

Family Engagement Academy



Educators and practitioners from all settings, welcome to the Connect Family Engagement Academy! Over the last four years, Connect has earned a reputation for delivering highly innovative and engaging professional learning programmes, with an unflinching focus on parental/family engagement in children's learning and school lives to improve outcomes. These programmes are now accessible as online modules. We are pleased to have Education Scotland endorsement for some of our Modules. We have worked hard to ensure delegates will continue to experience the trademark features of our learning - engaging, collaborative and challenging.

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<https://bit.ly/ConnectFamilyEngagementAcademy>

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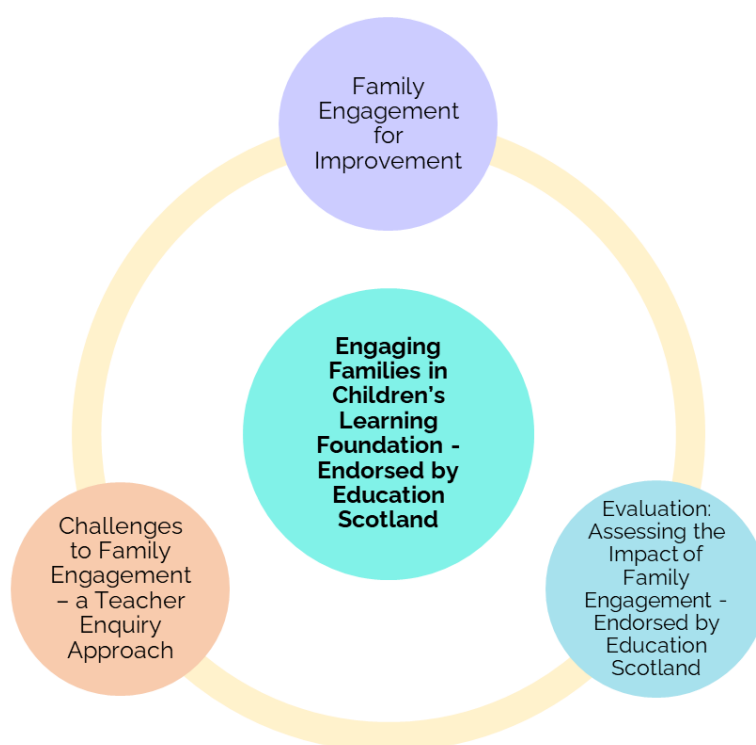
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Pathway

The *Engaging Families in Children's Learning - Foundation* Module opens the door to further learning around the importance and impact of family engagement. You can choose your next module depending upon your professional or school priorities.

Previous delegates should contact training@connect.scot to discuss their starting point and equivalency. For example, if you have already completed our face-to-face session *Engaging Families in Children's Learning*, that is equivalent to the *Foundation* module.

All of Connect's modules can contribute to evidence-gathering for Professional Update.



Modules and Fees

Baseline fees – see below for promotions and group bookings

<i>Engaging Families in Children's Learning - Foundation Module 1</i>	£115
<i>Family Engagement for Improvement</i>	£95
<i>Evaluation - Assessing the Impact of Family Engagement</i>	£125
<i>Challenges to Family Engagement, a Teacher Enquiry Approach</i>	£95
Working with Your Parent Council (non-Members)	£55
Working with Your Parent Council is free to Connect Local Authority Members	

Promotion

June-December 2021, you can book a place on the Foundation Module for £95. If you decide to continue onto another module during session 21-22, you will qualify for further discounts – contact training@connect.scot.

Contact training@connect.scot for a quotation for larger groups from clusters or local authorities.

Speak to your line manager about how costs may be covered.

Booking

Go to our site at <https://bit.ly/ConnectFamilyEngagementAcademy> and create an account.

You can book and pay by credit or debit card and start learning with a cohort of like-minded professionals.

If you require an invoice, please contact training@connect.scot with a Purchase Order number and confirmation of your chosen module. You will be enrolled once payment has been received.

If you would like to make a block booking for more than one module or for a large group, please contact training@connect.scot to discuss terms. Reduced rates are available for groups of 20 or more, and we will advise on enrolment and start dates for these.

Engaging Families - Foundation Module (endorsed by Education Scotland)

A thought-provoking and participative professional learning opportunity, this module explores the research behind the drive for engagement with families, and the legislation/policy which requires it. Learners will experience a mix of self-directed learning, live webinars, social space for collaboration with others in the cohort, downloadable resources and PowerPoint presentations.

