

# Active Parents – Strong Kids



ENGLISCH

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# Dear Parents,

You are an important partner in your child's scholastic development. Your parental work helps your child in different areas of his or her schooling. Parental work contributes to making children and teenagers more successful and happier at school.

This brochure offers you an overview of what parental work is and what opportunities you have to provide support to your child at school and at home. We want to encourage you to help shape your child's scholastic development through your active collaboration.

*Active Parents -  
Strong Kids!*

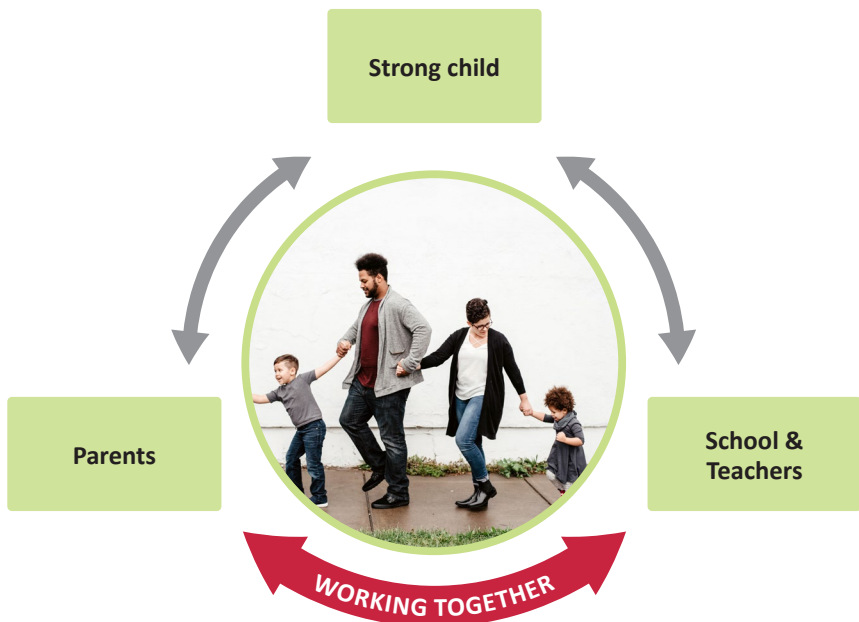
# What does parental work mean?

Parental work means that you as parents are partners of the school.

You are active participants in your child's scholastic development.

This partnership is based on our common interest in your child's scholastic development and education.

Your child's educational success does not only depend on the school and the teacher, but also on your collaboration: for example, checking homework and regular participation in parents' meetings and parents' days.



# Why is parental work important?

As parents, you are the experts on your child; and the teachers are the experts on the educational and learning process at school. These foundations can be combined thanks to good parental work, and you will be involved early on in meeting the educational needs of your child.

Parental work allows parents and school to develop a good connection. This helps the teachers and you to be in contact about your child early on.

## What are the benefits of active parental work?

- ✓ By actively participating in your child's schooling, you increase his or her motivation to learn.
- ✓ You learn to understand your child better.
- ✓ You recognize problems and difficulties that your child may have at school early on.
- ✓ If your child needs extra help in a particular subject, you are able to provide help faster.
- ✓ Parental work fosters acceptance and mutual trust between you and the school.

