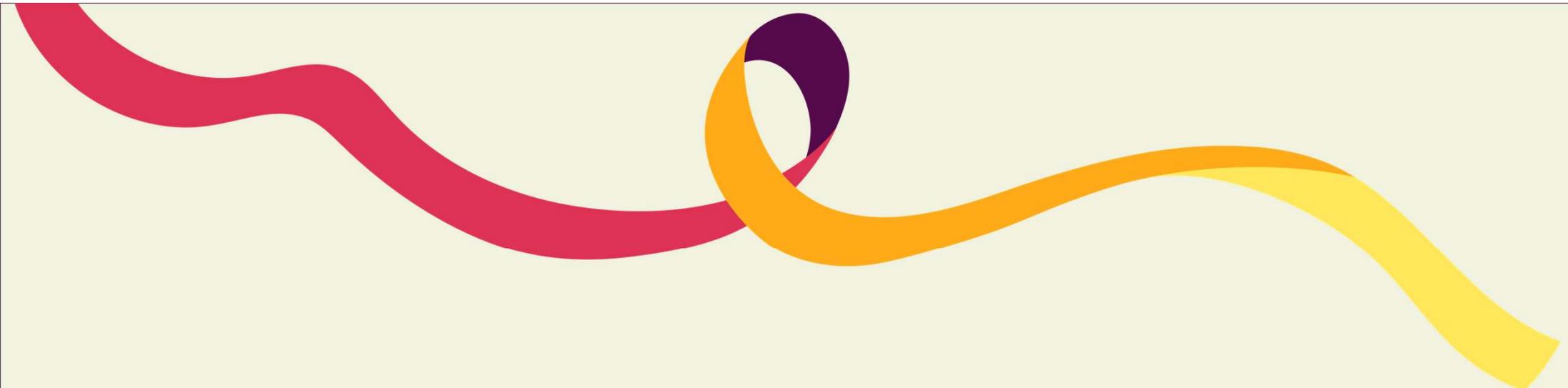


Parentkind

Bringing together home & school



Jayne Thompson, Northern Ireland Programmes Manager, Parentkind
@Parentkind, @JayneAThompson



Who is Parentkind?

Who we are

- Championing parents in education for over 60 years, and supporting them to engage in education
- UK's leading parent teacher associations membership body
- Looking to work with schools to develop and promote best practice in parental engagement by providing training and resources for school leaders, staff & governors

Our vision

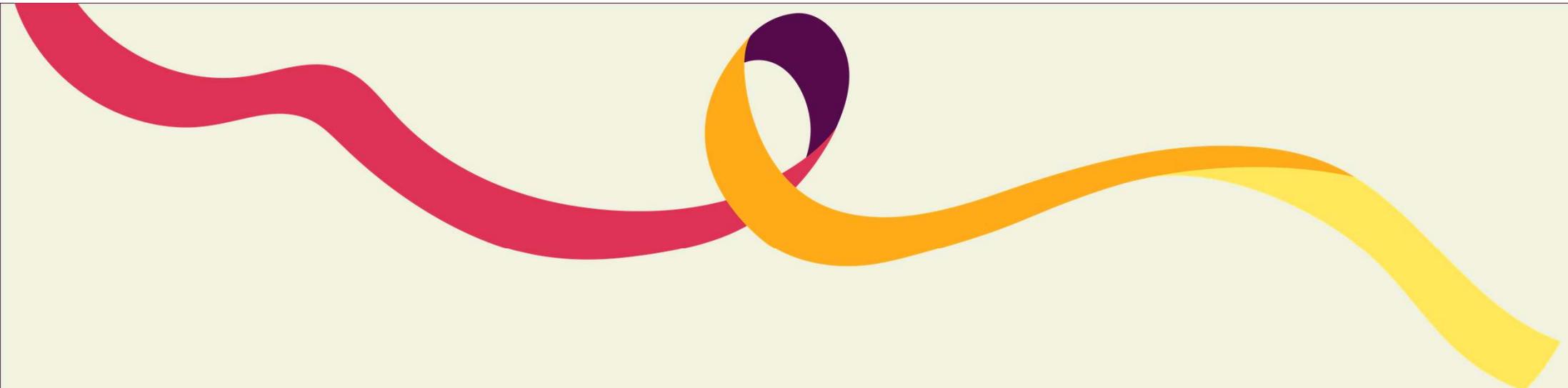
The active participation of parents is considered an essential ingredient in the success of our children's education: by society, schools, policy-makers and parents themselves.

Our mission

Parentkind will tirelessly support and champion all the ways parents can participate in education and have their voices heard. We want to be a powerful force of good in education in the UK that strives to bring homes and schools together for the good of all children and society as a whole.

Our ambition

We want more parents to get involved and engaged in their child's education, and in more ways – both at home and at school.



Why is Parental Engagement Important?

