

What a great Ark Alexandra Academy parent/carer does...

*Parental involvement in a child's schooling up to the age of 16 is a powerful
force which is strongly linked to educational achievement*
(Department for Education)

Parents often ask us how can I best support my child from home? Getting the balance right between promoting independence and supporting your child is critical. Experience tells us that the most successful students are supported by parents/carers who do the following things:

1. **Be ambitious for your child.** Fill your child with a sense of belief and self-confidence every day. Be a proud parent. With your support and guidance, they can achieve great things!
2. **Set clear rules and boundaries on access to computer games, mobile phones and social media,** especially before bedtime. Ensure your child is in bed by 21:30 on school nights and that your child has one hour of digital downtime every day. Promote a healthy lifestyle including eating breakfast before school, taking daily exercise outdoors and spending time with family and friends.
3. **Ensure your child attends school on time every day.** Absenteeism leads to underachievement. Students must arrive no later than 08:30 daily. You wouldn't be permitted to arrive late for work, so we have a duty to take punctuality seriously.
4. **Be prepared for school.** Students must take responsibility for organizing their uniform, stationery, PE kit, and reading book, please see, https://arkalexandra.org/sites/default/files/Uniform%20Policy%20%282020-21%29_0.pdf. Great parents keep a watchful eye to ensure their children are well prepared for school, including wearing a coat when it's cold outside.
5. **Promote a love of reading.** Take the time to discover the magic of books by reading aloud with your child, talking to your child about the book you are reading or the book you enjoyed as a child.
6. **Talk to your child about their schooling.** Ask them to show you their work books, teacher feedback and discuss any upcoming assessments and academic reports. Always promote a growth mindset and be solutions focused.
7. **Prepare a workspace at home.** Ensure your child has access to a calm and quiet space to complete their independent study and revision at home.
8. **Attend school events and parents' evenings to support your child.** Supporting your child at parents' evening and other school events shows them that you care. If you can't make it, send another family member or friend.
9. **Take note of all school communications.** Monitor the school website, emails, text messages, and twitter accounts for regular updates. Take note of key dates and always communicate with the school in a polite and respectful manner. Keep in regular contact with your child's form tutor as a first point of contact.
10. **Uphold and promote the school's behaviour policy.** We can make a difference to children's lives by having sky high expectations of them. A sanction (detention) will be issued because our teachers care enough to never ignore low standards - even if the issue seems small or insignificant. The detail matters - we call it 'sweating the small stuff so the big stuff doesn't happen'. Remember, a mistake does not define you, it is an opportunity to learn and grow. Don't fight us - work with us!