

The Home Link Service

Supporting integrated children's services in Renfrewshire

Information for parents and carers



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What is the Home Link Service?

The Home Link Service is one of the services working to support children and families in Renfrewshire. It includes four area teams based in different areas across the authority and linked with schools in the area.

What does the Home Link Service do?

Many children, at some point in their school lives, will have to cope with issues which may affect their ability to achieve at school. These might include:

- * coping with changes (such as the move from primary to secondary school);
- * relationship difficulties;
- * separation, divorce or bereavement; and
- * bullying.

These can lead to poor attendance or problems when a child is at school. They can affect how children behave, how they feel or how they cope with day-to-day situations.

Home Link workers, Home Link assistants and attendance support workers all help to support children at school and will involve you by suggesting ways that you can support your child at home.



How can we help?

Home visiting

Home visiting is one form of support we can offer. Many parents appreciate the opportunity to discuss their child's education at home, as it can sometimes feel intimidating to be asked to come into school to discuss a particular problem or issue. By discussing things with you at home, the Home Link worker can make sure that they pass on your views and feelings to the school. This can result in developing better lines of communication between you and the school.

Parents' groups

We all know how difficult it is to be a parent. There is no rulebook and no-one has all the answers. We offer you the opportunity to get together with other parents to share your experiences. The aim of the group is to help parents to communicate with their child or teenager and to develop strategies to cope with challenging behaviour.

Putting you in touch with other support services

The Home Link worker can provide a useful link to other agencies which can offer support. These include both voluntary and government agencies such as:

- ✿ Buddies for Learning;
- ✿ health; and
- ✿ community-based groups;
- ✿ social work.
- ✿ counselling and support services;

Support at times of change

Coping with changes such as a move from nursery to primary school, primary to secondary school, or school to employment, can sometimes be difficult for children and young people. We work with schools, parents and other agencies to support children and young people by helping them develop skills to cope with change.

Who are the staff?

Home Link workers

Every school has a named Home Link worker. Their job is to support parents and children when there are issues which are affecting the child's ability to cope at school.

The role of the Home Link worker is to:

- ✿ work with school staff to involve parents or carers in their child's education both at home and in school;
- ✿ work as part of the school pastoral support team, with the child at the centre; and
- ✿ involve and support parents, building bridges between home, school and other agencies.

Attendance support workers

Good school attendance is essential to make sure your child achieves their full potential. If a school is concerned about your child's attendance, an attendance support worker may be asked to visit you to discuss the reasons for their absence and make sure that you receive any support you might need.

Home Link assistants

Home Link assistants work mainly in secondary schools to support young people whose behaviour puts them at risk of being excluded. We use a wide range of strategies to support these young people, including individual and group work and regular contact with parents.

Health development workers

Each Home Link Team has a health development worker whose job it is to work with schools, parents, pupils and other health professionals to promote healthy lifestyles for the whole school community. They will offer young people and parents the opportunity to take part in schemes such as:

- ✿ family cook-and-eat sessions;
- ✿ massage in schools; and
- ✿ healthy-eating awareness.



Extended support

All schools in Renfrewshire have a support system for young people who may need extra help to make the most of their time in school. This is called the extended support framework, and involves different professionals having planned discussions about the best way to support young people. Extended support teams will include school staff, educational psychologists, Home Link staff and other agencies (if this is appropriate).

Complaints, compliments and suggestions

We are always happy to talk to you about the service you have received from us. If you have a complaint, you should contact the area team working with your child's school. Addresses and phone numbers are on the back page of this leaflet. We would also like to hear from you if you are happy with the help you have been given or if you can suggest ways to make the service better.



How do I find out more?

You can find out more either through your head teacher or by contacting your local team direct.

Paisley One Area Home Link Team

St Fergus Primary School
Blackstoun Road
Paisley
Phone: 0141 848 6357

- ✿ Castlehead High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Paisley Grammar School and associated primaries
- ✿ The Mary Russell School

Paisley Two-Area Home Link Team

St Paul's Primary
Orchy Crescent
Paisley
Phone: 01505 816344

- ✿ St Andrew's Academy and associated primaries
- ✿ Gleniffer High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Kersland School

Renfrew and Erskine Area Home Link Team

Moorpark Primary School
Porterfield Road
Renfrew
Phone: 0141 885 4001

- ✿ Renfrew High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Trinity High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Parkmains High School and associated primaries

Johnstone and Linwood Area Home Link Team

Auchenlodment Primary School
Aspen Place
Johnstone
Phone: 01505 382546

- ✿ Johnstone High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Linwood High School and associated primaries
- ✿ St Benedict's High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Gryffe High School and associated primaries
- ✿ Clippens School

Home Link Service Manager
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