



East Renfrewshire Council

Education Department

Parental Involvement Strategy

2013 – 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

This strategy describes how the Education Department, schools and partner providers plan to give parents the opportunity to express their views and have these taken into account on matters affecting the education of their children, schools' arrangements for promoting parental involvement and other matters or issues of interest to parents. In line with *The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006*, this strategy is a revision of the previous document agreed by the Education Committee on 22 April 2010.

2. CONTEXT

The *Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006* is about improving parents' involvement in their own child's education and in schools more generally. The Act requires each Education Authority to prepare a strategy document setting out their policies for parental involvement and to review that strategy regularly. All primary and secondary schools in East Renfrewshire have an active Parent Council. In addition, parental involvement and consultation are promoted through forums such as the Equalities Forum.

Individual schools also employ a very wide range of informal methods to engage with their Parent Forum.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

The Education Department's Parental Involvement Strategy relates directly to the following outcomes and intermediate outcomes in East Renfrewshire Council's current Single Outcome Agreement (SOA):

SOA1: All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.

1.1 Parents are supported to provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their families.

SOA2. East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work.

2.1 Children are confident, effective learners and achieve their full potential.

2.2 Children and young people raise their educational attainment and achievement, developing the skills they need during their school years and into adulthood.

4. VISION

The Education Department's Vision Statement is "***Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All***". All members of staff have a role to play and a valuable contribution to make in achieving this objective which is central to everything that we do in the Education Department. Parents have a vital role to play in supporting their children's learning and it is our aim to provide all parents with the opportunity to do this.

It is worth highlighting here that this role, and the requirement to engage with and involve parents, applies equally to non-resident parents.

5. OUTCOMES – THE GENERAL DUTY

We will fulfill our statutory obligation by;	Outcomes
<p>Involving parents in their own child’s education, and that provided by a school to its pupils generally.</p> <p>Giving advice, information, support and learning to parents in respect of their own child’s learning</p> <p>Promoting and supporting the operating of Parent Councils in schools.</p> <p>Maintaining and monitoring a complaints procedure</p>	<p>Higher levels of parental involvement in their children’s learning and in the life of their school.</p> <p>An increase in the number of parents involved in policy and planning.</p> <p>Greater involvement of parents in Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and learning and teaching.</p> <p>More effective partnership working with parents of children who are at risk of missing out on educational opportunities.</p> <p>Greater number of parents satisfied with the information they receive to help develop and support their child’s learning at home and in the community.</p> <p>More and varied information is provided for parents on the council website and in ways suitable to the needs of all parents.</p> <p>Parent Councils operate effectively.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Parents are satisfied with the way their complaints are dealt with and information from complaints is used for improvement and service planning</p>

6. RELATED TARGETS AND INDICATORS –

East Renfrewshire Council's Outcome Delivery Plan 2013 - 2016

Indicators	Target
Percentage of parents reporting they are happy with their child's school.	Increase to 97% by 2015/16. (96% in 2013)

East Renfrewshire Council's Local improvement Plan 2013 - 2016

Indicators	Target
Higher levels of parental engagement in their children's learning and in the life of the school (Qu 12 Parental Questionnaires)	81% by June 2016 (79% in 2013)
Increase in the number of pre-five establishments being awarded the 'Family Friendly' accreditation.	100% by June 2015 (New indicator in 2013)
An increase in the percentage of families completing family learning activities, reporting they are more able to support their child's learning	95% by March 2016 (93% in 2013)
An increase in the percentage of parents reporting they have a say in how to support the school. (Qu 13 Parental Questionnaires)	75% by June 2016 (73% in 2013)

7. ACTIVITIES

7.1 Involve parents in their own child's education, and that provided by a school to its pupils generally

- The Education Department further develops its integrated approach to parental involvement across Council Departments and partner organisations by supporting Continuous Professional Development.
- Appointed School Parental Involvement coordinators support parental participation in identifying priorities for school improvement plans and in evaluating the impact of action taken.
- The Education Department ensures that staff have an awareness of, and are working to reduce, the factors that may inhibit parental involvement in their child's learning. These barriers might include disability, poverty, gender, race, religion, language or additional support needs.
- The Education Department will support pre-five establishments to develop their family centred approaches and introduce a 'Family Friendly' accreditation scheme.
- Schools provide general information and advice for parents on education within their child's school.
- Parents will be given opportunity and encouragement by schools in reviewing progress and planning next steps with particular relation to pupil e-portfolios and pupil profiles. Parents are actively involved in the learning process through the schools' personal learning processes setting targets and reviewing achievements.
- Schools take account of children's wider experiences as well as using the skills and experiences which parents may have to enhance the curriculum in and out of school.
- Schools will support parents through provision of the necessary information and encouragement to promote a consistency of approach to learning in school and at home.
- Family support, and where appropriate, advice on the support available will be offered by schools. Schools will involve parents throughout the process of offering additional support to their children through the 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) approach.
- A high level of co-ordinated support will continue to be made available by schools and services to parents whose children may be identified as at risk of underachieving..
- Schools, with the support of the authority and partner agencies, will support parents of looked after children, where appropriate, as well as non-resident parents and other parents/carers to make it possible for them to be included in their child's education.
- Parents will be supported to work in partnership with agencies to help their children to develop the four capacities within *Curriculum for Excellence*.
- The Family Learning service will provide flexible and tailored support that focuses on the individual learning needs of families. The service will also provide support to schools and preface centres so that they can further develop their own family learning and home visiting approaches.
- Parental involvement in learning is maximised by using family learning activities and practices that encourage parent /child activity.

