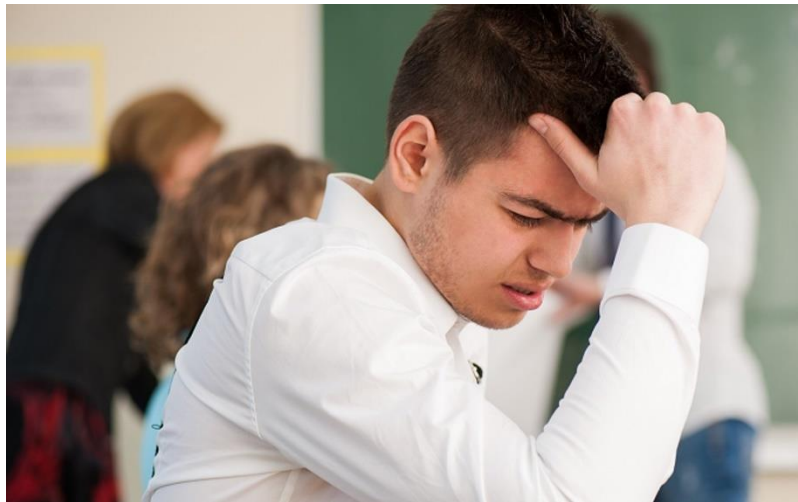


Engaging boys to make positive life choices



George Heriot's School
Founded 1628



Wednesday 03 October 2018, Edinburgh





Policy Hub
Scotland

MVP Mentors from George Heriot's school and Fettes College

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Policy Hub
Scotland

**Eleanor Coner, Partnership
Development Officer, Connect &
Anne O'Donnell, Head Teacher, St
Patrick's R.C. Primary School**

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Partnership Schools Scotland

School, Family and Community Partnerships



Eleanor Coner
Connect

Project supported by
Skills Development Scotland

Connect is a trading name of
Scottish Parent Teacher Council
Company No SC151086 Scottish
Charity SC019168

Partnership Schools Scotland
School, Family and Community Partnerships

connect
supporting partnerships in education

What is Connect?

- National membership organisation supporting family engagement in children's learning
- Parent groups are members; we offer many member benefits including: information sessions; leaflets; website
- Provide CPD to teachers and other professionals around family engagement

What is Partnership Schools about?

