



The Attachment Research Community

The ARC HE and ITT Network

We support the core aims of the Attachment Research Community's network of schools and settings, trainers and researchers and their commitment to develop best practice in addressing everyone's attachment needs.

We believe that:

- High quality, collaborative research which enables a more profound and authoritative analysis of attachment, its role in supporting young people's well-being, learning and behaviour in education and other settings supporting young people, is essential.
- A core understanding of attachment is a key foundation for all work with children and young people
- All professionals working with children and young people need to have an awareness of attachment needs, their implications for young people's well-being, learning and behaviour, and their impact on professionals, carers, parents and other members of the community (including adults' own emotional and attachment needs).
- All schools, settings and other organisations will improve outcomes and support for children and young people's lives if they become aware of and follow attachment related practices.
- Appropriate training and support should be available to all staff (see NICE guideline on attachment 2015: 'Schools and other education providers should ensure that all staff who may come into contact with children and young people with attachment difficulties receive appropriate training..'). This should not be one-off but should be sustained, collaborative, involving active participation and school-based action research (See the Education Committee report on CPD in schools, February 2017)
- Initial Teacher Training programmes should include training in attachment awareness, as outlined in the Core Framework for Initial teacher training (July 2016)

Our support for research:

There is a growing body of academic research which demonstrates the effectiveness of attachment aware approaches in schools and other settings which work with young people. The Attachment Research Community HE network seeks to:

- Develop, promote and support research on attachment in schools at all levels, from large scale surveys and randomised control trials to local classroom based studies.
- Promote cross-disciplinary studies involving among others health, social care, education and the voluntary sector
- Support the development of collaborative projects with schools, multi-academy trusts, local authorities, health and other agencies Make collaborative funding bids involving ARC partners and others to fund such research
- Promote and support the development of attachment awareness within Initial Teacher Training
- Support attachment awareness within undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD programmes.

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