

Family Learning Conferences



What are Family Learning Conferences (FLCs) ?

- Three way conversation, a celebration of the learners' achievements that is held in place of a traditional Parent's evening.
- Halsford Park introduced this model in 2018.
- A place to record the discussion around the learners' reflection on their own progress, especially the factors they have identified as helping and any barriers that impact their progress and learning.
- They take place in the Autumn and Spring Term.



The importance of developing Metacognition in young children.

“At the heart of effective classroom practice, is the need to teach children to think well. Metacognition can be defined as:

- The awareness individuals have of their own knowledge, their strengths and areas to develop, and their beliefs about themselves as learners.*
- Their ability to regulate their own action in the application of that knowledge.”*

(Impact Journal of the chartered College of Teaching)

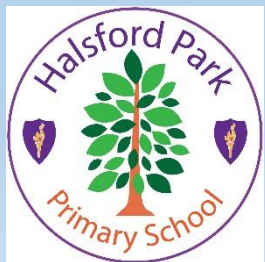
“Knowledge concerning ones own cognitive processes or anything related to them.”

(FLAVELL, 1976)



Why do we have a Family Learning Conferences?

- They allow opportunity for learners to reflect on their learning success and identify ways to make further progress – listening to the child's views.
- The learners are an active part of the discussion.
- The learners take responsibility and ownership for their learning.
- Parents, teachers and learners become 'Partners in Learning'.



Parents evening vs Family Learning Conference

Parents evening	FLC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enables the teacher to report on attainment, progress and behaviour to the parent.• Allows the parent to ask the teacher questions about these issues.• Does not engage the child.• Has no direct impact on the child as they are not there. All messages need to be relayed by the parent at home when work evidence is not present.• Usually reports on the past and does not often lead to any agreement of further action to support the child.• Cannot hold the child to account for their learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enables the child, validated by the teacher to report on attainment, progress and behavior for learning to the parent.• Allows the parent to ask the child and teacher questions about these issues, prompting self-awareness and learning opportunities.• Engages the child fully and leads to commitment by all parties for further improvement of progress and attainment.• Has direct impact on the child, who is supported and challenged by teacher and parent together. Builds self-confidence and understanding of self. Work evidence can be reviewed together to explore successes and future challenges.• Reports on and explores past learning and also allows for goals to be agreed for future learning, supported by both the school and the parents collaboratively.• In a supportive way, holds the child to account for their own learning, given that they are the only party that can change attitude, application or effort



How do we prepare in school?

- We talk with the children about the FLC.
- We look through books and select pieces of work we are proud of that we would like to share.
- We talk about how we use our learning environment to support our learning.
- We complete Family Learning Agreement Part 1 with the children.

A form titled 'KS1 Family Learning Conference Agreement'. The form has a header with the school logo and the title. Below the title, there are three sections, each with a question and a large box for an answer. The questions are: 'What am I proud of?', 'What am I better at now?', and 'What are my next steps?'. The form also has a header with the words 'Compassion', 'Respect', and 'Responsibility'.

Before the meeting

- We ask parents to book their appointment using the booking system.
- Look through the photographs of the classroom (on Google Classroom) with your child to discuss the learning environment.
- Arrive 5-10 minutes before to your allocated space to look through your child's books with them.



During the meeting

- We will begin by looking through the first part of the Family Learning agreement that we have completed in school. This celebrates what your child feels proud of, how they feel they have improved and their next steps.
- The teacher will talk, along with your child and also prompt asking them questions about their learning.
- We will then agree and talk through each learning goal and discuss how your child will work on this (the autonomous learner), how we support at school and what parents/carers can do at home to support.
- Your child's teacher may also provide some resources during the meeting or afterwards to also support your child e.g. letter formation mat, word mat, VIPERS questions, Tens frame etc.

The image shows two overlapping forms for a 'KS1 Family Learning Conference Agreement'. The top form is titled 'KS1 Family Learning Conference Agreement' and features a header with the school logo and the words 'Courage', 'Compassion', 'Respect', and 'Responsibility'. It contains three large rectangular boxes for writing, each with a prompt: 'What am I proud of?', 'What am I better at now?', and 'What are my next steps?'. The bottom form is titled 'This is my Family Learning Agreement:' and includes the text 'These things will help me achieve my goals this Term:'. It has four boxes for 'My goals:', 'At school I will:', 'At school my teacher will:', and 'At home my family/carers will:'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Child:', 'Teacher:', 'Parent:', and 'Date:'. Both forms have a small logo in the top right corner.

After the meeting

- Once all meetings have been completed, we will photocopy and send home a copy of the Family Learning Agreement for your child and you to keep at home.
- We also keep a copy in school to refer to with your child to remind them of their next steps.
- If you have any questions following the meeting, please make contact with your child's class teacher either on the playground at the end of the day or via email through the school office.



How often are FLCs?

- Twice a year. We have one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term.
- Summer time – We send home a full annual report.

What do I need to do?

Book an appointment slot using the online booking system. If you are unsure about how to book, contact the school office.

Then, make sure that you arrive 5-10 minutes before your slot to look at your child's work in your allocated area.



Frequently asked questions...

- What if my child doesn't say much during the conference or is shy?
- What if I have something I need to discuss with the Teacher, without my child?
- How will I know how well my child is achieving or what progress they are making?
- What if my child starts talking off-subject?
- How will I know what I can do at home to support my child's learning?



Thank you!