Practical tools provided for download include audit and action planning tools.

This module has been adapted for delivery on-line: more than 150 participants have experienced *Engaging Families*, with outstanding feedback. It is designed to support classroom teachers, family learning and support workers, as well as senior staff to develop clear understanding and effective strategies to support engagement of families in their children's education and learning.

Module format

As an indication, delegates will be expected to commit 10-14 hours for the various elements of this module, over approximately 6-8 weeks. The module also includes a follow-up coaching session: when this is completed, a certificate is issued.

Engaging Families has been adapted for delivery in an online environment, carefully preserving the key elements of self-directed learning and collaboration. Participants will have opportunities for professional discussion, and to complete tasks involving critical reflection on their learning. Included is an *Engagement Stocktake* resource to be completed with colleagues and others: this will audit existing parental engagement activities as a starting point for each individual's action plan.

Learning Intentions

On completion of this module, delegates will have:

- developed a good understanding of the benefits and challenges of engaging families in children's education
- worked with colleagues, co-constructed approaches to improving engagement with all families
- experienced an innovative participatory online learning approach.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand legislation requiring schools to engage families in their children's education and learning.

2. Gain insight through scrutiny of research and practice examples of the ways in which effective engagement with families can impact positively on outcomes for young people.
3. Understand the roles and responsibilities of Parent Councils, how to facilitate collaborative working with the Parent Council and wider school community.
4. Review the school or establishment's current engagement with families in their children's education and learning.
5. Identify the factors affecting relationships between families and the nursery/school community.
6. Understand the six types of engagement with families.
7. Understand effective planning for improved engagement with families.
8. Identify and prioritise areas for strengthening families' engagement, linking with improvement.
9. Examine and share best practice in engaging families.
10. Develop a practical action plan for improving families' engagement.

Testimonials

The learning will benefit anyone who takes the time to progress the programme.

Very easy to navigate and lots of great information.

It was good to hear about other settings and use the tools to identify the gaps in our planning and evaluation processes.

I enjoyed the learning together aspect in the larger group, but I particularly enjoyed the introduction of the breakout rooms and the 'sticky note' opportunities available to add my own experiences. The smaller groups were so much more intimate and allowed me to add my views confidently amongst a smaller group. I also very much enjoyed the opportunity to liaise with colleagues I might never have had the opportunity to "meet" through the online sessions.

I found the bite-sized lessons easy to navigate. I enjoyed the variety of sessions.

I appreciated that I could work through the learning at my own pace and at a time that it suits me. The additional information was also very helpful.

Best CPD course I have ever been at.

Family Engagement for Improvement

Family Engagement for Improvement is designed to support education professionals to develop engagement strategies, which build capacity and strengthen collaboration. The key focus is on assessing impact and harnessing learning for school improvement. Participants are introduced to evaluation methodologies.

Family engagement is an imperative across policy and, increasingly, funding too. Clear understanding of the benefits and methodologies around family engagement is required across the system, along with an unflinching focus on engagement as part of school improvement. This online professional learning opportunity addresses these requirements by ensuring understanding is in place before examining in detail how effective family engagement can support school improvement and impact positively on outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Delivered online, learners will experience a mix of self-directed learning, live webinar, social space for collaboration with others in the cohort, downloadable resources and PowerPoint presentations. Practical tools provided for download include an engagement stocktake and action planning tools.

Module Format

As an indication, delegates will be expected to commit 6-8 hours to complete the various elements of this module over 4-6 weeks. Delegates receive a course certificate.

Learning Intentions

On completion of the module, delegates will have:

- developed a good understanding of effective family engagement strategies and how this can impact on school improvement
- with colleagues, co-constructed approaches to evidence the impact of family engagement on school improvement
- experienced an innovative, participatory online learning approach.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand effective planning for improved engagement with families.
2. Identify and prioritise areas for improving families' engagement, linking with school improvement.
3. Examine and share best practice in engaging families.
4. Build understanding of evaluation techniques and strategies
5. Align family engagement with improvement approaches.
6. Build understanding of family friendly improvement planning.
7. Develop a practical action plan for improving families' engagement.
8. Develop criteria for evaluation of improvement approaches.

Testimonials

I found helpful Information on how to effectively create an action plan in line with our current COVID recovery plan and priorities within the nursery/school improvement plan. I also like that you give clear guidelines and examples.

Extremely insightful and detailed – self-evaluation was very helpful.

