



the National Parent Forum of Scotland

Update

We have recently responded to several consultations:

GTCS proposed new Fitness to Teach Rules that set out the procedure that is followed when they investigate and determine the fitness to teach of their registered teachers or applicants for registration. The changes proposed aim to update their procedures with a view to streamlining them, making them quicker and making them more targeted towards addressing risk of harm. They have also tried to write the proposed new Rules in a simpler way so that they are more accessible and reflect best current practice.

We welcome an attempt to use simpler and more accessible language and our response can be read here:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/11/29/general-teaching-council-scotland-consultation/>

Standards in Scotland's Schools Statutory Guidance - covers the duties and steps that might be taken by education authorities to reduce inequalities of outcome for pupils experiencing them as a result of socio-economic disadvantage; the duties and steps that might be taken by education authorities in pursuance of the NIF priorities; the duties and steps that might be taken by education authorities in relation to their respective planning and reporting duties as to proposed steps/steps taken to reduce these inequalities. Our response:

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/10/20/standards-in-schools-statutory-guidance-consultation/>

Child Poverty Bill – We supported the Children in Scotland Response, emphasising that we would like the Ministerial Group to work on the barriers to parental involvement for families living in poverty

<http://www.npfs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Child-Poverty-Bill-Scotland-CiS-Response.pdf>

Education Committee – We were recently invited by the Education Committee at the Scottish Parliament to comment on the performance of the SQA and Education Scotland against the outcomes they are seeking to achieve and how outcomes are measured. We found all of the documents to be inaccessible to parents and told them so! <http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/11/01/letter-to-education-committee/>

We have since this submission agreed with Education Scotland to help them make their Corporate Plan and reporting more parent Friendly in 2017

Current Work:

We are preparing the report on the review of the Scottish School (Parental Involvement) 2006 Act. This will be published in Spring 2017 with recommendations for schools, local authorities and Ministers. Many thanks to the parents who took the time to complete our call for evidence.

Governance Review – We are keen to hear from as many parents as possible with their views on the review. For those finding the documents hard to penetrate, John Swinney provided us with a helpful summary:

How do we want schools to be run?

Where should influence lie?

What adds value to the learning experience?

What should parents do (within education)?

National 4s - We are surveying parents whose children have sat a N4 qualification. It's a quick survey and the results will be fed into the Assessment and Qualifications Working Group at Scottish Government (chaired by John Swinney).

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Nat4s>

Newsletter due later this week (possible next!). Email office@npfs.org.uk to be added to the list

Other bits and bobs to be included in it – New NIF info for parents from SG, Care Standards Consultation for January, STEM consultation, SCQF new parents leaflet imminent