

Parent Support

Introduction

Dr. James Galpin

The Bridge London





Introduction

Parent Support

This project aims to further develop the support that the Bridge provides to parents as well as gain a better understanding of the types of support that parents of pupils with autism and/or profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) find beneficial. The relationship between school and parents plays a key role in supporting a child's development. Frequent, clear communication between home and school is crucial for fostering this relationship. Communication is particularly important in settings that support pupils with autism and/or PMLD. Consistency in approach has a positive effect on progress made. Furthermore, parents of pupils with additional and/or complex needs have been shown to have to cope with a greater amount of stress. Recognising this the Parent Project has been designed to gain a better understanding of the efficacy of the support the Bridge provides to parents.

Run in collaboration with the UCL Institute of Education the project sought to obtain the views of parents regarding the support they received from the Bridge but also from the local authority. Parents took part in semi-structured interviews that sought their views on what support was working, what was not working and what support they might need that was not currently being offered.

There is a lack of first-hand accounts regarding support for families of pupils with autism and/or PMLD and this project looks to address this gap. The results will also enable the Bridge to further develop and improve the support provided to parents and will provide evidence to support any wider changes in support that may be required from a local and/or national government policy perspective.