

Connect Report for CCWP February 2021

1. Connect's AGM and Partnership Schools Celebration: This will take place online Thursday 18 March. Edinburgh parents still have time to submit a nomination to join the board, and all are welcome to attend the AGM at 7.30pm. This will be followed by an event to mark the end of our unique Partnership Schools Scotland pilot at 8pm. This will include findings from research by Stirling University, carried out in 2020, into parental engagement and its positive impact on schools that are bucking the trend, plus stories from the Partnership school. Please book your free place [here](#).

2. Information Sessions: This past year we have successfully adapted our popular information sessions to take place as online events, and these have been well attended. Upcoming sessions include Communication and Social Media for Parent Groups, Reaching out to All Families and AGMs and Constitutions: you can book your place [here](#).

3. Connect-ing Parent Groups closed Facebook group: A place for Connect members to share ideas and problem solve with Parent Councils, PTAs and other parent groups across the country. Edinburgh parents are welcome to [join](#), please remember to state your school/parent group name when you apply.

4. Connect's Family Engagement Academy: We have now adapted our face-to-face professional learning to [online professional learning modules](#) for educators and practitioners. We have also provided a module for Education Scotland's Excellence in Headship.

5. Surveys: We are currently conducting a [survey of parents and carers](#) to gather their experiences during this further lockdown and period of school closures. We also conducted a survey on digital access and issues in November and have published our report on [our website](#).

6. Manifesto: We have published our [new manifesto](#) which sets out our priorities for the next five years. We are focusing on four themes which are:

- the importance of parents and carers in children's learning
- the important role of parents in improving schools and nurseries
- the importance of good relationships between families, schools and nurseries
- fairness, kindness and access for all children and young people in our education system.

7. Scottish Government: We are currently involved in the Learning Together Steering Group, and we meet regularly with the Parental Engagement team to discuss issues we identify or are working on, and to hear any updates on government policy or work.

8. Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill: The Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee is providing scrutiny on this Members Bill, and we submitted [a response](#) to their call for views in January.

9. Additional Support for Learning Review: Executive Director Eileen Prior appeared before the Education and Skills Committee to give evidence on Angela Morgan's report into the implementation of Additional Support for Learning legislation in mid-January.

10. Other consultations:

Digital Strategy for Scotland: We submitted [a response](#) to this consultation in December, based on our survey.

Updated Child Protection Guidelines: We provided a [brief response](#) supporting the emphasis given on engaging with families and children, and a more partnership and relationship focused approach.

Connect

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