

What do teachers think about their relationship with parents?

An interview-based study among Belgian teachers

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Literature review

● Parent-teacher relationship

→ The collaborative partnership between teachers and parents that aims to support the children's educational journey.
(Epstein, 1995)

● Teachers' perception of their relationship with parents

→ A positive relationship between parents and teachers has a positive impact on children's schooling and teachers behaviours.
(Dawson & Wymbs, 2016; Stormont et al., 2013)

? *How do teachers perceive their relationship with parents?*

● Teachers' occupational well-being

→ "Teachers' responses to cognitive, emotional, health, and social conditions related to their work and profession."
(Viac & Fraser, 2020, p.18)

? *Do teachers perceive that the relationship with parents impact their occupational well-being?*



Method

- Semi-structured interview
- **15 interviews** with primary and secondary school teachers
 - Mean age 44.60 (SD = 10.09)
 - Mean years of teaching experience 19.34 (SD = 11.14)
 - 11 women and 4 men



01. Teachers' perceptions of the relationship with parents

👍 Trust, effective communication and partnership are perceived as positive aspects of the relationship.

👎 Lack of communication, lack of interest in children's education and parents' negative attitudes towards the school are perceived as negative aspects of the relationship.

"They are partners and they trust the work I do."

Secondary school teacher

"There are parents who are involved not as partners but as opponents of the school."

Primary school teacher

02. The ingredients to ensure teachers' well-being

● Overall, teachers expressed the need of an effective school direction and colleagues support.

● Teaching experience is a key factor to cope with difficult situations, including managing challenging relationship with parents.

"A good school leadership can help to withstand pressure from parents."

Secondary school teacher

"Now I am confident, but before, when I was younger, parent-teacher meetings used to stress me out."

Primary school teacher

03. The impact of positive and challenging relationships with parents on teachers' well-being

👍 Positive feedback from parents regarding teachers work helps them feel supported and recognized in their job.

👎 Parents who oppose the decisions made by teachers negatively impact teachers' well-being.

"After parent-teacher meetings, I feel like I've seen parts of my team. I tell myself: 'Okay, they are with me!'"

Secondary school teacher

"What can impact my well-being is when parents accuse me during our meetings."

Secondary school teacher



Next step

- Reflexive thematic analysis