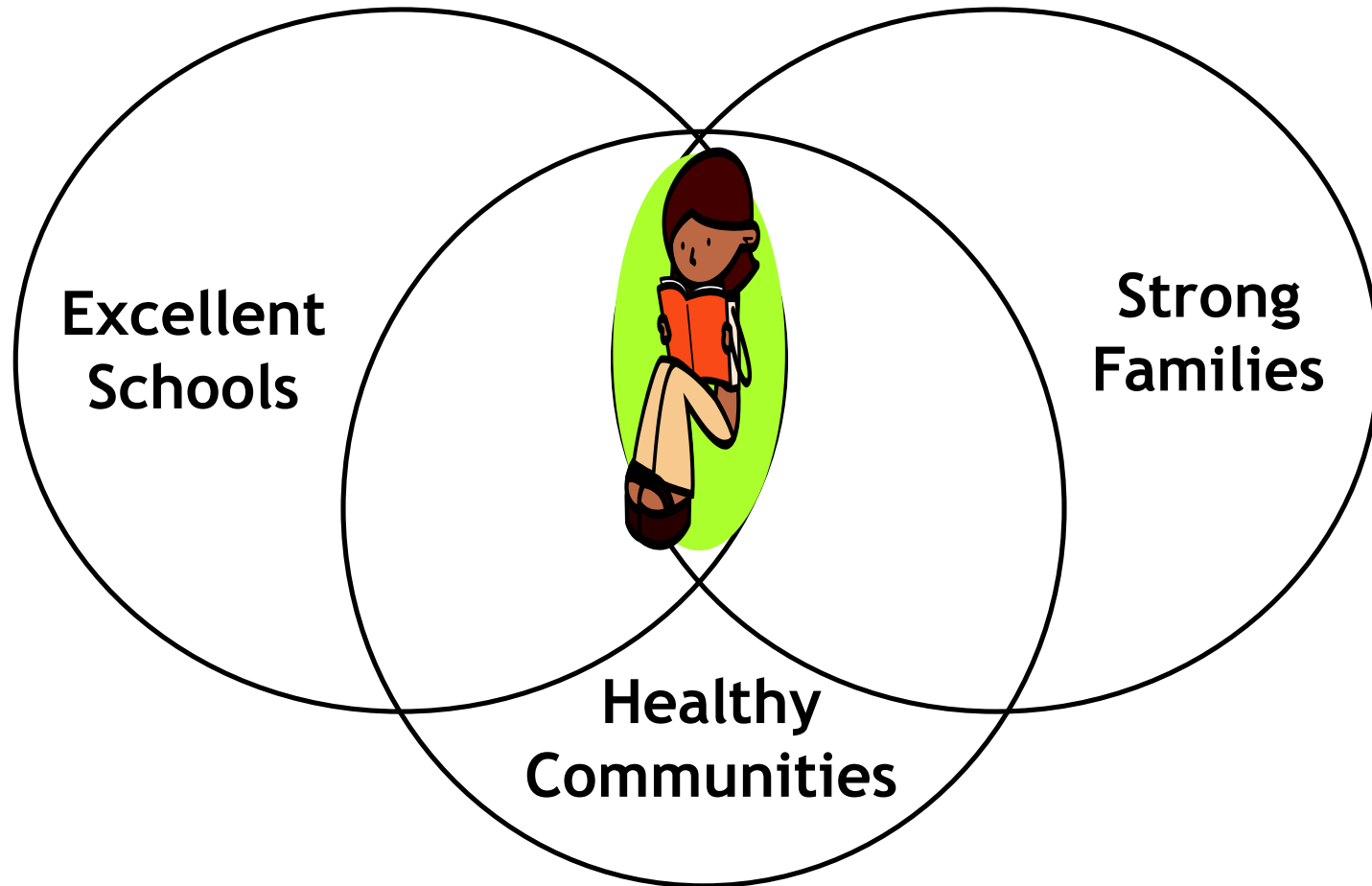
- A national programme to form school, family and community partnerships
- Not just about parents
- Different ways for different people to get involved
- It may mean a change in culture; should become just “how we do it at our school”
- Everyone is equally important
- **ALL ABOUT IMPROVING CHILDRENS’ LEARNING**

What *is* family engagement?

What that means to us

Family-like school and a school-like family

Overlapping spheres of influence



Why aren't all families visible at your school?

