



The Details



Thank you for seeking further information about Time & Space

We are acutely aware that schools are very busy places and school leaders in particular, juggle many balls at the same time. Time & Space can provide a simple and very effective way to deepen and strengthen connections in your school community.





Why Time & Space?

Time & Space provides an opportunity for young people, their parents and mentors to have a life changing conversation at a school community event by encouraging them to:

- share their memories of each other.
- talk about what is positive and challenging in their current relationship.
- establish a plan to keep their communication strong through the crucial adolescent years.
- sustain this conversation on a regular basis beyond their Time & Space school event.

How is a Time & Space Event organised?

Time & Space provides a comprehensive pre-event service. Once a school chooses to hold a Time & Space event, a date is confirmed and a deposit paid, there is regular discussion between members of Time & Space team and the designated key contact at the School. Time & Space events usually occur on a weeknight in the evening, but they can be held at any time including weekends.

Time & Space is a very flexible organisation. The COVID pandemic and resultant widespread school closures presented a challenge for Time & Space. Events were adapted so that they could be delivered in a variety of ways. Whilst some schools continued to host events on site, others had their programs delivered online. Partner schools valued the flexibility of Time & Space and were keen to ensure that their school communities could continue to participate in the programs despite the challenges. Regardless of the mode of delivery, all Time & Space events have the same thorough preparation, quality presentation and follow up.

As part of every Time & Space event, the school receives the following services and support materials:

- a detailed event plan, prepared in consultation with the key contact at the school. This plan includes strategies and instructions for promoting the event to families and building a community team that assists at the event.
- flyers which integrate the school logo and colour schemes.
- templates for emails to promote the event.
- an event registration booking system established and managed by the Time & Space administration team.
- registration updates sent regularly to the key school contact.
- detailed information about the specific requirements for setting up classrooms and spaces to be used at the event.

At the pre-event stage we ask schools to identify a leader amongst their staff, we call this person, the Time & Space Champion. Once agreements are formalised, a Time & Space staff member contacts the School and with the nominated champion puts the event management strategy in place.

A key role of the School at this stage is to promote the event in the parent community.



What happens at a Time & Space Event?

Ninety minutes prior to the start time, your facilitator will conduct a comprehensive briefing session for team volunteers. Your school will be asked to provide light refreshments for the volunteers and the facilitator.

The Time & Space event runs in the following sequence:

- The evening begins with some ice-breaker conversations where students are paired with a parent or mentor who is not their own.
- This is followed by a panel of older students and parents who provide examples of what will follow in small group discussions.
- Discussion groups are guided by the team volunteers in classrooms. Each student and parent is given an opportunity to offer a piece of advice to members of the other generation.
- The crescendo activity follows, this is a dedicated 1-to-1 conversation which takes place between each young person and their parent.
- A reflective activity and brief evaluation process take place at the conclusion of the event.

Post event:

- Each team member receives a follow up email to help them reflect on their leadership role and to report any wellbeing issues that may have arisen in their small group.
- The School Champion is provided with a report containing the evaluation comments from parents and students.
- The School receives a file of all photos taken at the event and an electronic version of the evaluation summary.
- References for student volunteers signed by Time & Space founder, Bill Jennings are provided. These can be given to volunteers at an occasion such as a year level meeting or assembly
- Every student and parent/mentor can request a six-month reminder message by ticking a box on their evaluation sheet. This is a reminder to revisit the guided questions and have further 1-to-1 conversations.

Benefits for the School

Traditional activities that invite parent involvement are more common in primary schools. Time & Space invites families to an event that guides them through important conversations. These conversations enable a deeper connection with their own parent/child and foster a sense of belonging to their whole school community – this is the path from simple involvement to deep engagement. Improved parent engagement in their child's school life leads to better outcomes for students, both academically and socially.

Parents and students quickly see that this is a different kind of parent session. Students are present, the session is interactive and 'the expertise is in the room'. They are affirmed for the simple act of turning up and invited into some activities that, for many participants, are life changing.

At Time & Space we are proud of the high percentage of schools that re-engage us each year to present to new student and parent cohorts. Through follow up processes, parents and students are invited to assist at future events. As each year progresses, Time & Space assists schools to build new layers of family engagement. These volunteers, in turn, become obvious role models for the participant families who are to volunteer to help at future events. Time & Space builds partnerships with schools.



Benefits for Students

The opportunity to be listened to, deeply and taken seriously by one's parent makes a strong impact upon the students. These discussions are often like none they have had before.

A feature of every Time & Space event is that the students join a small group with a carefully designed process. They hear insights from other parents in the community. The program feedback consistently highlights that this is a very effective technique for helping students to receive advice that they may already have heard from their parents. The process encourages students to speak up. They access what we term their adult voices and often report their delight at being 'listened to' by not only their own parent but other adults in the School community.

Benefits for Parents

Each participating parent is provided with an opportunity to have a significant conversation with their child and their child's peers. It is rare for parents to glean an insight into the thoughts and reflections of their child's peers in a structured environment. The process invites students to share thoughts about what it is like to be a young person in the 21st century. Thorough planning, program design and training, ensures a safe environment for sharing thoughts and ideas and this enhances the quality of the students' comments. Parents are impressed by how articulate and mature young people are. A common response from parents about conversations they have with other parents is a sense of comfort and relief that they have common concerns and hopes about their children. They are not so different from other parents.

The Practicalities - Engaging Time & Space and Booking an Event?

1. If a school wishes to engage the services of Time & Space, a formal agreement is signed. Whilst this is a substantial document, our clients appreciate that requirements are clearly outlined.
 2. A 50% deposit is invoiced on signing of the agreement and the balance is invoiced after the event.
 3. Once the deposit is received, contact is made by a Time & Space team member to begin planning the event.
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Referees

Time & Space is happy to provide referee details of some Principals, Heads and senior leadership personnel from schools that currently offer Time & Space sessions every year.

A final note from founder, Bill Jennings...

At every Time & Space event, the audience is congratulated for 'Turning Up'. We share our philosophy, always saying, "At Time & Space we believe turning up is half the battle."

As that notion resonates we almost always see some audience members quietly smiling and nodding in agreement. We offer a special challenge to your students – they are asked to be the leaders in turning up for their mum or dad or mentor by regularly returning to the one-to-one conversation that is the crescendo activity of any Time & Space experience. Schools are one of the strongest remaining bastions of community. It is always a privilege to stand beside a senior educator and watch a gathering of young people and their parents leaning into that one-to-one conversation. I call this community practice.

This note was written on the day that my home town of Melbourne emerged from its sixth Covid 19 lockdown. Tomorrow we will run a hybrid event for one of our partner schools in Perth. Participants will gather onsite at their school and we will facilitate the session remotely. We have learnt so much in the last nineteen months. What I have learnt most is how strong the yearning is for human connection. If the pandemic hadn't have occurred, we as a service to schools, might have been going so fast, like the rest of society, that we may never have chanced the one-to-one conversations I have had with senior staff in our partner schools. Time and again they have affirmed that the need for Time & Space has never been greater. That's how we arrived at adding the words 'Treasured Connections' to our logo. By engaging Time & Space, our schools give their families the opportunity to stop and have a conversation that they just might treasure for a lifetime. In partnering with us, a treasured connection is also often forged between the families and the school because you have given them that time and space.

So thank you! You are at the end of this document and have read this far. You have 'turned up' and been present to the possibility of offering this unique experience to the families in your school.

If you have the capacity to decide about offering Time & Space to your school community, then please connect with us. I look forward to having a conversation with you.

Our contact details are below.