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## Arran Primary Schools and Early Years Classes Participation Policy

### Background

The Education Service's Parental Involvement Strategy (2008) details how the Education Service seeks to meet its duties under the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. It outlines the roles of Parent Forums and Parent Councils, which play a key role in promoting effective engagement of parents in service development and review. The 2006 Act reinforces provisions within the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, which requires schools and education authorities to consult with parents and pupils on aspects of school improvement planning and evaluation. 'Informing', 'consulting' and 'involving' stakeholders lie at the heart of the work of the Education Service and all three processes require effective communication.

**Article 3 (Best interests of the child):** *The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers.*

### Our practice

We give stakeholders (parents/carers and children) the opportunity to be involved fully in the day-to-day operation of our schools and the on-going development of policy and practice. In Arran, we have put in place a range of processes to provide opportunities to enable parents/carers to be effectively involved in their child's education and learning. Staff members think carefully about their approach to planning and delivery of consultation activities, ensuring involvement of all stakeholders as appropriate.

### Informing Parents/Carers

We use a number of mechanisms for informing our parents about our service, for example:

- Individual Parent Meetings
- Parent Council (whole school)
- Twitter/SeeSaw
- Handbook
- Annual Standards & Quality Report
- School Improvement Plan
- Newsletters to parents/carers and other general letters, sent via email
- School website
- Pupil profiles and folders of work
- Survey Monkey questionnaires



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### Consulting other agencies

We also work with, and actively encourage the involvement of, partner agencies including:-

- Educational psychologist
- Dental Health professionals
- Health Professionals including Speech and Language and Occupational Therapists
- Area Inclusion Worker
- Library/Mobile library service
- Voluntary agencies

### Consulting with/involving pupils

We consult with our pupils on a daily basis, asking for children's opinions and preferences. We also use the following methods : -

- pupil consultation exercises, both formal and informal
- by involvement in the school's groups
- Assessment for learning strategies

**Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child):** *When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.*

### Monitoring and evaluation

We recognise the importance of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our engagement processes and will do this by drawing on various sources of evidence, including (for example):

- reviewing the number of consultation/involvement activities undertaken and the groups of parents/carers who were invited to participate;
- collating information from responses to and evaluations of consultation/involvement activities;
- collating information on the nature and level of engagement activities with children
- feedback from the Parent Forum on the nature and level of engagement activities with parents.

**Article 18 (Parental responsibilities; state assistance):** *Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments must respect the responsibility of parents for providing appropriate guidance to their children – the Convention does not take responsibility for children away from their parents and give more authority to governments. It places a responsibility on governments to provide support services to parents, especially if both parents work outside the home.*