

# PARENT LINK OFFICERS



## WHAT IS A PARENT LINK OFFICER?

As a parent or carer of a child with special educational need or disability, it can be difficult to know who the best person is to get help and advice from.

A Parent Link Officer is a member of Birmingham Local Authority whose job it is to help parents to identify and make links with the right person, at the right time.

Their role is not to replace other parent support services already in place, but to ensure that parents have an easy and simple way to find the best support service to meet their needs at the exact point they need it.

### Ways Parent Link Officers can work with families include:



Telephone and text



E-mail



Letter or written information



Home visit



Support at meetings



Family forums and drop-ins

### THE PARENT LINK OFFICER AIMS TO:

- To support a range of inclusion support services, local drop-ins and forums for families of children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs.
- Support parents and families in ensuring children with special educational needs and disabilities have their needs met within their local community as early as possible.
- Work closely with a team of professionals within a local area, supporting schools and families to improve communication and participation of parents, children and young people.

## MEET THE PARENT LINK OFFICERS:



**GILL LEACH**  
PARENT LINK CO-ORDINATOR

### ABOUT ME:

I am a mother of two and nanny of two. I have dedicated my whole working life to supporting children, young people and families both in the UK and Kenya.

Inclusion is my big passion and my experience will help to ensure that families know who to turn to for help as soon as they need it.

In this role, I am hoping to coordinate a team of people who can ensure a positive experience of education and support for children, young people, families and professionals across Birmingham.

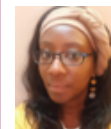


**KATIE FOLEY**  
PARENT LINK CO-ORDINATOR

### ABOUT ME:

I am a mum of 3 who has 30 years' experience of working with children, young people and families in Birmingham. My eldest child has a disability, so I understand, from both personal and professional experience, ways to help families gain support through a wide network of professionals in education, social care and health.

My aim in this role is that we can find solutions by working together and ensuring that each child and young person is at the centre of everything we do.



**JUANITA MURRAY**  
PARENT LINK CO-ORDINATOR

### ABOUT ME:

I am a parent of one and know, from experience, how to find help and get advice and support when your child has additional needs.

I am passionate about learning and helping people to develop. I aim to help understand the needs of those I am working in partnership with and be the link between them.

In this role, I am hoping to support parents, carers and professionals to feel listened to, valued and able to make changes that will support the children and young people in Birmingham with SEND.