

INCLUDING DADS IN SCHOOL



Dads want to spend more time making a positive difference in their children's lives and there has never been a better time to engage them.

From studies across the UK we know that during lockdown the number of hours dads spent looking after their children almost DOUBLED! As a result, dads' relationships with their children improved, they understood them better and they felt closer to them. More than half said they were now more confident in their ability to support their children's learning and two thirds said they wanted to change the way they parent in the future.



TOP 5 TIPS

✓ **Make sure dads know your school values them**

Create a welcoming environment for dads by displaying positive images of fathers and using the words **mum** and **dad** rather than **parent**. These small changes can really make dads feel their involvement is valued.

✓ **Get to know your dads**

Take time to welcome and speak to dads when they are dropping-off or picking-up up their children, building relationships is key. If a dad is never there don't be afraid to ask, 'Where's dad?'. Remember there is no such thing as a main carer, all carers are equally important.

✓ **Adopt a whole school approach led by the head teacher**

Create a plan and make sure staff are trained on how to be father-inclusive. Then appoint a 'dads champion' to keep father & whole family inclusion at the forefront of everyone's mind.

✓ **Bring dads together**

Ask dads, mums and children how best to get dads involved. What interest and talents do dads have? Could you set up a homework club, a Father's Day event or enlist dads in school events or activities? Let dads know what they can do to get involved and the difference that it makes to their children.

✓ **Join a community of dad-friendly professionals**

If we want to 'get it right for every child', research into the benefits to children of a fully involved dad on attainment and well-being is unquestionable. As a result a growing movement of Scottish professionals from the NHS, local authorities and the third sector are taking up the challenge of becoming dad-friendly.

If you would like to connect with this vibrant community of professionals and find other father-friendly services near you **Fathers Network Scotland can help**. We can also provide training, support and a range of resources, like the practical guide, 'How Dad-Friendly is our School?'. To find out more contact us at:

info@fathersnetworkscotland.org.uk or visit **fathersnetwork.org.uk**



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