Introduction

- Children do better when their parents are engaged in their education
- Parental engagement is a lever for school improvement
- Parents are key partners and should have a voice
- Effective schools work in partnership with their parents and communities

What the research tells us

When parents are engaged in education, outcomes for children improve:

- Parents can be the main driver or inhibitor in their children's education (ILiAD report NI 2017)
- They have greater self-esteem (Desforges 2003)
- Their attendance is higher (Melhuish et al 2001)
- The risk of exclusion is lower (Desforges 2003)
- They are more keen to learn (Feinstein Symons 1999)
- The achievement gap is reduced (DWP 2002)



“The effect of parental engagement over a student’s school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student’s education.”
Hattie 2008

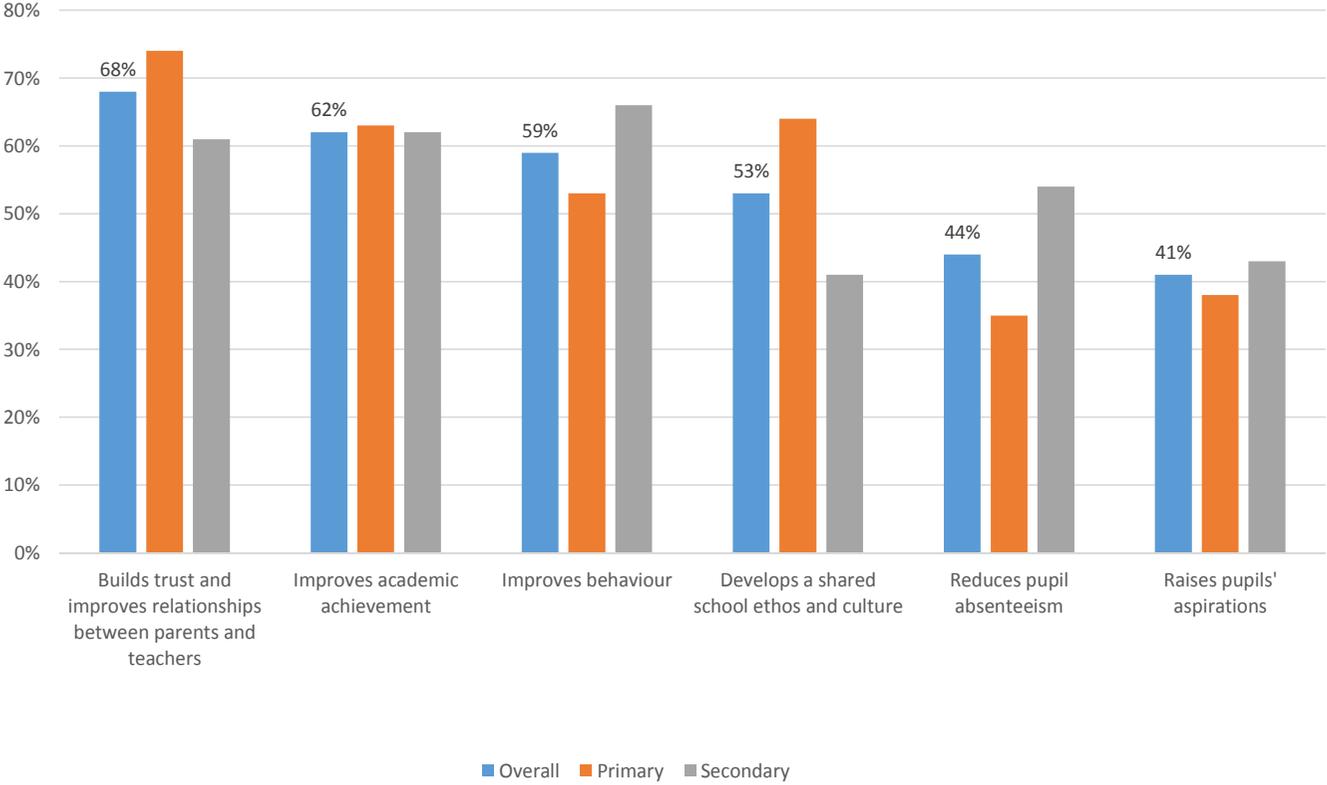
Parental Participation

Study from University of Warwick (Harris and Goodall, 2007) indicates that **raising achievement is dependent on both of these factors**

Two main strands:

- Parental engagement in a child's learning
- Parental involvement in the life of the school

What teachers tell us



What teachers tell us

- 48% teachers do not know who within the school is responsible for parental engagement.
- Only 19% teachers indicate their school has a written parental engagement plan
- Only 8% report undertaking CPD on parental engagement

