



Activity 2

identifying skills and experience that parents bring to the school



Purpose

To conduct a survey at a parents evening to identify:

- The skills and experience parents have that they could offer to the school
- The times that best suit parents for involvement with the school



Who will be involved

- Parent Council members
- Headteacher
- School and local authority staff
- Parents attending Parent evenings

A sample parent survey is provided opposite. Some specific questions could be added. The survey is designed for an 'interviewer' to complete in one-to-one conversation with parents. Parents' evening or other school events might be good times to carry out the survey.

The survey could be extended outside the school to meet parents in places they feel comfortable. Visits to community groups and projects might help parents feel more at ease. Talking to parents at the school gate as they drop off or pick up their children is another option.

Once the survey has been completed the information can be used to help the school and the Parent Council to work out ways to involve parents by asking them to share their skills and experience. Information about times which are good for parents will help with planning activities, events or meetings.

The survey could be repeated at the beginning of the school year to include parents who are new to the school.