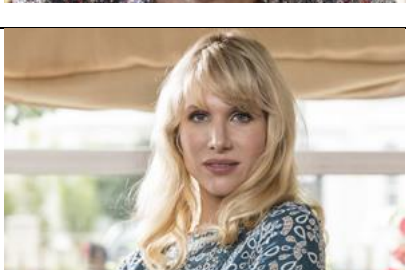


What is it about?

This is a comedy programme (on BBC2) about navigating the trials and traumas of middle-class motherhood, looking at the competitive side and unromantic take on parenting - not the cute and acceptable public face of motherhood.

Characters:

	Julia is organised - she has to be as she is a successful event's organiser - but when her mother Marion decides she is no longer going to be the free child-sitter and school-run taxi, Julia finds her organisation skills are taxed and nowhere near the level of the alpha mums.
	Liz is a single mum, who is very chaotic and feels the kids should enjoy free expression - if they want to do kamikaze jumps of the sofa; she drags a mattress round for safety!
	Kevin is a stay-at-home dad, who is embracing his role with gusto - much to the irritation of some of the other mums.
	Amanda is very much the queen bee of the mothers at the school gates. Everything is organised, clean and sparkly in her house. Currently going through a divorce.
	Anne is one of the better organised of the mums, and spends time with Amanda.
	High-flyer Meg joined the mums at the school gates the start of Series 2, and soon ends up joining their friendship group.

Watch the episode, the main plot of this episode is the parents attending open days and considering what secondary school to send their children.

Millmead School – an ‘outstanding’ secondary school

What things about the school does the head teacher highlight in his presentation to sell the school to parents?

St Cuthbert’s – a catholic secondary school

How may social/ cultural capital help you get into a school like this?

Boundary Road Academy

Why are the parents less keen about this school? What is it lacking in comparison to the other schools mentioned?

Gerwitz study on different types of parents, which category would you place each of the parents. What external factors may explain why each parent falls into these categories?

Privileged skilled choosers – strongly motivated parents who have the ability to understand the nature of different schools. Often have time and money to make a range of choices to assist their children.	
Semi-skilled choosers – have strong inclinations but limited capacity to engage with the market. They are concerned but do not possess the experience or inside knowledge of the education system.	
Disconnected choosers –are not inclined to get very involved with the education market, they tend to consider the closest school to where they live and tend to believe that there is no real difference between schools.	