



supporting **partnerships** in **education**

About Connect Membership

Welcome to Connect Membership! You're now part of Scotland's only independent national membership organisation and charity for parents and carers with children in Scottish early years and school education. Each year, we support thousands of parents/carers and parent groups with advice and information. Led by volunteer directors, we're here to help parents, support our Members and gather parents' views and experiences to inform local and national policy as well as our own services. Our mission is to encourage high quality family engagement in children's learning and school lives in ways that work for families.

Keep in touch!

Our contact details are:

info@connect.scot

If you want to speak to a member of the Connect team, email us with your phone number and we will call you back

www.connect.scot

 [ConnectScot](https://www.facebook.com/ConnectScot)

 [@connect_scot](https://twitter.com/@connect_scot)

Like and follow us to receive the latest news from Connect and the world of Scottish education

Sign up for our eNewsletters

<http://bit.ly/connectenews>

Connect works with parents and educators to improve children's learning and lives.



Connect Membership Benefits

Full membership of Connect gives you, your Parent Council, PTA or other parent-run groups, and other parents and staff at your school many benefits. These include:

- being part of a fantastic Scotland-wide parents' community
- support and advice for parents and parent groups
- information about the important roles and rights of parents and Parent Councils
- membership-linked insurance
- free live online Information Sessions (Tuesdays 8-9pm termtime)
- full access to the Members' area of the Connect website
- our termly *Backchat* newsletter for Members
- the option of regular monthly eNews bulletins (*see left to sign up*)
- the chance to be part of our [Parents' Voice surveys](#)
- exclusive access to the Connect closed Facebook group, [Connecting Parent Groups](#)
- the right to nominate Directors for the Connect board
- the ability to influence policy at Connect and beyond.

New for 2023-2024:

- Connect's series of '[Quick Tips for Parent Groups](#)' short films
- new Information Sessions to introduce your group to Connect membership and a beginner's guide to Parent Councils
- access to mediation services for parent group members in partnership with Scottish Mediation.

We're here to help you!

We have fantastic resource packs on a wide range of helpful themes for Parent Councils and PTAs on our website www.connect.scot. Please register on the website to access them. We also provide advice and information for parents by telephone, email and via Facebook (*see left for our contact details*).

Connect's Surveys: Parents' Voices Matter!

Our parent/carer surveys are very popular and enable us to share your views, as part of important research, or to develop national policy and Connect's own direction of travel. You can trust Connect to gather data and report survey findings accurately and professionally. We know there are almost as many different views as there are parents!

Recently, we were pleased to be invited to share what parents/carers told us in our 2020 and 2021 surveys with the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry. There are so many lessons to learn from those years, both at national and local levels, about what good (and poor) parental engagement in children's learning and school lives looks like.

In the last year, we've been heavily involved in seeking parent views in many creative ways as part of the Education Reform discussions.

In short, it is well worth making your views heard! Our Parents' Voice online survey group is open to all parents - sign up or look out for our surveys on our social media.

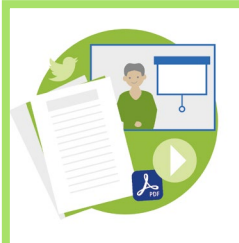


Join Connect's team of amazing volunteer Directors!

Are you a parent or carer with a passion for parental engagement in children's learning and school lives? Or are you a teacher committed to involving families? Then you should consider volunteering for the Board of Connect! As a small charity, our Directors are vital in making sure we provide the right services to parents and carers whose children are in Scottish education. The Board meets online so Directors can participate easily.

Our Directors attend Board meetings regularly, making sure Connect represents the interests of Members, informing discussions and shaping our services and policy approaches. Directors also take on the legal responsibilities of charity trustees and company directors. Read more about becoming a Director [here](#).

Connect is the only independent charity in Scotland providing parent-friendly advice and information to all, as well as sharing parent views with policy makers and the media. We also provide professional learning to schools, teachers and early years staff through the Connet Family Engagement Academy. Email us to find out more info@connect.scot.



Online Information Sessions and Events

Our live online Information Sessions help us to help you! Boost your confidence and knowledge at the sessions whilst exchanging ideas with other parent groups from across Scotland.

For 2023/24, we're introducing some new sessions. Free to Connect Members, you can find out about them through our social media channels, our monthly eNews bulletin or by checking our [Events page](#) here you can book your place. Information Sessions this year include:

- **NEW** Chat with Connect
- **NEW** Welcome to Connect Membership
- **NEW** New to Parent Councils: Induction
- Parent Councils Now
- Role of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for Parent Groups
- Money Matters for Parent Groups and Treasurers
- Organising Social & Fundraising Events for Parent Groups
- Good Practice for Parent Groups and many more!