Everything about this session will help me plan for the future of a potential Parent Council for my early years establishment and how this will look.

Useful tools to support self-evaluation and planning for improvement.

Evaluation – Assessing the Impact of Family Engagement (endorsed by Education Scotland)

Evaluation – Assessing the impact of Family Engagement is an online professional learning programme, which explores ways to measure and evidence the impact of family engagement strategies as they are planned and implemented for long-term improvement. Endorsed by Education Scotland, the module offers guidance on matching evaluation methodologies to engagement work and goals and provides delegates with a downloadable comprehensive evaluation toolkit as part of the delegate fee.

This programme will enable delegates to understand and evidence relevance and the impact of engagement activity on children's learning, meeting the requirements for evidence-based approaches in schools.

Delivered online, learners will experience a mix of self-directed learning, live webinar, social space for collaboration with others in the cohort, downloadable resources and PowerPoint presentations.

Evaluation – Assessing the Impact of Family Engagement supports education professionals to develop an understanding of the importance of evaluation in family engagement.

Module format

As an indication, delegates will be expected to commit 4-6 hours to complete the various elements of this module, over approximately four weeks.

Learning Intentions

On completion of this module, delegates will have:

- gained understanding of the importance of evaluating the impact of family engagement
- connected family engagement, evaluation and improvement
- co-constructed approaches to evaluation and evidencing the impact of family engagement
- experienced an innovative, participatory online learning approach.

Learning Objectives

1. Deepen understanding of what effective parental engagement looks like
2. Understand effective planning for improved engagement with families
3. Recognise the importance of evaluating the impact of family engagement
4. Build understanding of evaluation techniques and strategies
5. Take a strategic perspective on family engagement as a means to support school improvement outputs and outcomes

6. Co-construct approaches to evaluation and evidencing the impact of family engagement
7. Gain a practical and straightforward toolkit to help set strategic goals which can be evaluated and incorporated into school improvement.

Testimonials

Delivery and content were excellent.

I have a better understanding of the processes involved in evaluation.

The Evaluation Toolkit is easy to use and understand – just what we need!

It was useful to practise evaluation with real life experiences

Challenges to Family Engagement – a Teacher Enquiry Approach

This programme is for professionals who have a good grounding in parental/family engagement principles and want to understand how teacher enquiry methodologies can support their practice and development. The Module provides a safe and supportive space to develop and test thinking around teacher enquiry approaches, particularly focussing on parental and family engagement but applicable across the professional's practice.

Module Format

As an indication, delegates will be expected to commit 4-6 hours to complete the various elements of this module, over approximately four weeks.

Learning Intentions

On completing this module, delegates will have

- deepened their understanding of parental engagement and the challenges families experience
- explored the evidence of research and best practice examples
- developed understanding of professional enquiry approaches and how this can help to address challenges
- a better understanding of unconscious bias and its impacts on relationships
- developed an understanding of the importance of building relationships and developing trust

Learning Objectives

1. Review relevant research as evidence-based approach
2. Review understanding of parental involvement/parental engagement
3. Consider how parental engagement can mitigate the attainment gap
4. Reflect on own unconscious biases
5. Identify challenges and practice utilising the enquiry approach
6. Review practice in terms of professional learning model and GTCS standards

Testimonials

Professional, well organised, relaxed atmosphere.

Felt I could contribute freely without judgement.

One person from every school should attend.

Module was really useful and well organised.

Working with your Parent Council

Parents and families can be a great support for a school and can help senior management in so many ways. This session works through the positive and effective ways a Parent Council can engage with school staff, families and the wider community to help support learning. It addresses specifics around the role of the Parent Council and its interaction with school. There will also be time to discuss some of the potential challenges and how to manage relationships.

Developed in partnership with senior management teams and headteachers, this session consistently receives very positive feedback from both delegates and local authorities.

The content has been adapted specifically to address the additional challenges presented by online communication, for both parents and school leaders.

The session is interactive and informal with plenty of opportunities for discussion and questions. It's a great chance to learn more about how you can work effectively with your Parent Council and to hear good practice from other schools.

Module format

Live webinar. This popular module is run free of charge for Connect Local Authority Members. Check in at the Academy website for the next date. For information about sessions for non-members contact training@connect.scot

Feedback

92% of attendees agree that their knowledge of the role of Parent Councils is improved.

96% of attendees take away ideas to discuss with the Parent Council.

93% of attendees agree that the information from the session will support improving and maintaining their relationship with the Parent Council.