



Online Catch-up with Connect

Ground rules

- Please type your name, school/nursery, and local authority in the Chatbox so we know who is there
- You can type a question or comment in the Chatbox at any time. There will be breaks in the presentation to look at questions/comments/hear stories
- If you would like to speak, please tell us in the Chatbox
- Please mute your audio until you are invited to speak
- Please keep your video off
- Do contact us by email if you have further questions
- Please do not name any other individuals
- Everyone OK?

About Connect

- Currently working from home...
- Membership organisation for parent groups in Scotland for over 70 years
- Supports parents and parent groups
- Regularly surveys parents/carers on different issues
- 23 local authorities take out membership for their Parent Councils; PTAs and Parent Councils in other authorities take out their own membership

How Connect can support you

- Help & advice via email, social media and website **www.connect.scot**
- Online information sessions
- Monthly e-newsletters
- YouTube short films; daily Facebook posts and Twitter

What we've been doing during lockdown

- Web page of links/helplines for urgent advice
- Web page of links/helplines to support mental health
- Unique parent/carer survey, full report on the survey available soon
- Daily suggestions for parents/carers on Facebook
- Online Information Sessions planned with key partners such as *Respectme* (online bullying) and Child Poverty Action Group Scotland to address specific queries and concerns
- This Q & A session asking parent groups about how we can support them and about what they're doing
- Web page - holding online meetings

What is this session about?

- To tell you about our survey of parents/carers
- Sharing ideas for supporting families
- Helping to answer questions
- Telling us what support you need

Connect's Parent/Carer Survey

To give you an idea of what families might be feeling

- **1578 responses** from 27 March to 30 April
- **29 local authorities**
- **7% Nursery, 64% Primary, 27% Secondary, 2% Other** (multiple children at different stages; special school; college)

Initial Findings

The most frequently expressed concerns are:

- children 'left behind' in their learning
- the health & wellbeing of children, including longer term impacts
- the impact of the lack of social interaction
- the feeling of being unable to support children
- children not engaging with their learning

Learning and barriers to learning

- About 50% of respondents feel OK about supporting school work
- Reasons for a lack of confidence:
 - work stress
 - money pressure
 - health issues including shielding & mental health
 - lack of equipment

Learning at home

- Some parents are more confident about their own family's priorities
- Children learn lots at home which is not school work
- Some parents feel overwhelmed and ill-equipped for school work
- School work is sent in different ways and in different amounts and is often confusing

Comments/questions?

Parent Councils/PTAs: How are you doing?

We've heard about:

- parent groups acting as crucial communication hubs between parents and school
- parent groups providing funds for and creating *kitbags* for families
- parent groups fundraising so the school's tech department can make face masks
- parent groups holding online meetings.

What has your parent group been doing?

It might be nothing ... and that's ok!

What are your concerns/issues?

As a parent
or
a parent group

How else can Connect help?

- On social media?
- More information sessions?
- Facebook Groups?

The Role of Parent Councils?

- Communication, communication, communication!
- Reassure parents
- Liaise with the school on behalf of parents
- Gather feedback from parents
- Ask schools/teachers to simplify what they are doing online – perhaps one platform!
- Ask schools to make sure children/families who need support are getting it
- Make sure everyone has equipment/materials they need
- Ask schools how families can help them
- Ask schools to make sure there is some consistency across all teachers/classes
- Parents/children may need one-to-one online support or telephone conversations – how can parents/children access this?

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