# The parents' role in parental work



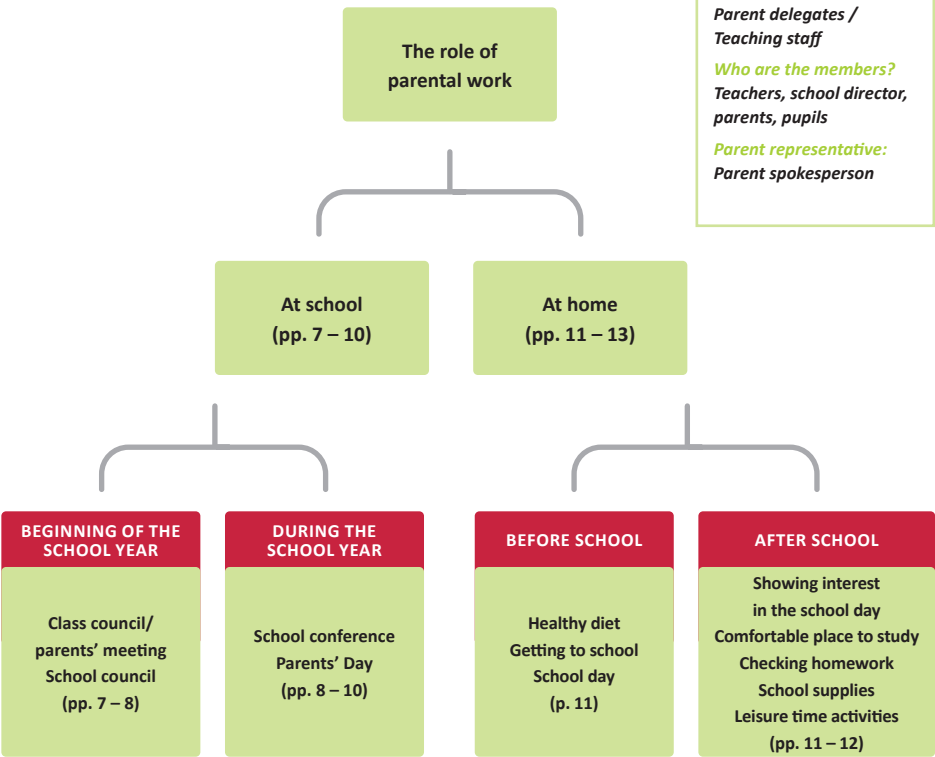
You can help your child in two ways:  
By actively taking part in school committees, you have a positive influence on your child's development.  
The other way is by helping at home.

## Vocabulary

**School committees:**  
*Parent delegates / Teaching staff*

**Who are the members?**  
*Teachers, school director, parents, pupils*

**Parent representative:**  
*Parent spokesperson*



# Help at school

As parents, you have a variety of opportunities at the school to participate actively in your child's schooling:

## Beginning of the school year:

### *Class council/Parents' meeting*

All the parents of a class comprise the class council, which normally meets once at the beginning of the school year. The meeting of the class council is thus the first parents' meeting. It makes the parents' democratic participation in the school possible. You can ask your child's school for an interpreter for the meeting of the class council.

You, as parents, elect a chair and deputy chair of the class council.

The class council can discuss the following topics:

- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Performance assessments
- ✓ Teaching contents
- ✓ Learning materials
- ✓ Possible problems in the class
- ✓ Possible events:  
e.g. school festivals, excursions  
and class trips

### ***School council***

All the class council chairs meet in the school council. The school council meets once in the fall term and once in the spring term.

The class council chairs represent the interests of the parents vis-à-vis the school administration in the school council. Before the school conference meets, the school council deliberates on topics about which decisions are to be taken in it. It receives information that is important for its work directly from the school administration.

The school council elects a chair, up to three deputies and the parent representatives for the school conference. The different opinions and wishes of parents are discussed and taken into account in this process.

## **During the school year:**

### ***School conference***

The school conference is the highest decision-making body in the schools. Participants are the school administration, the teachers, in secondary schools also elected representatives of the students, the chair of the school council, and the elected parent representatives.

At the school conference, you will be informed about important decisions concerning the school's day-to-day operations: e.g. the dates of the “flexible” school holidays, the scholastic program, the school budget, the trying-out and introduction of new forms of instruction, and extracurricular events like nature walks and school trips.



## School committees

**Class council elects  
representatives for**

**School council elects  
representatives for**

**School conference**

### ***What is Parents' Day?***

Parents' Day is an opportunity for parents to speak with the teachers. In individual meetings, the teachers tell them about their child's scholastic development: like, for example, the child's scholastic performance and his or her behaviour in class and towards other people in the school.

Regular participation in the class council and parents' days is very important and encouraged by the school!



# How can I help my child at home?

As part of parental work, you also have a variety of opportunities to help your child at home. You can agree on a daily routine for the school week with your child.

## Before school



- ✓ Before school, your child should eat a healthy breakfast.
- ✓ Give your child healthy snacks for the break.



- ✓ Make sure that your child gets to school on time and safely.
- ✓ If your child is sick and cannot come to school, let the school administration know in a timely manner.



