



# Briefing: Parent Village

## For local system stakeholders and potential partners

### Purpose of this briefing

This briefing provides an overview of Educafe's **Parent Village model**, the niche gaps it addresses within local early years and family support provision, and practical ways local stakeholders can contribute to, partner with, or support the service in a sustainable and proportionate way.

### About Educafe and Parent Village

Educafe is a community-based model that creates **safe, welcoming spaces where people can connect, learn, and belong**. Our Parent Village is a cornerstone of this work.

**Parent Village welcomes parents and carers with babies from as young as 6 weeks through to school age**, with a particular focus on:

- New arrivals and migrant families
- Non-English speaking parents
- Families experiencing isolation, transition, or system complexity

Sessions are informal, relational, and preventative in nature, combining:

- Peer connection and social support
- Light-touch information and guidance
- Trusted routes into wider services

Parent Village currently:

- Receives **no local authority funding**
- Benefits from **free use of the library on Wednesdays**
- Is delivered within **tight staffing and capacity constraints**

## Where Parent Village fits in the local system

Educafe fills **specific gaps** that are not easily met by statutory or commissioned services, particularly:

- Early, low-threshold support before families reach crisis
- Engagement with families who may not access formal provision
- Trusted, culturally sensitive entry points for non-English speakers

Educafe is **frequently signposted and referred to** by:

- West Berkshire Council teams (Education, Migration, Housing)
- NHS services (social prescribing, mental health)
- Voluntary and community sector partners
- Local word of mouth

It is not always recognised that **under-18s also benefit from Educafe's wider services**, particularly **Chatty Corner**, which provides informal language and confidence-building support for young people alongside adults.

## Capacity and delivery constraints

Educafe operates with **limited staff capacity** and delivers only what is currently funded.

This means:

- We are **unable to take on additional projects or delivery** without new funding
- Requests for expansion, pilots, or targeted work **must be resourced**
- Our priority is **protecting the quality and safety** of existing provision

We welcome collaboration, but it must be **realistic, proportionate, and sustainable**.

## Safeguarding and multi-agency working

Educafe works within robust safeguarding frameworks and regularly engages in **multi-agency working** when complex needs emerge.

Coming soon: A **"Multi-agency intervention" safeguarding case study** to be published in early 2026 illustrates how Parent Village can act as an early relational anchor that enables effective, joined-up intervention across services.

This example highlights the importance of:

- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Appropriate information sharing
- Recognising the value of trusted community settings

# Ways to engage with and support Parent Village

## 1. Partner with Educafe (strategic support)

Stakeholders can:

- Share insight into system pressures and emerging needs
- Contribute expertise to service development conversations
- Support evaluation, learning, or impact storytelling

This is best done through **structured, light-touch engagement**, not ad-hoc delivery requests.

## 2. Support through funding or commissioning

If your team or organisation would like to:

- Extend Parent Village provision
- Pilot targeted outreach
- Embed specialist input

This requires **additional funding or commissioned support** to protect service quality and staff wellbeing.

## 3. Engage through Educafe programmes

Stakeholders may wish to connect via:

- [Educafe Togetherness Project](#) – collaborate and share learning about Educafe’s model
- [Friends of Educafe & Changemakers](#) – supporters, partners and sponsors
- **Partner Village** – collaborative engagement opportunities (by invitation, via Friends of Educafe)

These routes allow involvement **without increasing delivery pressure**.

## How to feed into the service

Stakeholders are encouraged to:

- Share insights about unmet need or system friction points
- Flag where Parent Village is acting as a key protective factor
- Contribute reflections that help Educafe advocate more effectively

Feedback is most helpful when:

- It is strategic rather than operational
- It recognises Educafe’s capacity limits
- It is aligned with prevention and early help principles

## In summary

Educafe’s Parent Village model:

- Provides **early, preventative, relational support**
- Reaches families who may otherwise remain unseen
- Acts as a trusted bridge into the wider system

We welcome partnership that is **thoughtful, resourced, and values-led**, enabling Educafe to continue doing what it does best while strengthening collective impact.

## Related resources

[Maternity Research - How Educafe sparked a movement](#)

[Why supporting local families strengthens our community.](#)

[How Educafe is weaving social change](#)

[Together, not for free](#) - why real collaboration means shared support

## Stay in touch

For further discussion or to explore partnership options, please [contact the Educafe team](#).

 **Find out more:** [www.educafeuk.co.uk](http://www.educafeuk.co.uk)