



supporting partnerships in education

Our Year in Numbers 2017-2018

We enjoyed an exceptional year in 2017-2018, with our 70th anniversary, a new name, a rebrand and a fresh website, all designed to show that we are as committed as ever to making parental engagement in children's learning and their school lives as good as it can be. We do this in many different ways, which are outlined in the following pages. You can find more information in our Annual Report 2017-2018 which is available here <http://bit.ly/ConnectAnnualReport>.

Information and Training Sessions for Connect Members by Local Authority

We delivered **50** face-to-face sessions in **17** local authorities to **615** attendees. We also hosted **37** online sessions on **eight** topics with **209** attendees. The chart below shows local authorities and numbers of face-to-face sessions.

Local Authority	Number of Face-to-Face Sessions	Local Authority	Number of Face-to-Face Sessions
Aberdeenshire	9	Midlothian	1
Angus	3	Moray	1
Dumfries & Galloway	1	North Ayrshire	1
East Renfrewshire	5	North Lanarkshire	3
Edinburgh	5	Perth and Kinross	5
Falkirk	2	Stirling	4
Fife	3	West Dunbartonshire	1
Glasgow	3	West Lothian	1
Inverclyde	2		
		TOTAL	50

Connect is a trading name of Scottish Parent Teacher Council

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The Scottish Parent Teacher Council is a Company limited by Guarantee, Company No SC151086, Scottish Charity No SC019168

Our Mission

Connect's mission is to support the development and maintenance of high quality family engagement in children's learning. We will achieve this by:

- **sustaining Connect** as a robust, parent-led, independent membership organisation with a focus on research and evidence-based development
- **working with parents and carers** to build their confidence, knowledge and skills so they feel able to engage in the way they wish, with their child's school and wider education services
- **working in partnership** with organisations and individuals in the educational and wider Scottish community, to build awareness of and engagement with parental involvement and its benefits for children, families and communities.

Our Values

- We are a **membership organisation** committed to treating all members and stakeholders with respect, honesty and integrity.
- The Directors and staff work tirelessly and passionately to create productive, creative partnerships which **support positive educational outcomes for all children and young people**.
- We engage with our employees respectfully and flexibly, supporting their learning and progression and **encouraging their enthusiastic involvement in the development of the organisation**.
- **We support parents and carers to be involved in the way that is right for them:** with their own child's learning, the local school, the local authority or at national policy level.
- We are **committed to equality and dignity** for all parents, carers and children.
- We utilise evidence and research to advance our work and to **support policy and practice**.

Our Finances 2017-18



Income: £308,770

This includes membership fees, income from training and our Partnership Schools project.

Expenditure: £308,411

This includes staff and office costs, membership services, travel and subsistence, our AGM & Lecture.

Funds carried forward: £118,815

Membership

This table shows membership numbers by level at the end of July 2018.

Dundee City Council, Orkney Islands and South Lanarkshire Council joined Connect as group Members in 2017-2018.

Our membership continues to grow, and is up by over 300, despite the ongoing trend of PTAs merging with Parent Councils.

We continue to offer four levels of membership, designed to meet our Members' differing needs.

	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	Grand Total	2016 to 2017
Club/ Group			12	5	17	12
Parent Council	3	13	1636	196	1848	1537
PTA	1	5	88	94	188	202
Corporate					25	3
Grand Total	4	18	1736	295	2090	1773

Membership-Linked Insurance

Our membership-linked insurance is one of our most popular services.

Over the past year, we have answered queries about covering Members' increasingly diverse events and projects.

We offer detailed guidance for Members on a range of topics. Queries about insurance cover included:

- **unicorn rides (with ponies dressed up)**
- **sumo suit wrestling**
- **static mini diggers knocking over skittles**
- **a bike gala**
- **a sponsored walk**
- **children's performers.**

Our Policy Work

Connect is the only Scottish charity dedicated to supporting parental engagement with children's learning and with the school community.