- An identified member of school staff acts as Parental Involvement co-ordinator with the task of driving forward engagement and involvement with parents, families and other agencies and the sharing and broadening of good practice. The PI coordinator will meet with the PC Chair once per school term.
- Schools will effectively deploy Bilingual Support Workers to support staff and parents in meeting the needs of bilingual learners.
- The Education Management Information Services unit (EMIS unit) will rigorously record and compare the views of parents from Education Scotland inspections and ER school review information. Performance data that is monitored includes the percentage of parents reporting their views are sought and taken account of by schools. This information will be used by the Education Department to inform schools of trends and issues and set measurable targets for improvement.

7.2 Give advice and information to parents in respect of their own child's learning

- The Education Department will respond to any reasonable request for advice and information from the parent of any child attending one of their schools. The Head Teacher and school staff will be available to give advice and information to the parent, in a manner consistent with the authority's duties under the *Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act*.
- The Education Department will provide guidance on related policies that are designed to strengthen parental involvement, increase the confidence of parents and develop a shared understanding of different roles and responsibilities in relation to education.
- Education Scotland and the Education Department will work together to develop Glow as a possible means of communicating with parents.
- The Education Department and Schools will continue to investigate new ways of communicating with the Parent Forum; this will include e-communication.
- The Education Department will make all School Handbooks available from a central location on the Council's web site.
- Schools will continue to give regular information about pupils, strengths, progress and achievements.
- Schools will continue to give specific and detailed advice and information to parents on their child's education. Schools will ensure that parents understand the purpose of the different forms of assessment and that terminology is well explained.
- Schools will affirm the role of the parent as co-educator by actively seeking the views of parents on their child's progress in learning, taking these into account and valuing the learning that takes place in the home.
- Schools will plan for parental engagement in CfE and continue to use the CfE Parent Toolkit to enhance their communication with parents.
- Schools will continue to work with colleagues in and across establishments, including pre-five, to encourage and improve parental involvement at all stages of transition.
- Schools will include information about the opportunities provided for parents to become involved in their child's learning and the life of the school in the School Handbook. The Handbook will be updated in consultation with parents and pupils on an annual basis. It will be available on the school web site as well as in hard copy format.
- Parents of looked after children, who still have contact with them, and other parents/carers will receive regular information on their child's learning, including reports, unless the child's social worker advises that there are good reasons not to do so.

7.3 Promote the establishment of Parent Councils in schools and support their operation

- All parent councils and schools are consulted on the review of the strategy document. The findings from the consultation inform the revised strategy which is drafted by the Quality Improvement Officer and discussed by a cross party Focus Group. Thereafter, the draft strategy is offered to parent councils and Senior Management Team (Education) for consultation before it is presented to the Education Committee.
- School Improvement plans will take account of the authority's strategy for parental involvement.
- Parental Involvement co-ordinators will continue to be supported by the Education Department. Best and emerging good practice will be shared at coordinators' Network meetings. All pre-five establishments will be represented on this network.
- The Education Department is committed to listening to parents. It will continue to meet with parent forums, such as the Equalities Forum, to encourage full involvement of the parent groups in shaping policy and ensuring that these rights are promoted. All forums will continue to be represented in the review of the Parental Involvement Strategy.
- The Education Department, through a Quality Improvement Officer, will continue to provide support and training for Parent Council chairs and Parent Council members involved in the recruitment and selection process for HT and DHT posts.
- Operations of Parent Councils will continue to be supported by schools as required by the Act. Parent Councils will be encouraged to work with other bodies, including cluster schools, to maximise parental involvement.
- The Education Department and schools will support Parent Councils in effectively engaging the wider parent forum.
- The Education Department will liaise with the local authority National Forum of Scotland representative and provide him / her with opportunities to liaise with Parent Councils.

7.4 Maintain and monitor a complaints procedure in line with duties under the Act

- The Education Department will continue to ensure that schools comply with the Council's complaints procedures and report on data gathered to the Education Committee.
- Schools will ensure that parents are aware of the Council's new complaints procedures, implemented on 1 April 2013 and will use the information gained from parental complaints in service improvement and planning.
- The Education Department will continue to support schools effectively and achieve high levels of compliance plus from an annual assessment by Customer Service Excellence.

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 Communication and consultation

The Education Department is committed to ensuring that all communication to stakeholders is made as accessible as possible through:

- the language and formats used
- offering opportunities for interpretation or translation into other languages or formats as requested within available resources.

The Education Department is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted on parental involvement issues through the following groups;

- Pupil and Parent Councils
- Parent Council Chairs' Forum
- School Parental Involvement Coordinators Meetings
- Equalities Forum

8.2 Equalities

An inclusive approach is at the heart of this strategy. The strategy and accompanying documentation has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

8.3 Reporting annually on progress

The Quality Improvement Officer, with remitted responsibility for Parental Involvement, ensures that information relating to progress with the targets in the action plan is published annually and made available to parents, pupils, staff and community groups in a variety of appropriate forms including information leaflets and the Education Department and schools' annual Standards and Quality Reports

8.4 Next review of this policy

The Policy will be reviewed and revised by **30 November 2016** or earlier if appropriate.

9. SUPPORTING MATERIALS

This section contains links to the following relevant supporting documents:

1. Parentzone
2. [Scottish Schools \(Parental Involvement\) Act 2006](#)
3. Parents pages on Council Web site
4. East Renfrewshire Parental Involvement
5. GLOW
6. Internet safety
7. Local Improvement Plan, ERC 2011-2014
8. [Partnership with parents, HMle 2006](#)
9. [Learning, learning together, opening up learning](#)
10. Family Learning Strategy 2009-12
11. Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act, 2009
12. Race Equality Policy
13. Psychological Services
14. Complaints procedures