

9 Top Tips For GCSE Parents

Supporting Your Child Through GCSE Revision

1. Give Plenty Of Support
2. Discuss Things Early
3. Take A Real Interest
4. Make Yourself Available To Talk To
5. Provide A Suitable Place To Study
6. Get Them To Plan
7. Encourage Active Revision
8. Help Them Think About The Future
9. Keep Things In Perspective

1. Give Plenty Of Support

This is a stressful and emotionally charged period for you, your child and your family. One of your most important roles is to **make home life as calm and supportive as possible**. Support the school by having a positive relationship with teachers as they, like you, only want the best for your child.

2. Discuss Things Early On

Make a point of discussing with your child what will be involved in the revision period and what your role could be. It's probably **best to do this early** on before routines and habits are formed!

3. Take A Real Interest

Perhaps the most important thing you can do to help your child to stay motivated during the revision period is to **express an interest in what they're doing**.

4. Make Yourself Available To Talk To

Your child needs to feel you are supportive of their efforts regardless of the results they achieve and from time to time they will need to be reassured of this support. **Make sure you are available to listen to your child**, although they may not want to talk directly about exams.

5. Provide A Suitable Place To Study

Ideally, when they are studying at home, they need a **permanent, quiet, well-lit place to study with very few interruptions or distractions**. The best set up is probably to have a flat surface such a desk or table in their bedroom, although the kitchen table may suit them best. The school library is a good alternative place for them to revise.

6. Get Them To Plan

Revision planning, when done realistically, helps to ensure that the necessary hours of revision actually take place. Making a revision timetable is useful for helping your child to get a good balance between revision and leisure time. **It's very important that they take time off from their studies to relax**, so don't expect them to study all the time or every day of the week.

7. Encourage Active Revision

Passively reading through class notes or textbooks is a very poor method of revision. Effective revision means doing something active, such as making flashcards, putting sticky notes around their bedroom, testing and tackling past exam papers. **Testing them is a great way for you to help** and is best done in short bursts with gaps in between or get them to 'teach' you a topic.

8. Help Them Think About The Future

It's a great advantage if your child is **clear about their reasons for doing well** in their GCSEs. Their reasons might include short term goals, such as getting into the Sixth Form or College or longer-term goals such as going to university, doing an apprenticeship, a future career or satisfying job.

9. Keep Things In Perspective

Whilst GCSE exams are undoubtedly important, if for some reason your child doesn't get the grades they'd hoped for it's not the end of the world. They may have to rethink their immediate plans for what to do in Sixth Form or College but a **huge variety of opportunities will still be open to them**.