



Centre for excellence
for looked after children in Scotland

CEL CIS began to work in partnership with North Ayrshire secondary schools and the Family Learning Team in May 2017. North Ayrshire Council, in their aspiration to support schools with the knowledge, skills and confidence to undertake meaningful family learning activities, chose to implement the CELCIS Parents in Partnership model, supported by the Family Learning Team. The model uses a six week experiential learning approach, inviting a group of parents and carers who have been identified as requiring additional support with their child's transition from primary to secondary school, into secondary school for one day a week for six consecutive weeks.

Teachers deliver exemplar lessons to the parents as a group, using relevant curricular language and common learning and teaching methods to familiarise parents with current teaching practices, the school ethos and to build confidence in their ability to support their children at home. Parents also receive a life skills lesson from a range of community providers, relevant to the interests of the group.

The success of the project has been due to the collaborative way that schools and the Family Learning Team have worked together to support both the project and each other. The skills of the Family Learning Team, combined with the skills of teachers allows parents to feel comfortable to attend school and confident in their ongoing role in their child's education. The Family Learning Team and nominated school staff have worked hard to ensure that Parents in Partnership is a whole school initiative, involving both teaching and non-teaching staff, allowing parents to really get to know all school staff and build lasting networks.

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