



Friday 2nd December 2016

INVERURIE ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parental Involvement – Current Consultations

The views of parents/carers are incredibly important in informing policy at School, Authority and National level. As a Parent Council, we want to draw your attention to two current consultations. Your opinions will be used to influence both of these policies that will have a direct impact on your children.

1 - The Scottish Government - Education Governance Review – Consultation ends 06 01 17

Government ministers are considering how Education is organised and run in the future. They are proposing that decisions about children's learning should be made by people involved in that school/nursery with parents being "key decision makers" and the funding allocation being controlled by the schools. You can [read a copy of the Governance Review](#) on the Scottish Government website and [respond to the questions in the Consultation](#). You can [contact the Review team](#) directly to ask questions or share your views. A summary of the proposals is outlined below.

How should education in Scotland be run? -
Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: a governance review
Information for Parents

The Scottish Government is gathering views on how education in Scotland – from early years through to secondary schools - is run now, and how it should be run in the future. The Government is calling this 'Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity: a governance review'. It is known as the 'governance review' for short. This leaflet explains what the governance review is about and how you can get involved as a parent. When we use the word 'parent' in this leaflet we mean all parents, carers and guardians.

What is the governance review and what things does it cover?

'Governance' simply means who is responsible for what, how that is managed and the way that money is allocated. We are reviewing who has responsibility for what in education in Scotland, including for making decisions about the way money is spent, and how this can be made to work better for the future.

This review is about publicly funded education and does not look at independent schools (commonly referred to as private schools).

What changes does the Scottish Government want to make?

The Scottish Government believes that the best people to make decisions about children's learning are early years staff and teachers, working with parents and children and young people themselves.

We want them to have more say in the way education is run for children and young people.

We don't just think this. Evidence shows that it is how good our teachers are and how well our schools are led that makes the biggest difference to children's learning.

Evidence also shows that when parents or carers are fully involved in their child's learning and in the life and work of their school, that children, parents and schools do better.

Working together is important if we want education to get better for all our children and young people. We want to see more schools working together with each other and with their local communities to share learning and best practice.

Why is the Government holding a governance review?

The Scottish Government wants to do everything it can to ensure children and young people get the best start in life. This means we want them to get high quality early learning and childcare before they go to school and the best education when they are at school.

We want Scottish education to be the best for all children and young people. In particular we want to ensure Scottish education can deliver excellence and equity.

This simply means that we want education to get better for all children and young people (excellence) and we want to close the 'gap' between how well children and young people from different backgrounds do (equity). There is a gap between how well children from the poorest and most well off backgrounds do at school. This is often referred to as the 'attainment gap'.

There are lots of things we can do to make education better for all and which can help to close the 'attainment gap'.

Making sure that the governance of education is as good as it can be is one of these. This is why the Scottish Government is looking at this issue and is asking for your views.

Questions asked in the governance review

The governance review asks questions about a number of different things:

Giving more power and responsibility to teachers, parents and communities (questions 4 to 7)

Improving the ways that people work together at a local level (questions 8 to 11)

What needs to be done at the national level and how teachers and others are provided with support (question 12 and 13)

How funding can be made fairer (questions 14 and 15)

How should we ensure accountability (question 16)

It also asks some more general questions about what people think of the way education is run now and how this could be made better in the future (questions 1 to 3 and question 17).

How to get involved

The Scottish Government wants to hear from as many parents as possible as part of the governance review.

The most straightforward way to respond is on-line through Citizen Space, at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

You can find out more information about the questions asked in the governance review and how to come along to an engagement event on our website, at:

www.gov.scot/education/governancereview

The Scottish Parent Teacher Council - response to the Review – Survey closes 08 12 16

The [SPTC](#) has carried out a considerable amount of work interpreting the proposals and what they may mean for parents/carers. They have put together a [Governance Review Survey](#) to gather your views on the main sections of the Review and they will use your answers in their response to the Government on behalf of parents/carers.

2 - Aberdeenshire Council Draft Children's Services Plan (2017-2020) – Consultation ends 07 12 16

The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership is looking for your views to help them develop the new [Child Services Plan](#). This is a joint plan that describes how services working with young children, young people and their families work together to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children and young people in Aberdeenshire.

Best regards,



Elizabeth Watt
Chair
Inverurie Academy Parent Council