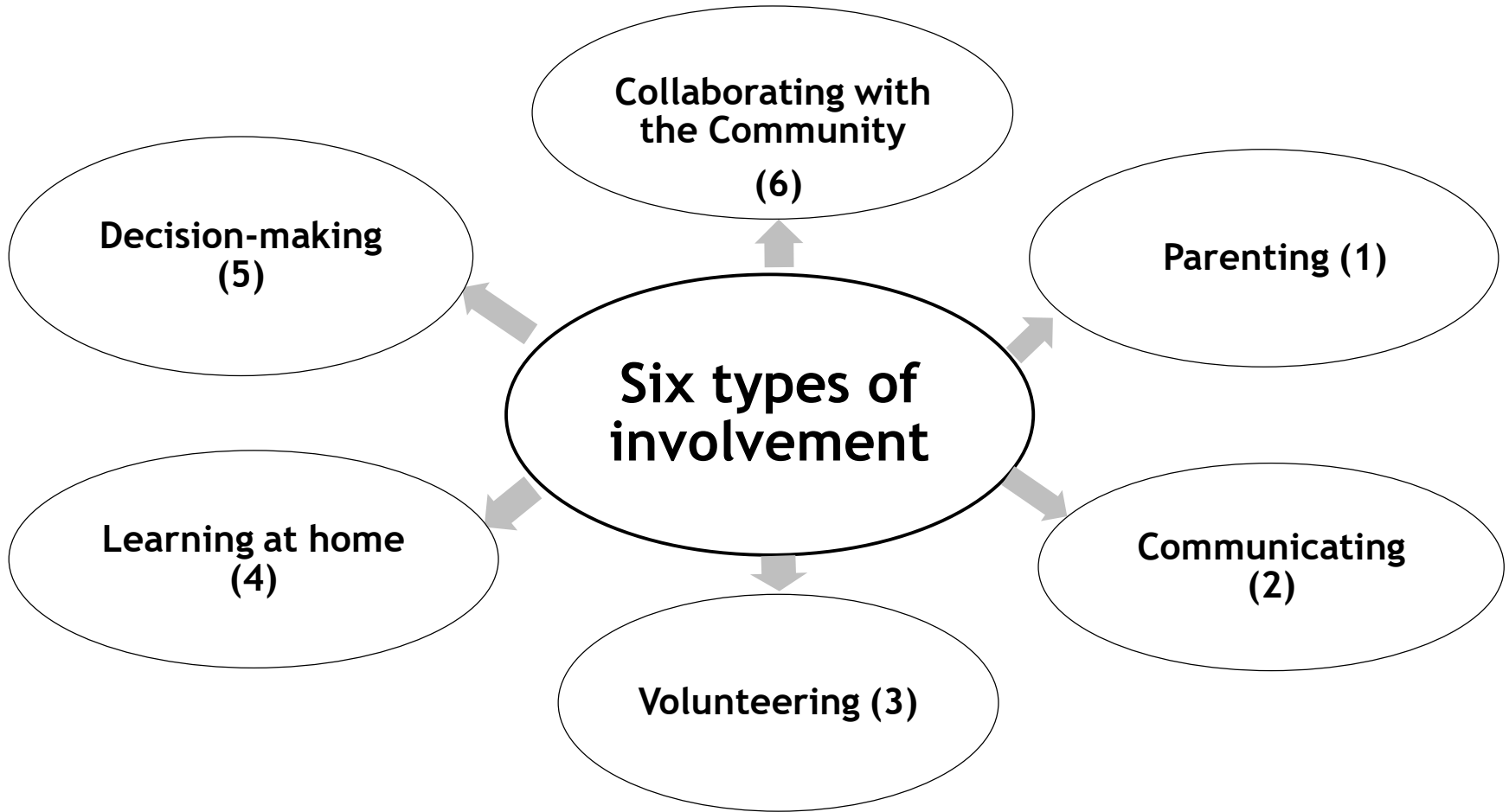
Why aren't all families visible?

- Family issues eg work, childcare, other family members, money problems
- Literacy/language problems
- Their own experience of school
- Don't understand how they can be involved
- Many need help to be involved in different and new ways in their childrens' learning
- As child gets older, they don't want their parents in school
- Child takes more responsibility/are more independent

The only solution is:

- Carefully planned and deliberate activities to keep families involved
- Ways of giving parents confidence and practical ideas of how they can help
- Recognising everyone has something to bring

How families can be involved ?



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THE BOYS' NIGHT



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- Boys need strong, positive male role models...Can we as a Parent Council support our boys at St Patrick's?

ENGAGING BOYS

Close partnership with parents and families is essential for improving outcomes for all.

More so for boys?

ENGAGING DADS

Reduces frequency of behaviour problems in boys and psychological problems in young women; it also enhances cognitive development while decreasing criminality and economic disadvantage.

Sarkadi et al 2008

ENGAGING DADS

- Better attainment
- Better exam results
- Better behaviour
- Higher educational expectations
- Better social & emotional outcomes

Goldman 2005

THE BOYS' NIGHT

◉ Why?

- Variety of factors - probably similar to those experienced by many schools - e.g. lack of ambition in many boys; lack of interest in literacy at top end of school; not cool to fully engage with learning.
- More seriously - poor life choices
- Wanted to tackle this by raising aspirations
- Engagement of male role models - increase their involvement in the life of the school

THE BOYS' NIGHT

⦿ What is it?

- A night exclusively for the boys
- Get males “in the door” without female domination to have a great night (as we knew they would come back again)
- Show them “learning can be fun”
 - Science Experiments
 - K’Nex/Dominoes/Playing Cards/Snooker/Table Tennis
 - Connect 4, basketball, darts, hoopla, Wii,
 - Food and Drink.

BOYS' NIGHT - VERSION 1!

