

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 March 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Draft Statutory Guidance for the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 (the Act) - Consultation
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the Scottish Government consultation on the draft statutory guidance for the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 (the Act) which has a closing date of 30 April 2020.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) to note that the draft statutory guidance for the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 (the Act) has been issued by the Scottish Government for consultation with a closing date of 30 April 2020; and
- (2) to note that Education Resources will prepare a response to the consultation taking account of the revised Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy endorsed by this Committee on 6 August 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 requires each local authority to facilitate the establishment of Parent Councils and to prepare a 'Strategy for Parental Involvement' now entitled 'Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy'.
- 3.2. The guidance is being updated following an independent review of the Parental Involvement Act by the National Parent Forum of Scotland. A commitment to modernise and strengthen the guidance was then included within the national "Learning Together" Action Plan on parental involvement and engagement, developed jointly by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.
- 3.3. The draft amended guidance takes account of various suggestions from a working group which involved officials and representatives from Scottish Government, Education Scotland, the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS), Connect (formerly the Scottish Parent Teacher Council), the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Association of Directors of Education (ADES), the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and Families Need Fathers (FNF).

4. The aims of the re-drafted guidance

- 4.1. There are two key aims in re-drafting the guidance.
- 4.2. The first aim is to modernise the guidance, taking account of the changes in practice and wider legislation that have occurred since 2007.
- 4.3. The second aim is to strengthen the guidance, in so far as possible, whilst recognising that the duties and powers in primary statute – i.e. on the face of the Act itself – remain unchanged.
- 4.4. In updating the guidance, the Scottish Government want to ensure that parental involvement and engagement – and the legal duties that underpin this important aspect in education – is given due prominence and recognition as part of wider aims to develop an empowered education system.
- 4.5. The amended guidance contains a number of changes to the original (and current) statutory guidance which was issued in 2007. In responding to this consultation, it may be helpful to refer to the current statutory guidance. A copy of the current statutory guidance is available at:-
<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parental-involvement-act-guidance.pdf>
- 4.7. The Scottish Government has invited views from parental organisations, head teachers, local authorities, third sector organisations, professional bodies, members of the public and any other organisation or individual with an interest. A link to the consultation is below:-
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-schools-parental-involvement-act-2006-updated-statutory-guidance-consultation/>

5. Parental Involvement and Engagement

- 5.1. Evidence based research shows that parents, carers and families are the most important influence on children's attitudes, behaviour and achievements. When parents, carers and other family members are effectively involved in supporting their children's learning, the outcomes are, in general, better.
- 5.2. Schools, nurseries and services play an equally important role in welcoming parents/carers to be partners in their children's learning journey. Effective parental involvement, therefore, must also be inclusive by encouraging parents, carers and families to be active participants and by making them feel welcome and valued.
- 5.3. On 6 August 2019, this Committee noted the newly revised South Lanarkshire Parental and Involvement Strategy which has taken account of the legislation to support Parent Councils and involve parents/carers in the appointment process of Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher appointments as well as setting out how the Council can further develop learning at home and family learning.
- 5.4. Education Resources will prepare an Officer's response to the consultation by the closing date of 30 April 2020.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability and the environment arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no risk implications arising from the proposals in this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact assessment as there is no change to policy or procedures.
- 10.2. Schools, nurseries, Parent Councils along with other stakeholders have been invited to take part in this consultation.

Tony McDaid

Executive Director (Education Resources)

12 February 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 6 August 2020

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006
- ◆ Learning Together – national action plan (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of learning at home (August 2018)
- ◆ Review of family learning (2018)

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Des Dickson, Education Operations Service Manager

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