

Evaluation of the Parent Academy programme aiming to improve attainment of pupils aged 7 to 11 by motivating and educating parents

Submission date 20/03/2015	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 30/09/2015	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 19/01/2018	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

This study will test the hypothesis that educating parents in how to support their child's learning can improve the attainment of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, focusing on children in Key Stage 2 aged 7-11. It focuses on the added value of intervening with parents, and investigating the effect of incentives in motivating and engaging them. If successful, the project may lead to a further study of more complex incentive structures.

Who can participate?

Parents of a pupil attending a school participating on the study.

What does the study involve?

The Parent Academy is delivered over 8 months. There are approximately 20 parents in a class and each class meet every fortnight, totalling 13 sessions across the 8 months. The classes last an hour and a half and follow a curriculum aligned with the learning of the pupils at school, so that similar topics are being taught at both simultaneously. The design is a three arm study (two treatment groups and a control group) individual-level randomised control trial. Within each school, parents of pupils in Years 3 to 6 will be randomly allocated to one of three groups:

1. Control group ('business as usual')
2. Intervention group
3. Intervention group (with incentives for attendance)

Take-up in the two intervention arms is expected to be less than 100%, so we will analyse outcomes according to the original treatment allocation of the parents (intention to treat).

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Benefits of participating in the study are that parents may be able to engage better with the school and other parents. There are no specific risks of participating in the study, although parents may feel under pressure to take part in the evening classes.

Where is the study run from?

16 schools in disadvantaged areas in Middlesbrough (8 schools) and Camden (8 schools).

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
September 2013 to December 2015

Who is funding the study?
Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Fatima Husain

Contact information

Type(s)
Public

Contact name
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Study information

Scientific Title
A three-arm randomised controlled trial of offering (incentivised and unincentivised) parents Maths and English classes in order to improve attainment of pupils aged 7-11

Study objectives
Offering Maths and English classes to parents will improve attainment for pupils within a year. Incentivising parents to attend will have a greater effect.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
National Centre for Social Research Ethics Committee, 15/08/2014.

Study design
Interventional, randomised, three-arm controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Education trial

Interventions

1. Intervention 1: Unincentivised. Parents of pupils aged 7-11 are offered the opportunity to participate in the Parent Academy programme, where they are given lessons in Maths and English, covering a syllabus similar to that received by their children. Parents of pupils in years 3 and 4 are taught separately from parents of pupils in years 5 and 6.
2. Intervention 2: Incentivised. Parents are offered the same intervention, but are financially rewarded for each session they attend.
3. Control: Parents are not offered to attend the Academy.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Test scores of the InCAS standardised assessment modules Maths and Literature. Tests are conducted in schools.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Attendance rates of parents.

Completion date

15/12/2015

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Parent of a pupil who attends a school participating in the trial
2. Parent's pupil is in school year 3-6

Participant type(s)

Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

N/A

Date of first enrolment

20/08/2014

Date of final enrolment

20/09/2014

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre**London Borough of Camden**

5 Pancras Square

London

United Kingdom

N1C 4AG

Study participating centre**Middlesbrough Council**

PO Box 500

Middlesbrough

United Kingdom

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Sponsor information

Organisation

Education Endowment Foundation

ROR

<https://ror.org/03bhd6288>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Education Endowment Foundation

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Funder report results	results			No	No