

## The evening itself

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Now that your child is getting older, we fully recommend that they attend the meetings with you. This will give them the opportunity to discuss their learning in a more mature way.

Have the questions you prepared ready. The teachers will give you time to ask them towards the end of the meeting.

If the evening is online, you can join the meeting via any device that has access to the internet: a phone, an iPad, a laptop. Try to set this up in a room where your internet connection is strong.

## How can I help my child manage criticism?

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Both adults and children alike, find criticism very difficult to hear—even when it is constructive. Some children shut down or become angry, believing that the teacher dislikes them. Our staff are encouraged to begin with the successful aspects of your child's learning, however when staff explain behaviours that your child demonstrates which are unhelpful, they can become defensive.

You can overcome this reaction by encouraging your child to see that it is the behaviour that the teacher wishes them to change and it is not that they dislike them.

Encourage your child to understand that behaviour is habitual and it can be challenging to change it. It must be done in a deliberate way and this takes a lot of thought and resilience. Remind them that staying calm and focused is an important life skill.

## What should I do next to support my child?

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The most helpful action you can take in supporting your child, is to encourage them to reflect on the feedback they have received. Spend some time celebrating the positives that their teachers shared and talk about why they have been so successful in these areas. Dealing with the areas for improvement is important but so is discussing these calmly and proactively.

## The teacher said...so I could...

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**The teacher said...** my child is disorganised and often doesn't have their equipment.

**I could...** check my child's bag with them each evening/morning.

**The teacher said...** my child is often late to lesson.

**I could...** check their planner to ensure they have their timetable. Impress upon them that punctuality is key to success in employment. Remind them to go to the toilet/locker well before the end of break and lunch.

**The teacher said...** my child's understanding is good but they often struggle to write their answers with clarity.

**I could...** talk to your child about what they have learnt in school. Encourage them to explain the key knowledge to you. This repetition will reinforce their understanding and help them translate it onto the page more quickly when they need to.

# Parents Evening

Information for  
parents/carers and  
students about getting  
the most out of the evening.

[info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk)  
[www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk](http://www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk)

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The logo for Derby Cathedral School features a stylized white castle tower icon to the left of the word 'Derby' in a large, white, serif font. Below 'Derby' are the words 'CATHEDRAL' and 'SCHOOL' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

## Why should I attend?

Whilst you might feel that 5 minutes with each of your child's teachers is going to achieve very little, it is a crucial opportunity that can have a huge impact. It is important that your child feels a sense of pride in their schooling and parents evening provides this opportunity.

Talking to each teacher allows you to recognise patterns in the way your child behaves and their approach to learning. If you are worried about your child's progress, this gives you a better understanding of how we can help and what you can do at home to support them further.

Open and honest communication between parent, child and school is one of the key factors in student progress. Poor communication and misunderstandings can lead to frustration and anger which impact professional relationships. Therefore, the more we talk openly, the more we understand and this transparency will help your child succeed.

## What type of information will I get?

The staff at DCS are encouraged to share the following information:

- An overview of what your child has been studying.
- How well your child copes with the work.
- An evaluation of their behaviour for learning.
- Their next steps for development.

## How can I best prepare for this evening?

There are a range of things you can do to ensure you get the most out of the time you have with your child's teachers.

The most important, is talking to your child about what they are expecting their teachers to say and why.

Look at their last report with them and consider areas of success first. This will help to open the discussion in a positive way.

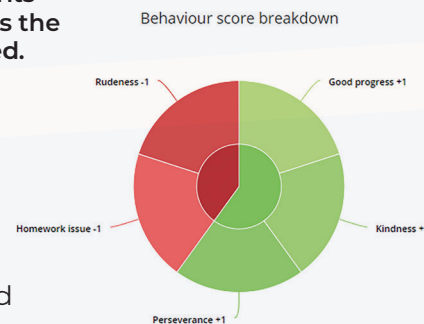
Ask your child which subjects they feel they are less successful in and why. This may give you some ideas about questions that you might want to ask.

## Using Classcharts

This pie chart will give you lots of information about where your child's strengths are and what they need to do to improve.

**Click on the segments to see which lessons the points were awarded.**

Checking this the week before parents evening will provide you with questions to ask both your child and their teachers.



## Booking appointments

Make the bookings for the teachers you are keen to see as early as possible. Try to book the appointments with 5 minutes break in between each appointment as this will give you time to reflect on the information you have received and get ready for the next discussion.

## Useful questions to ask teachers

What can my child do at home to support their learning at school?

- How can I encourage my child to enjoy your subject?
- My child doesn't understand why they need to know.... How can I change that?
- My child says that they find .... difficult. How can I help them overcome this?

## Recording the information

It is really useful to note down the key information that you are given. In particular, it can help you to identify patterns of success and areas which your child might need more support with. Click on the segments on the Classcharts piechart to see in which lessons the positive or negative points were awarded.