What parents tell us

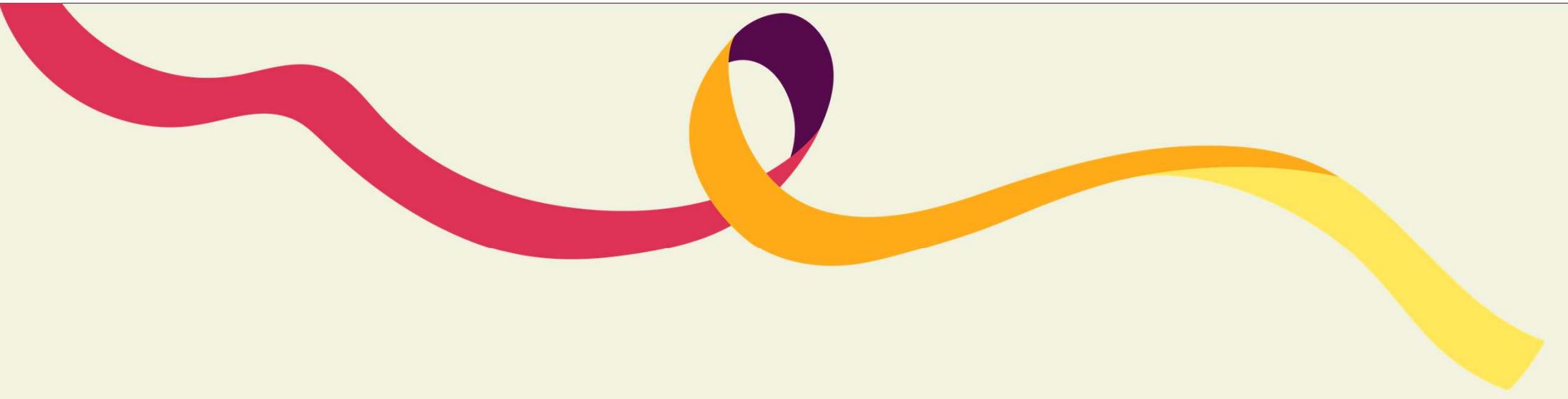
- Lack of time (work, childcare)
- Negative experience of school
- Lack of guidance on how best to support their child
- Not sure what skills and knowledge they can contribute
- Haven't been asked



“81% of parents want to support their child’s school” Parentkind survey 2017

Northern Ireland Parents' Survey 2019

- 96% parents told us they want a say at school level
- 59% reported they felt their school listened to them
- 91% parents told us they want a say at government level
- 88% at Education Authority level
- 9% parents said that their voice is listened to by government and EA



How Can Parents Be Involved?

Parentkind

Bringing together home & school

Northern Ireland Parents' Parliament

Your chance to have a say in the future of
education in Northern Ireland

#NIParentsParliament

Parentkind.org.uk

In partnership with:



Parentkind 

Parent Voice

What is it

- It is about having government and local education bodies engaging with parents, seeking and valuing their feedback
- It is about the school listening to the views of parents on issues which affect them and taking account of those views in school decision making.
- Use it or lose it!

Parent Council or PTA sub-group

- enables parents to meet, share ideas and feed back to school
- discusses issues of a general nature
- gives parents a voice
- enables them to contribute to decision-making
- develops a partnership between parents and school
- has an advisory and consultative role
- has a direct link with the Governing Body

PTAs really do make a difference!

Through PTAs

- Our members raised £99 million pounds that went directly into schools
- Average of £7,373 per school

As volunteers

- Our members volunteered 3 million volunteer hours, worth £20 million – and that's just the PTA committees!

Local PTAs

Pre-loved Uniform Stalls

- Regent House PTFA Newtownards
- Rainey Endowed

Afterschools Clubs

- St Anne's PS Belfast
- Creavery PS Antrim

Omagh Primary School PTA

The PTA is using the grant of £10,000 to establish a community wellbeing hub for children, parents and wider community. The hub will include buggy walks, baby and toddler yoga, multicultural community-building sessions, and sessions around music, dance and food.

Reading Parent Partners

Parents volunteering as Reading Partners

- 1.5 hours per week
- over ten weeks
- Increase of up to 2.5 years in a child's reading age

How to get involved!

- PTAs
- Parent Council
- School volunteer
- Parent Governor
- Hospitality



Cont'd

- Parents Network
- Class Rep
- Learning at home



Supporting education at home!

www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/helping-hand



Tips for parents on how to help their child with their education

Helping your child with learning

If you spend time playing, talking, reading and counting with your child, this can make a big difference in how well they do at school ... [more](#)

Helping young people with their education

When your child is at post primary school, they'll need your support to help them choose the right subjects and plan their career ... [more](#)

Summary

Benefits of building parent participation:

- a powerful tool for school improvement
- a positive impact on the culture of the school
- is in the best interests of children and young people

“The more involved the parents were in their children’s school life (including volunteering in school, participating in Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) conferences, and teaching at home), the more positive the impact became on children’s performance academically. [...] only a minority of parents in the United Kingdom are uninterested in their children’s education. Instead the majority may experience difficulty in expressing their interest, something which is identified and acknowledged by professionals.” Social Mobility Commission 2017

And finally....

“If we used our trust and credibility and started listening to parents about what they want and talking to them about what we can do, I think we could make a formidable team”

Russell Hobby,
former General Secretary, NAHT



Unity by Cleo V. Swarat

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher
the tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and gentle loving heart.
And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!
And each agreed she would have failed
if she had worked alone.

***For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!***





Contact us

info@parentkind.org.uk

[@Parentkind](https://www.instagram.com/Parentkind)

[@JayneAThompson](https://www.facebook.com/JayneAThompson)

www.parentkind.org.uk