

101 EAL Conversations – sample card



Parents and community

One community within our Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) school population is proving hard to engage.

How can the school reach out more effectively to this particular group of parents?

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Here are a few suggestions:

- research the reasons for this lack of engagement; speak directly with parents, conduct surveys, research on the internet and find out if local schools or other areas across the country have experienced similar difficulties and found ways to overcome them
- make the school environment more welcoming to this particular community – sourcing dual language signs and using interpreters for communication may help
- invite parents to family learning workshops – think carefully about timing and consider offering free transport and crèche facilities
- encourage parents to support in the classroom and perhaps share their linguistic and cultural heritage in a lesson or within an assembly
- try and buddy parents with others who are engaging effectively – be aware that sharing the same language will not automatically mean that parents will get on as there can be many cultural differences
- try to actively recruit a senior leader within the community onto the school governing body
- persevere – don't give up if one strategy does not work.