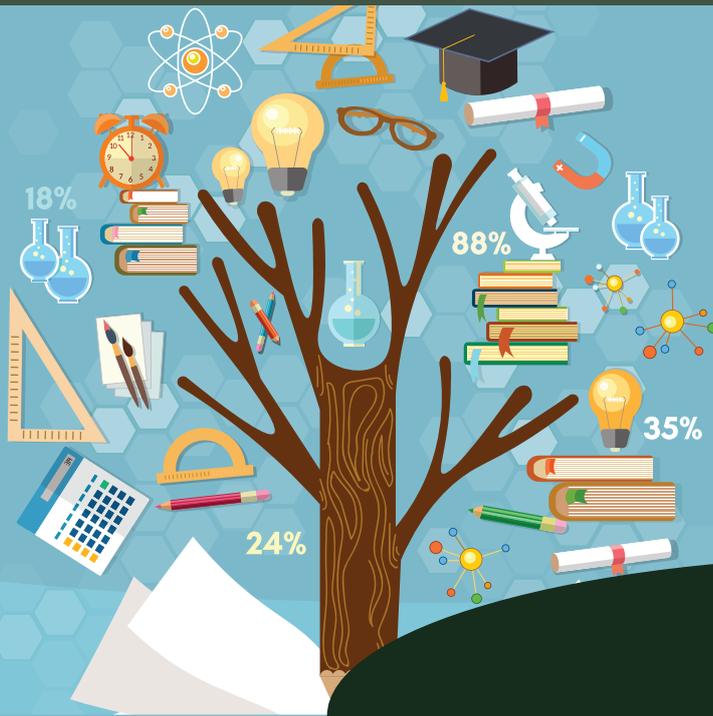




Parental Involvement and Engagement **What is this?**

September 2021



Parental Involvement and Engagement: When parents take a supportive role in their child's education there is a positive impact on children's achievements. Dumfries and Galloway Council Education and Learning Directorate has developed a Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) Strategy 2018-2021 which can be found at dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement This is a summary of roles and responsibilities as partners in learning.

Roles and Responsibilities

Partnerships are most effective when schools regard parent's views as important, take them into account and this is fully recognized and appreciated by parents. This will happen when parents and school staff are committed to partnership working and have a clear understanding of their respective roles.

Parents through

- Working in partnership with their child(ren)'s school will support their children's education – this might include

- The processes involved in preparing children for key transitions, such as from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and leaving school
- Discussing the opportunities available to children during key periods of their school career, such as the Senior Phase (S4-S6)
- Formulating the school's priorities for improvement (involved in the development of the School Improvement Plan)
- Revising existing school policies and introducing new policies
- Contributing to the School Handbook

In addition, the Parent Council should

- Encourage positive dialogue between school, staff and the Parent Forum.
- Play a key role in engaging with the wider Parent Forum and representing their views to the School and Local Authority
- Raise awareness of and access to sources of information and

support agencies (via school level information leaflets) as a reference point to support their children

Schools through

- All members of staff should ensure that they treat parents as partners in the education of their child(ren)
- All members of staff have a responsibility to help to realise the potential of each individual child and to work in partnership with each child's parents to achieve this
- The Headteacher will ensure that an effective school Parental Involvement and Engagement Policy is in place and that it has been developed in conjunction with the views of parents in their respective schools
- Headteachers encourage Parents participation in school policies and involve them in the development of their School Improvement Plan
- The involvement of pupils (Pupil Councils) should consider their views on parental involvement and engagement

- Schools may already have an existing policy on Parental Involvement and Engagement however, if not, schools should prepare one and it should be included in the cycle of policy reviews

Schools will also consider

Learning at home Parents are the first and ongoing educators of their own children and, as such, should receive information and support to help develop their child's learning at home and in the community.



Learning at Home: what does this look like?

Family Learning Children in Scotland spend approximately 15% of their waking hours in school (OECD, 2014). The remaining 85% of children's time is spent at home or in their communities and this presents a potentially significant opportunity for learning. Equipping, supporting and building

the capacity of Scotland's parents to maximise children's opportunities for learning is key to raising attainment.

For more information and a review of the Family Learning by tge Scottish Government please click on the following link

[education.gov.scot/improvement/research/review-of-family-learning](https://www.education.gov.scot/improvement/research/review-of-family-learning)

Education Support Services through

- Insurance and Training opportunities as part of Connect Scotland membership for Parent Councils and for schools.
- Officer support for Parental Involvement and Engagement – policy and practice.

Parental Representation (Parental Involvement Act 2006)

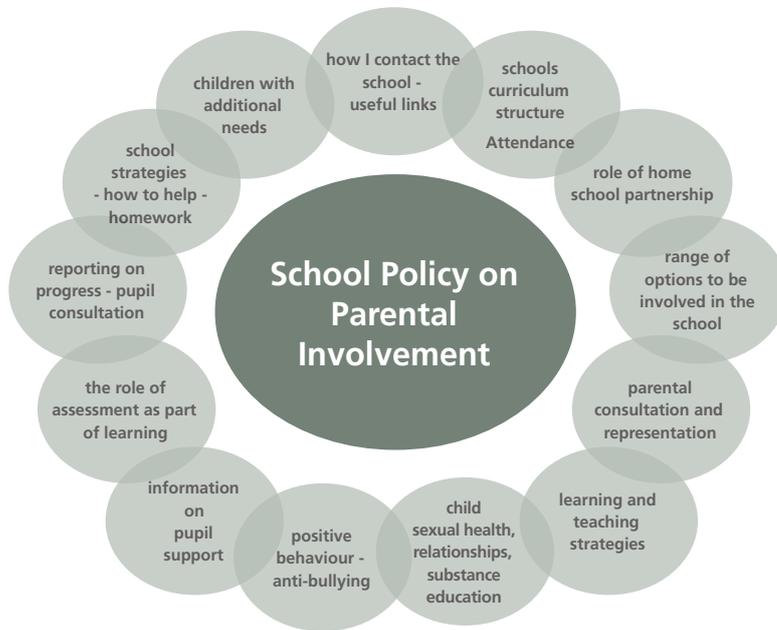
This Act makes provision for all parents to be members of the Parent Forum at a school, and to have their views represented to the school, education authority and others, through a representative Parent Council for the school.

There should also be regular consultation with pupils regarding Parental Involvement within the school. Parental Involvement and Engagement should be recorded by the school and shared with the wider parent forum through the school newsletters, blogs or as part of their regular communication strategy.

Parental Engagement is intended to support the national vision of **excellence through raising attainment** and **achieving equity** from Early Learning and Childcare through to the Senior Phase.

Whole school matters Schools should seek and consider the views of parents on the identification of priorities for their school. An ideal way to do this is through a School Improvement plan or through focus groups. This might include issues around:

Principles	What do these principles mean?
Integrity	Listen to what parents say and genuinely consider the views expressed.
Visibility	Make sure all parents know about chances to give their views.
Accessibility	Design information, methods and activities so they are attractive, and all parents can access them and join in.
Transparency	Explain to parents what the involvement processes are and how their responses will be used.
Disclosure	Be clear about what areas of the issue they can influence, how much influence they can have and what decisions have already been taken and are therefore not part of moving forward and what other alternatives there might be.



Fair Interpretation	Collate and interpret responses to reflect the views parents have expressed where appropriate.
Publication	Publish the results of consultations when parents have been involved.

Key links: [dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement)

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