



supporting partnerships in education

## We are Connect

*Connect is the new name of Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC)*

**We connect parents and families with teachers, education professionals and organisations, schools and nurseries, communities, third sector organisations, local and national government**

We benefit children and young people through our work: evidence shows that children do better in learning and life when their parents and families are involved in their learning and in the life of the school or nursery.

We create connections and encourage positive relationships by

- supporting parents, Parent Councils, Parent Teacher Associations, professionals and local authorities through membership of Connect
- providing professional learning services to people working in education with inspirational and clear evidence-based practice
- working in partnership across education services and the third sector to develop and share understanding of what works around parental engagement
- gathering and sharing parents' and Parent Councils' views through our face-to-face work with parents, our Parents' Voice survey group and questionnaires
- keeping parents and Parent Councils up-to-date with what's happening in Scottish education
- promoting effective parental engagement to Government, Parliament and education services.

**As a membership organisation and a charity, we are dedicated to supporting parents and carers, professionals and the education system to make parental engagement as good as it can be, for the good of children.**

**We always work to foster positive and productive relationships between parents, education professionals, local authorities and other educational organisations.**

**We pursue co-operation and partnership with the widest possible range of organisations as we work to make sure that children benefit from the active engagement of their parents and carers in their learning.**



# The Opportunity

**Parents are the first and most important educators of their children. This means parents and carers are unique and not replaceable by public services. And because - almost always - families want the best for their children, the opportunity is there to help families to make their hopes and dreams for their child become a reality.**

We believe there are a number of fundamentals which need to be addressed to protect and recognise the role and rights of parents who, in turn, protect and advocate for the rights of children.

- 1.** School improvement is one of the most important ways to plan better outcomes for our children: parents' and children's roles in improvement must be supported and encouraged, with everyone's gifts and skills recognised and used.
- 2.** Our education services must be funded in a fair and targeted way, with transparency and accountability, to meet the needs of all of our children, whatever their needs, background or ability.
- 3.** Poverty is affecting many families and children: we know this has a direct impact on outcomes for children. We cannot accept this situation in our wealthy country.
- 4.** Parent groups can help schools to put things in place to help families and children who are living in poverty. They need help and guidance so that they achieve the best for all.
- 5.** We know that reading, writing and using language are the top skills we all need, but we also know that many people leave school without 'functional literacy'. This has a massive effect on their lives - we believe this cannot be allowed to continue.
- 6.** The principles of Health must not be sacrificed to those of Safety or we put our children in danger, limiting their freedom, mental and physical development and health. Common sense, guidance and good practice should lead the way in keeping children safe while also keeping them well.



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# Our Vision

1. That no child's education suffers regardless of the financial pressures upon schools or local authorities and that the rights of all young people, parents and carers are respected.
2. That the unique role of parents and carers is respected, and is supported to grow and to help young people's education, health and wellbeing.
3. That school improvement is clearly understood in schools, nurseries and in all parts of education services as a shared endeavour for the whole school community, tapping into the experience, commitment and knowledge of all who are able to help.
4. We encourage Government to prioritise literacy throughout a learner's education, ensuring that early years support for children and families is a central plank in this commitment.
5. That all young people who require additional support in their learning – for reasons of disability, race, personal circumstances, high achievement or other cause – get that support. We want every child in Scotland to reach their full potential, and for their parents and family to be involved in that process.
6. That the key issues of health, safety and risk are understood, to make sure that our children are encouraged to be active and to grow in independence and to learn (by the example of teachers, parents and carers) to handle risk.





## connect

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