

Strengthening Relationships Between Parents and Schools Using the Behaviour Wall

More and more schools are using the Wall to help strengthen their partnerships with parents/carers. Essentially what they are saying to parents is 'We have come across this resource, the Behaviour Wall, that gives us a better idea as to why children and young people behave in the ways they do. We would like to share this with you to see how it can help us to work with you to move things forward with your son/daughter.'

The Wall is based upon a theory called the Cycle of Development. 2 key ideas within this theory are really important when thinking about bringing parents and schools together:

- If a youngster is regularly getting into trouble for 'bad'/inappropriate behaviour this may well be a sign that the youngster needs some additional support with specific parts of growing up. This might, for example, be help with managing their feelings or getting on with others.
- the job of bringing up children and young people can't be done just by parents – it's the shared responsibility of everyone in the community – and not least of all schools.

By using the Wall, school and parents can work together to identify which parts of the Wall the youngster has strengths with – and which parts they might need support with. No one is blamed and the focus is upon deciding what support school and home can provide to help the youngster in their growing up – which will hopefully reduce the unacceptable behaviours.