

Parental Engagement Network

Strategies and activities



PEN's key current strategies are:

1. To enable local schools to develop their parental engagement, share good practice and link with other agencies through supporting regular network meetings, briefings and support sessions for different staff working on parental engagement.
2. To develop and sell training and resources to schools nationally which support parental engagement in their children's learning and development
3. To seek funding to develop innovative new approaches and resources which meet current needs and to roll out successful programmes of work
4. To enable research into the impact of this work and to disseminate the findings
5. To work with other partners to promote communication about parental engagement

Activities

Sport England Funding: Active Families Project

During 2018 – 19 we plan to:

- Recruit 10 schools to pilot the project
- Develop resources for after- school sessions and home activities.
- Train up 3 family activity champions and staff from each school
- Get families to attend after-school sessions and do home activities (approx. 10 families per term)
- Enable families to access other sports and opportunities in the community (silver award)
- Enable families to embed changes to their fitness (gold award)

Walcott Foundation funding: Nursery Mouse Club and home learning project in Lambeth

Project summary description

Building on a successful pilot with 3-5 year olds, this project will train school staff to enable 100 disadvantaged children to thrive by equipping parents/carers with the information and skills they need to help get their children school ready and develop a positive home learning environment.

By developing the confidence of school staff to engage parents and providing sustainable resources, it is hoped that the strategies will become embedded in school practice and have a longer term impact on how disadvantaged families are engaged.

Project details

The schools will deliver Mouse Club, a project helping parents get their children school-ready over the summer term, and PEN Home Learning project which helps parents develop a positive home learning environment, and consists of children doing 2 home

learning projects run over the autumn and spring terms. The schools run workshops and give the parents activities and resources to use at home with their children.

10 Lambeth schools have been recruited and approx. 18 staff will be trained over 1 day and 3 ½ days to deliver the project. They have already received one and a ½ days training.

Schools have received resources to be used with the families including Mouse Club activities, parent tip sheets and Playclub bags.

The impact of the project will be measured by numbers of families attending workshops, doing activities and reporting increased confidence in supporting their child, increased staff confidence and skills in working with parents, closer relationships between parents and schools and a higher % of children on the project making 3+ levels of progress in reading, speaking and maths.

Lambeth funding for Raising the Game: Raising the achievement of Black Caribbean pupils

This project will focus on training school staff to build positive relationships with the parents of Caribbean heritage pupils and engage them in their children's learning through fun activities and sustainable resources, developing the confidence and skills of both staff and parents and impacting on children's outcomes.

The strategies will include:

- One day's **initial training for a senior leader** to review and share the school's current practice, develop a strategic overview and a whole school approach, identify how to evaluate the project and explore the issues related to engaging the parents of Caribbean pupils. Ongoing networking opportunities through the year will enable schools to identify how to develop this work across the school, discuss barriers, develop new strategies and share successful practice.
- **Reception Home Learning**
For Reception teacher and TA
Help parents to do fun activities at home that support their children's learning, and develop the confidence of staff to work more closely with parents.
- **Playclub 3 and 4**
For Year 1 or 2 teacher and TA
The Playclub Project provides fun, imaginative learning activities for families to do at home which raise attainment in phonics, reading, writing and language. This successful project involves loaning a variety of exciting Playclub bags to families every week over 6 weeks, with achievements being recorded and celebrated with a Playclub card and certificate.
- **KS2 Family Detectives Reading Project**
For Year 3, 4 or 5 teacher and TA
Help parents better support their child's reading and improve parental engagement at KS2. The programme is for Year 3, 4 or 5 children and their families. They work together on an exciting challenge to solve a mystery, developing their comprehension, inference and questioning skills.
- **Mouse Club**
For Nursery teacher and TA
A project involving getting Mouse and children ready to start school. Schools or settings run workshops in June or July and give parents input and fun resources, tip sheets and sticker charts to help prepare their children for school in September.

- **Secondary Parental Engagement Network/Moving Up project**
Enables the school to review how it engages parents from the start of High school and to look at how to improve relationships particularly with Black Caribbean families.

Adapting PEN resources for Black Caribbean families

Resources are being adapted to make the projects more appropriate for Lambeth families. This includes

- Making new Playclub 2 videos showing Lambeth families doing the activities
- Adapting the KS2 Family Detective reading project
- Changing the images on the mouse club, FUN and *Explore!* resources to include more Black Caribbean families

OVO funding: Nursery Mouse Club and home learning project in 8 Liverpool Schools

Project summary description

OVO Foundation's grant is supporting the expansion of PEN's 'Engaging Parents Effectively' project. The grant will fund two combined projects that target children aged 2-5, especially those from less advantaged backgrounds, and work with their parents to ensure children have achieved expected development and education outcomes to successfully transition to school.

PEN will also test the effect of extending the Home Learning Project for an additional year to children in Reception. This additional support will be provided in year two, to children at four of the original schools and their progress will be compared to their peers at the four other original schools.

The two projects are:

School Transition Project:

- Teaching parents activities to improve their children's school readiness in the summer term before nursery/reception starts.
- Delivering activities that encourage children to develop their language skills and independence.

Home Learning Project:

- Delivering workshops and activities for families which help support early literacy and phonics, once the child is in nursery or reception.

The main aim of OVO Foundation is to target disadvantaged children and families and help close the attainment gap before children reach school.

Project details

8 Liverpool schools have been recruited and staff are receiving training.

Schools have received resources to be used with the families including Mouse Club activities, parent tip sheets and Playclub bags and are delivering the project to the families.

Impact of the project

The impact of the project will be measured by the educational and developmental progress that children have made, especially compared to their peers. Teachers will also be surveyed to understand how well the programme is being embedded in schools and how sustainable this type of intervention is. Other data will also be collected related to

families attending workshops, doing activities and reporting increased confidence in supporting their child, staff confidence and skills in working with parents, closer relationships between parents and schools and case studies showing examples of improved school readiness.

Headley Trust funding: Work with boys

PEN has started to recruit schools to develop and deliver this project.

NPC funding: Developing video clips

NPC has given £20,000 to develop video clips to support the training of staff and the engagement of families.