

My Social Capital Tracker

■ Name of contact ■ Strength of each tie: 1 (acquaintance) - 10 (close family) ■ How might they help? Who might they introduce you to?



This activity is intended to guide your understanding of the importance of social capital in your own development as a teacher by helping you become more aware of your own networks and how these can grow through the course of this Enhancement Activity (and beyond)!

Social capital is best thought of as latent, or untapped, resources that exist within networks of relationships. Social capital is crucial to our success as adults as it opens up job roles and development opportunities. Helping young people to become aware of this gives them an insight into how people actually get ahead and climb the ladder of social mobility by opening up opportunities for themselves through the networks they inhabit. The surprising thing about social capital is that often it is the 'weak ties' that are the most helpful to us. Strong ties are people with whom we have an ongoing professional or personal relationship with. Weak ties might be people in our network who we met, and are aware of us, but we may not have a personal, or sustained relationship with. Weak ties are so important because they allow our network to extend much further. Both weak and strong ties are important for the professional resources they can bring to us and our students.

As we go through the enhancement activity we are going to chart how we might extend our own social capital.

We do this in two stages.

- 1) Complete the names of existing contact you have in the table below. Feel free to add more than one in each section.
- 2) For each contact, give them a rating from 1 to 10 depending on whether they are an acquaintance (1) or a close to you eg a family member (10).
- 3) Then plot your connections on the radar chart below.
- 4) As your year progresses, add more contacts and think about how you might harness resources they have to expand the possibilities available to your students.

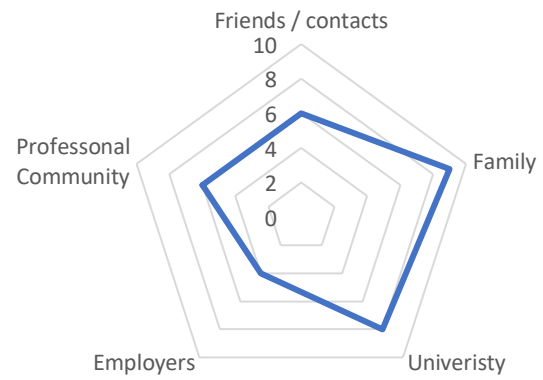
	Name of contact	Are they a 'weak' or 'strong' tie? 1 (acquaintance) – 10 (close family)	How might they help?	Who else they might introduce you to.
Friends / contacts				
Family				
University				
Employers				
Professional Community				

As you go through the Enhancement Activity, try and see how your own social capital is growing as a result of people you meet, places you go and contacts you make.

A worked example:

	Name of contact	Are they a 'a or 'strong' tie? 1 (acquaintance) – 10 (close family)	How might they help?	Who else they might introduce you to.
Friends / contacts	Rob	7	Media contacts	Other journalists
Family	Claire	9	Legal knowledge	Other lawyers
University	Tracey	8	Accessing SLT school contacts	Education networks
Employers	Bruce	3	Being a speakers for headteachers	Leaders from the tech sector
Professional Community	Ollly	7	Roles in system reform	Researchers and system leaders

Strength of each tie: 1 (acquaintance) -
10 (close family)



References

Julia Freeland Fisher, Fisher, D. and Christensen, C.M. (2018). *Who you know : unlocking innovations that expand students' networks*. San Francisco, Ca: Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Brand.

resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk. (n.d.). *Experiences of workplaces - Practical ideas for achieving Gatsby Benchmark 6 | CEC Resource Directory*. [online] Available at: <https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/experiences-workplaces-practical-ideas-achieving-gatsby-benchmark-6> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2023].

Rogers, L. and Mcgrath, S. (2021). *Our Evidence Base*. [online] Available at: https://www.edge.co.uk/documents/155/Edge_Future_Learning__Our_Evidence_Base.pdf.
Search Institute. (n.d.). *Home*. [online] Available at: <https://searchinstitute.org/>.

The Careers & Enterprise Company (2016). *The Careers & Enterprise Company Programme to Support Informed Choice: A Response to the Moments of Choice Research*, London, The Careers & Enterprise Company. (n.d.).