- ⦿ P1-P7 Boys and a Male Role Model (ensure it was accessible to all irrespective of familial circumstances)
- ⦿ Letter for “Boys Only”
- ⦿ Overwhelmed with response
- ⦿ Over 200 Boys
- ⦿ Very, very busy
- ⦿ Great Feedback
- ⦿ Wonderful to watch boys, big and small, playing and learning together

BOYS' NIGHT - VERSION II

- ⦿ Split P1-P4 and P5-P7
- ⦿ Introduced “Literacy and More Science”
- ⦿ Made it more structured - using the boys’ interests to form the agenda for the nature of the activities
- ⦿ Incorporated staff from high school - further strengthen transition links - Maths and Language
- ⦿ Outdoor Learning - “Hunter, Gatherer” type events
 - Outdoor cooking, den building, kite making, orienteering, sporting activities, fire building, science experiments, design technology tasks.

WHAT DO THE BOYS THINK?

I don't get to spend that much time with my dad, just me and him. Tonight has been the best night ever.

I have had an amazing time, I wish we could do this every week.

The Science experiments were great, I am going to be a scientist!!

Was nice to spend time with my dad.

I enjoyed the science experiments and I want a Science kit for my birthday

My dad was working but I got to bring Liam, my big cousin.

Sausage rolls and cakes were fab!

The author made me laugh - I am going to read his book!

WHAT DO THE GROWN-UPS THINK?

The Science experiments were great! I think I enjoyed it as much as my son!!!

It was good to meet other dads, uncles and grandpas. It was a great night.

The structure was good but I didn't want it to end, we had so much fun together

The author captured my son's imagination...I was really impressed

What a great idea, I just love being involved in my grandson's learning and watching my son as a dad.

Can we do this more often?

I felt it was a good opportunity for myself and Calum to spend time together and to see him having fun with the other kids and teachers. We really enjoyed taking part in the activities and will definitely be attending the next Boys' Night.

WHAT DO THE MUMS THINK?

Brilliant! I wish I was a fly on the wall to watch them have fun!

My son had a great night and talked non stop about the author!

Personally I am so sad that I don't have a girl too so that I could join in all the fun.

My son wouldn't let me see the letter, he insisted on showing it to dad, and dad ONLY!

It was a night that had David talking for a few weeks after - he is definitely looking forward to the next one!

What a great idea. My sons and their grandpa have had a great night.

IMPACT

- Increased male involvement across many aspects of school life
 - ⦿ Increased attendance of males attending Information Evenings & Curricular Workshops
 - ⦿ Showcasing learning-increased confidence in boys presenting learning to parents/carers
 - ⦿ Improved engagement in learning across the curriculum
 - ⦿ Increased involvement in Young Leaders - leading lunch clubs for younger pupils; buddying; playpals and monitoring during wet plays



Policy Hub
Scotland

Phaidraig Tierney, Community Development Worker & Peer Mentor

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Scotland

Panel and audience discussion

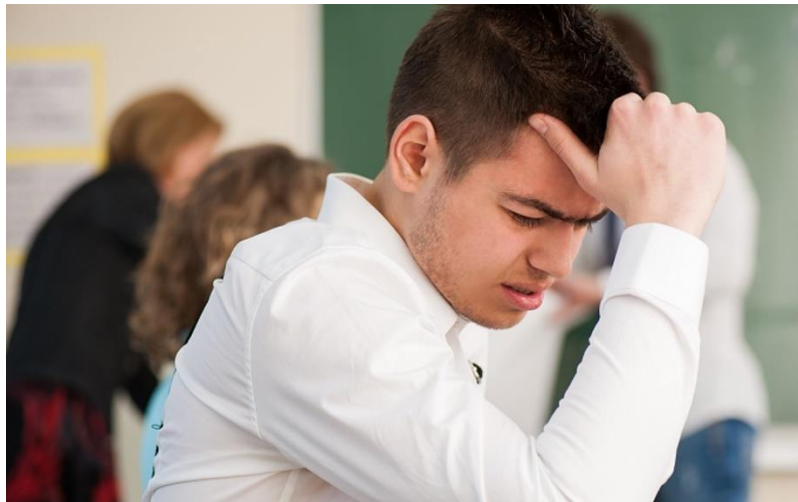
What lessons can we take forward into our work or home life to ensure boys have the best environment and confidence to grow?

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