This gives us a unique position and means we are regularly invited to take part in consultations run by Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and education partners.

In forming our consultation responses, we regularly survey parents so we can reflect different views and perspectives on issues that directly affect families.

This year we submitted consultation responses on

- Excellence and Equity for All: Guidance on the Presumption of Mainstreaming
- Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill
- Early Learning and Childcare Service Model for 2020
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information
- Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families.

Keeping in Touch

Good communication with our Members and listening to what they have to tell us is central to what we do at Connect. To this end, our new name, brand and website were successfully launched in February 2018.

We ran six online surveys on

- families experiencing financial hardship and the impact on children's school lives (394 replies)
- the Education Bill (321)
- amendments to the PVG scheme (84)
- P1 Scottish National Standardised Assessments (364)
- fair funding in schools (281)
- anti-bullying behaviour with respectme (540).

In addition

- **1984** people responded to our surveys (2000 in 2016-2017)
- around **1400** people received each of our three issues of Backchat by post - a reducing figure as Members prefer email
- **1700** subscribers received our monthly eNewsletter
- **30,000** people used our website - down only 2% despite a new website and name
- over **5000** people followed us on Twitter by July 2018
- **534** new followers for our Facebook page, increasing from **1116** to **1650**

This year we met with partners such as

- Glasgow Life
- General Teaching Council for Scotland
- Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland
- Enquire
- Early Years Scotland
- NSPCC
- EiS (Education Institute of Scotland)
- National Parents Council (Ireland)
- RespectMe
- Skills Development Scotland
- Child Poverty Action Group Scotland
- Education Scotland
- Church of Scotland
- COSLA
- Sustrans
- Parentkind
- Upstart.



Our Projects

Professional Learning

In 2017 we added a second professional learning module, *Family Engagement for Improvement*, to our educators' offer. We continued to run our two part *Engaging Families in Children's Education* module which is endorsed by the Scottish College for Educational Leadership. Planning took place for a third module on evaluating family engagement. Whilst sharing good practice with teachers and early years practitioners, this service is also an additional revenue stream for Connect.

Partnership Schools Scotland

Our Partnership Schools Scotland project moved into its third year. With funding support from Skills Development Scotland, Connect worked with 30 schools in eight local authority areas. The Year 3 Report is available on our website.



All Change as SPTC became Connect!

At our AGM and Annual Lecture on 8 February 2018, SPTC became Connect, with a fresh new website as well as a rebrand. Over 100 leaflets were rebranded too! Visit our new website at www.connect.scot

Our Staff

Connect's dedicated core staff team is based in our Edinburgh office. Our staff travel all over Scotland to deliver Training and Information Sessions to parents and Parent Councils and professional learning to education professionals.



Press and Publicity

As well as commenting on issues relating to parents and education, we generated significant publicity during 2017-2018 as a result of our Parents' Voice surveys with Sustrans on school travel, on bullying behaviour with respectme and on families facing financial hardship and the impact of this on children's school lives. As well as commenting on current issues, we also wrote features/opinion pieces and initiated press stories.

Connect appeared in **40+** publications on topics such as:

- school travel
- the proposed Education Act
- pupil disengagement
- teacher shortages/ageing teaching profession
- Connect's 70th anniversary and rebrand
- young people's mental health support services
- school league tables
- the impact of financial hardship on children's learning (the 'cost of the school day')
- Partnership Schools Scotland
- the Scottish Government's Parental Involvement Action Plan
- Scottish National Standardised Assessments in Primary 1
- learning through play; and much more!

Convenor's Message

Our 70th Anniversary year was a significant one as we changed our name to give the message that our focus is connecting people for the benefit of children. We work with families, schools and their communities, education professionals, education partners, local authorities and the Scottish Government to create connections so that family engagement in children's learning and school lives is prioritised and supported. With our new name, we will continue the work of the last 70 years.

Lindsay Law,
Connect Convenor