- ✓ Check the backpack, to make sure your child has not forgotten any school materials and that they are all neatly packed.

## After school



- ✓ Talk to your child about his or her school day: How did things go at school? Do you have homework to do?
- ✓ Make a quiet place available for studying.



- ✓ Make sure your child has the required school supplies: like, for example, notebook, pencil, folder.
- ✓ Check the homework book every day, so that you know what your child has to do.



- ✓ In there is need, arrange for tutoring.

### *Tips for leisure time activities*

For school children, the day is highly structured by school and homework. This is why leisure time activities play an enormous role in your child's development.

Leisure time activities could be:

- ✓ Talking a lot with your child.
- ✓ Doing activities together and playing together (e.g. role-playing games, games that make you move).
- ✓ Doing activities together (hiking, reading books, going to the playground).
- ✓ Going to museums, libraries...
- ✓ Enrol your child in a sports club, music school, art school, etc.



### *More tips*

Scan this barcode for further information.



# Financial Support and Counselling

## ***BUT = Education and Participation Package (BUT)***

This is a federal benefit for children and teenagers from low-income families. It enables them to participate in class trips, lunch programmes in daycare or at school, and tutoring or to take part in sports, games and musical activities in clubs or other suitable organisations.

Recipients of the Un-employment Benefit II, the Social Benefit, Social Assistance, the Child Allowance or the Housing Benefit can apply for BUT funds at their Job Centre or Social Welfare Office. Your school (teacher, social worker, secretary) will be happy to provide you further assistance.

## ***Counselling Centre for School and Family Issues – Regional School Counselling Centre –***

For all school-related problems and questions, parents and students can contact the Regional School Counselling Centre for the Minden-Lübbecke district. Counselling takes place by appointment.

### **Office opening hours:**

Mon – Thurs: 8.00 am – noon and 1.00 – 5.30 am, Fri: 8.00 am – 12.30 pm

### **Address and contact:**

Portastr. 9, 32423 Minden

Tel.: 05 71/8 07-1 2000

E-Mail: [schul-undfamilienberatung@minden-luebbecke.de](mailto:schul-undfamilienberatung@minden-luebbecke.de)

[www.minden-luebbecke.de/Service/Regionale-Schulberatungsstelle](http://www.minden-luebbecke.de/Service/Regionale-Schulberatungsstelle)

# Contact

Minden-Lübbecke Discript  
Schulamts – Kommunales Integrationszentrum  
Portastr. 13, 32423 Minden  
Tel.: 05 71/8 07 - 2 17 10



## Imprint

### **Publisher:**

Kreis Minden-Lübbecke  
Portastr. 13, 32423 Minden

Tel.: 05 71/8 07 - 0  
[www.minden-luebbecke.de](http://www.minden-luebbecke.de)

Information current as of: March 2021

Sources:

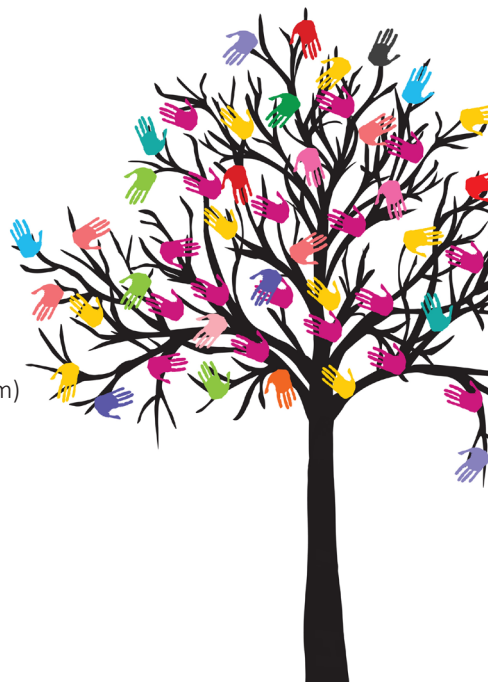
Graphics and photos: Pexels ([www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com))

### **Published with support from:**

Ministerium für  
Schule und Bildung  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Ministerium für Kinder, Familie,  
Flüchtlinge und Integration  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen





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