

## Schools provide useful information for parents/carers **6**

A series of support guides for schools to help improve communications with parents and carers will be produced, which identify and share best practice.

## Parents are fully involved in the recruitment of senior school staff

Parents and carers will be more involved in the recruitment of headteachers and other senior school staff. To achieve this we shall be involving parents and carers in the development of new policy and procedures for the recruitment of senior school staff. There will be opportunities for parents and carers to participate in each stage of the process, from job adverts to final selection.

## Parent/carer involvement is improved for looked after and accommodated children **8**

A consultation on a new parental involvement policy for carers and parents of looked after children will be held. In addition, we shall help staff and carers understand their roles and responsibilities regarding parental involvement and looked after children.

## Want more information?

The details of each of these proposals can be found in the main strategy document at:  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parentinvolvement](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parentinvolvement)

To discuss any of the issues in this leaflet, please contact:

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## HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمہ کے لئے حاضر ہر سعادنا توفیر الترجمة  
MOŻEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ আনন্দের সঙ্গে অনুবাদ করব

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TABLED  
CCWP  
10/3/09

# Involving Parents





# Edinburgh's Parental Involvement Strategy

Parents, carers and family members are the most important influences on children's lives.

*Acknowledging the vital role they play, the Scottish Parliament passed a new law – the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 – to encourage and support more parents to become involved in their children's education.*

Through supporting school attendance, helping with homework, volunteering with school activities and outings, encouraging uniform policy and a range of other activities; the City of Edinburgh Council recognises that parents are already involved in their children's education.

We want to create opportunities for every parent and carer to become even more involved in their child's education and learning. To achieve this, we have produced the Edinburgh Parental Involvement Strategy.

The aim of the strategy is to build on existing good practice whilst creating new opportunities for parents, carers, schools, young people, communities and the Council to work together.

Centred around eight priority areas, we have identified a number of steps to take this strategy and make it a reality, making real improvements for all concerned.

## Priority Areas

Parent Forums and Parent Councils effectively involve parents in schools

Did you know:

- under the Parental Involvement Act, all parents are automatically members of the Parent Forum at their child's school, entitling them to have a say in what happens at the school?
- the law also provides for Parent Councils to represent the views of all parents, supporting the school in its work with pupils? It reports back to the Parent Forum.

We intend to provide help and advice to support the development of Parent Councils and develop web-based support on [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/) parent involvement to help Parent Forums and Parent Councils share information. We will also organise and deliver training opportunities for them as well as providing financial support for Parent Councils.

## Schools develop their parental involvement

Ensuring a school's annual improvement plan includes proposals to improve parents/carers participation in their children's learning will contribute to parental involvement. We shall consult with parents and carers on annual improvement plans, evaluating how effectively parents and carers have been involved in their children's learning.

Support for parents is developed in home and community settings

To help parents and carers develop confident children, we will encourage all key agencies to adopt nationally recognised approaches to working with parents and carers. This will involve providing programmes to support parents across the city. Parents are engaged effectively and barriers to involvement are removed

Creating opportunities for every parent and carer to become more involved in their children's learning and education is a key priority for us. We will produce a toolkit of examples showing how potential barriers to involvement have already been addressed in Edinburgh (e.g. efforts to involve working parents, lone parents, fathers). Policy will be developed to support the involvement of non-resident parents. We also intend to carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment on parental involvement to identify impacts in terms of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age and faith and address any concerns arising from this.

A complaints procedure which exceeds statutory requirements is in place

We will develop a complaints procedure on parental involvement, by consulting on a draft proposal which fits with the Department's policy and the requirements of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.