Easyfundraising

Raise funds for your parent group through online shopping! Connect works with **easyfundraising** to help our Members raise money for their parent groups in a simple and effective way. **easyfundraising** is the UK's leading good-cause shopping site, and it has helped parent groups raise many millions. If you register your group with **easyfundraising** through our Connect homepage, **easyfundraising** will donate an extra 20% to Connect in addition to the funds your group receives. It won't cost you any extra and we will use those funds to provide more services to our Members. Register your parent group [here](#).





About Connect Membership

Your Connect Membership Pack is on our website [here](#). You will need to register/log in to access it.

Please note: you must provide your group's Key Contact details and read key documents in the Pack.

Contact Zurich Insurance Company directly with insurance queries on 0800 232 1927 (option 2) or by email connect.scotland@uk.zurich.com.

Connect Membership includes:

- free access to our highly-regarded live online Information Sessions (weekly, termtime) and recordings of these sessions
- access to all areas of the Connect website, with many resources and templates for your group
- advice and support from the Connect team
- the opportunity to nominate Directors to the Connect board
- participation on Connect's *Parents' Voice* survey group
- access to Connect's closed Facebook group, *Connecting Parent Groups*
- access to professional mediation in partnership with Mediation Scotland
- *Quick Tips for Parent Groups*, a series of short films
- a comprehensive package of membership-linked insurance (*see below for details*).



This insurance includes:

- Public Liability (£10m)
- Employer's Liability (£10m)
- Fidelity and money insurance (up to £5K)
- Personal Accident cover for volunteers (up to £25K)
- All Risks cover for items you buy for the group or school (£12,365)
- Public Liability cover for any number of activity groups and clubs run by your group (£10m)
- Extended Public Liability for non-professional stallholders and low-risk entertainers (£10m).

The Connect staff team for 2023/2024



Connect has a small but dedicated team of specialists working on your behalf, including:

- Patrick McGlinchey: Executive Director
- Sara McFarlane: Policy and Support Officer
- Tina Woolnough: Communications Manager
- Marion Healey-Smith: Membership Officer
- Diane Delaney: Training Associate
- Fiona Bell: Team Support Officer.

You can more read about the staff team [here](#).

Q&As on Membership-linked Insurance, Events and Supporting Families

Q: If our parent group/organisation has a query about our Connect membership-linked insurance, what should we do?

A: You can find an extensive list of Frequently Asked Questions from Zurich which are part of your Membership Pack on our website [here](#). You will need to register and/or log in to access this. Connect Members are now able to contact Zurich directly for advice and guidance on any insurance matter (and to make a claim). The number to call is 0800 232 1927 (option 2); queries by email can be sent to connect.scotland@uk.zurich.com. Please copy us in via info@connect.scot.

Q: Our Parent Council likes to concentrate on social and fundraising events. Is there anything else we should be thinking about?

A: Parent Councils are statutory bodies. This means they have rights and responsibilities set out in legislation ([the Scottish Schools \(Parental Involvement\) Act 2006](#)) which Parent Council members must take on board. These include the responsibility to seek the views of, and represent, all parents and carers at the school (the Parent Forum), the right to take part in the recruitment of the headteachers, the duty to support the work of the school and more. Some of Connect's Information Sessions and resources will help you with this important role.

Q: Our Parent Council is interested in supporting families with the cost of living crisis. How can we best do this?

A: That's fantastic - there is lots that Parent Councils can do! Firstly, have a look at the [Cost of the School Day toolkit](#) to make sure everyone in your school community is thinking about avoidable and hidden costs. Secondly, you can consider what your Parent Council (and/or PTA) is doing to reduce costs for families eg offer free activities or ask for donations, rather than charging for tickets. And you can signpost families to help, such as how to apply for free school meals school uniform grants or foodbanks and to your local Citizen's Advice Bureau for help managing debt and applying for benefits etc. Finally, share information from Connect's webpage on [school uniform and clothing banks](#) across the country.

About Connect

Background

Connect was formed 75 years ago to campaign for parental involvement in education. We continue to champion this cause, working to make family engagement in children's learning and school lives as good as it can be and to ensure that families are included and involved and are recognised and respected for everything they do. Connect is a charity and a limited liability company with a Board of Directors who are also charity trustees.

Funding

Our income comes mostly from membership fees, from around 2000 parent groups like yours. Membership fees pay for the staff team, office equipment, our website, our resources for parent groups and the costs of running online Information Sessions for parents. Of course, it also pays for membership-linked insurance which we buy on behalf of our Members.

Staff

Connect's staff team is small but very busy! We are here to help and support our Members - just get in touch!

We also offer educators Professional Learning modules via the [Connect Family Engagement Academy](#) and a dedicated Twitter feed [@Connect_ScotPL](#). Email info@connect.scot to find out more about our Professional Learning.

