

East Renfrewshire Council Education Department

Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy: 2021-2024

## AIM

## Outcome

*We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN....*

## Our contribution

*So we need to ...*

## Critical Activities

*By.....*

Parents provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their families.

### Critical Indicators

% of parents responding positively to parental questionnaires:

- I would recommend the school to other parents
- I am satisfied with the school
- The school staff are approachable.
- My child's school helps me understand my child's rights.
- The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress in a way I can understand.
- The information I receive from the Parent Council is useful.
- How satisfied are you with the communication you get from the school to provide:
  - information on what your child is currently learning about
  - information on how your child is progressing with their learning
  - information on ways to help your child continue learning at home
  - general information about the school

**Communicate** – we will improve the ways that we communicate with ALL parents to ensure that they are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning.

- Using National Improvement Framework (NIF) Parent Communication principles to support school and central staff to improve communication with parents:
  - simplicity and clarity
  - transparency
  - relevance
  - partnership
  - flexibility and adaptation
  - timeliness
- Supporting establishments to evaluate and update school handbooks and websites to reflect the NIF principles above
- Providing training for staff and Parent Councils on safe and effective use of social media
- Supporting Parent Councils to improve communication with the parent forum
- Supporting establishments to develop approaches for effective communication with non-resident parents
- Providing parents with information about UNCRC to raise awareness of children's rights.
- Improving approaches to communication with parents of bilingual learners, utilising the Supporting Bilingual Learner's guidance
- Responding to all parental enquiries and complaints in line with ERC Customer Care Standards and Complaints Handling Policy and ensuring that all parents know what to expect when communicating with their child's establishment or the education department
- Maintaining, monitoring and analysing complaint data to improve service.
- Providing communication that fulfils the NIF principles to all parents at every stage of the application, allocation and admissions process for ELC and schools, EMA, school transport and Home Education
- Refreshing East Renfrewshire's 'Reporting to Parents Guidance' to reflect the work of the Curriculum, Learning and Teaching groups and follow the NIF principles.
- Rigorously monitoring the questionnaire and performance data to inform of school trends and issues
- Sharing good practice in using technologies as identified through school's responses to the challenges of Covid-19
- Signposting services that offer a range of supports for parents such as Adult Learning, Family First, Healthier Minds

## AIM

**SOA 1: All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed.**

## Outcome

*We will know we are making good steps along the way WHEN....*

Parents provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their families.

## Critical Indicators

% of parents responding positively to parental questionnaires:

- The school provides me with useful information about how I can help my child learn at home.
- My child's school offers a selection of Family Learning activities such as events and workshops.
- The cost of participating in school activities and events is affordable.
- % of ELC settings and primary schools achieving Family Centred Approaches Accreditation at Gold.
- % of Secondary schools achieving Family Centred Approaches Accreditation at Bronze or above

% of parents responding positively to parental questionnaires:

- The school asks for my views about my child's learning.
- The school takes my views about my child's learning into account.
- The school seeks my views and opinions on school policies.
- My views help to decide priorities in the School Improvement Plan.

## Our contribution

*So we need to ...*

**Collaborate** – we will expand opportunities for ALL parents to collaborate at all levels within our education system

**Consult** - we will support consultation with parents in a variety of ways to fulfil our statutory duties and shape our services.

## Critical Activities

*By.....*

- Promoting and supporting greater diversity in Parent Councils
- Supporting establishments to ensure that all parents can have their views represented through their diversity champions and by developing approaches which focus on 'What matters to you?', not 'What's important to us.'
- Supporting and challenging establishments to develop their approaches to Family Learning, Parental Engagement and Involvement and volunteering in response to the latest public health guidance
- Continuing to provide key CLPL for practitioners, including NQTs, which support relationship based approaches with parents:
  - Connecting with Parents
  - Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the "Children's Workforce" in Scotland
  - Self-evaluation using Education Scotland's Engaging Parents and Families Toolkit.
  - Solihull Approach Foundation training
  - Family Centred Approaches – Going for Gold
- Supporting schools and Parent Councils to develop approaches to effective collaboration with parents in planning and decision making with a focus on school improvement planning and PEF funding
- Engaging with the National Parent Forum
- Providing Recruitment and Selection Training for Parent Councils.
- Supporting partnership with Connect by providing group membership & free training opportunities.
- Increasing targeted opportunities for Family learning through e.g. Peep programme led by the Excellence and Equity Lead and Family link Officer and ESOL group with adult learning.
- Consulting with parents who choose Home Education for their children to gain better insight of their needs and preferences to represent the local position more accurately in national discussions
- Consulting with parents in 2022 and 2024 in regard to Early Learning and Childcare provision in East Renfrewshire thereby fulfilling our statutory duty
- Involving parents in the implementation of UNCRC in East Renfrewshire
- Participating in the Scottish Government Parental Involvement and Engagement census and analysing the data to focus on the views of under-represented groups