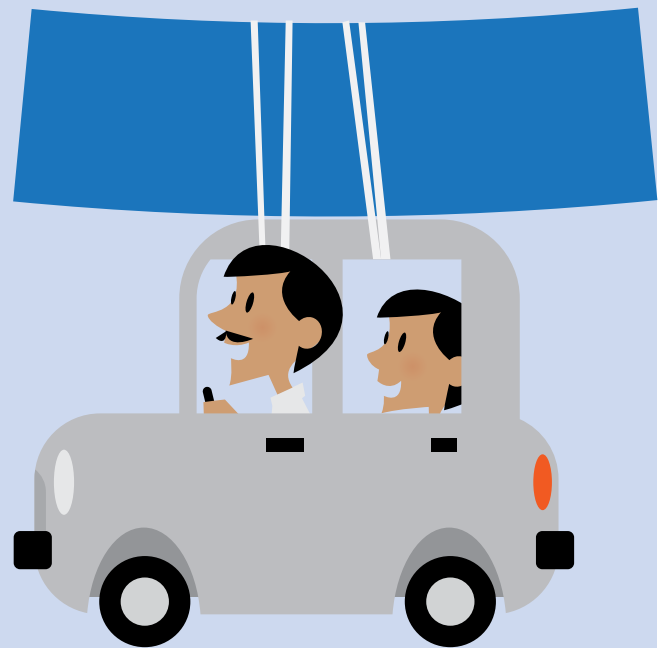
2. Have a Home School Agreement outlining their rights and responsibilities for their child's schooling

Schools are already expected to:

- have a Home School Agreement that outlines the school's and family's responsibilities.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

- that the new Home School Agreement will make clear to every parent their particular responsibilities, especially around the behaviour of their child;
- schools will understand that they have new and stronger powers to enforce the new Home School Agreement where parents are not fulfilling their responsibilities around behaviour; and
- that all parents understand the expectations of them and their child and the consequences of not acting to support the school in addressing their child's behaviour issues.



3. Have the opportunity, information and support they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning and development

Schools are already expected to:

- provide parents with annual reports on their children's progress; and
- provide parents with access to their children's school record when requested.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

- parents can contact and meet a member of staff who knows their child well – a named Personal Tutor in secondary schools or their child's teacher in primary schools;
- all parents understand their child's individual learning and development priorities and their child's particular needs;
- all parents understand their responsibilities to help their child progress and develop and understand how to support them;
- parents have information on their child's behaviour, attendance, SEN, progress and attainment online in secondary schools by 2010 and in primary schools by 2012;
- Parents receive information about catch-up support for pupils starting secondary school behind national expectations plus information on their child's progress, including the results of a new progress check during year 7; and
- parents receive written confirmation of the extra challenge and support their child will receive if they are identified as gifted and talented and a clear understanding of what they should do to help them.



4. Have access to extended services including support and advice on parenting

Schools are already expected to:

- Work with local authorities to offer support for parents, including Parent Support Advisers or other similar professionals who work with parents who need additional support.

The new Parent Guarantee will also ensure:

- that parents have access to a range of extended services by 2010 including: information and support on parenting skills and advice on parenting issues; childcare; activities; and opportunities to enhance their own learning and to learn with their child; and
- that parents' views of the additional needs of their child are taken into account when the child joins the school and if problems occur.

