

Parents as Partners in their Children's Learning



**Scottish Schools (Parental involvement) Act 2006 -
working together during the
transition year**

Purpose of the Act

- Modernise and strengthen the framework for supporting parental involvement
- Engage parents meaningfully in the education of their children and in the school community
- Support parents and staff to work in partnership

Opportunity

“A once in a generation chance to take a fresh look at how parents are involved in their children’s learning and in schools more generally”

Robert Brown, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People

Duties

- Duties on Ministers and EAs to promote Parental Involvement
- EAs to:
 - prepare strategy for parental involvement (to include reference to equal opportunities and looked after children)
 - give advice and information to parents
 - promote and support Parent Councils
 - establish complaints procedure

Implementation timescale

- Sept 06 - Duties to promote parental involvement, provide advice and information, and prepare for setting up Parent Councils
- Aug 07 - Duties to prepare strategy and complaints procedures; Parent Councils come into being

Duty to promote parental involvement

- General duty on Scottish Ministers and EAs to promote parental involvement
- Commenced 12 September
- EA to ensure key staff, especially in schools, are aware of legislation.
- Resources – guidance pages 19-21; toolkit sections 3-5

Advice and information

- Duty on EA; headteachers and staff to be available to provide advice and information to parent
- Commenced 12 Sept 2006
- Schools can review with Parent Forum arrangements for providing advice and info
- Resources – toolkit sections 3-5

Promote Parent Councils

- Duty on EA but Parent Forum decides
- Parent Councils take effect from August 2007
- EA to facilitate process and give parents time and opportunity to decide what is right for their school
- Resources - guidance pages 22-23; toolkit sections 7 and 8

Prepare strategy for parental involvement

- Duty on EA to prepare strategy
- To take effect Aug 2007; (need to involve Parent Councils autumn 2007)
- Strategy to take account of equal opportunities and looked after children
- Resources – guidance pages 9-15 and checklist at Annex B; toolkit section 6; HMIE Parents as Partners self-evaluation indicators

Complaints procedure

- Duty on EA to establish complaints procedure but must consult with Parent Council
- To take effect Aug 2007
- EA should consider how complaints under Act fit with other complaints and formal appeals routes
- Resources – guidance pages 17-18 and Annex C; toolkit section 6

Beyond transition year

- Full commencement of Act Aug 2007
- Parent Councils take on full functions
- EAs to support operation of Parent Councils
- EAs to consult with Parent Councils on strategy and complaints
- SE and HMle to support and monitor implementation

Resources

- Parentzone website
(www.parentzonescotland.org.uk)
 - Information on Act, guidance, toolkit and other resources
- HMIE parents as partners self-evaluation
 - <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hgiospwp.pdf>