



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LAWS AND POLICY FOR FAMILIES AND EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRES

Parental Involvement Act

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 gives parents the right to information about their child's education, to be represented and to have their views heard. Revised guidance for this Act is expected during 2019/2020 when this leaflet will be updated. For more information on Parent Councils and parents' rights go to: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/148166/0039411.pdf

The Education Bill (Scotland)

This Bill was shelved in 2018 by the Scottish Government in favour of an agreement with COSLA which sets out several workstreams for local authorities, schools, national organisations and the Scottish Government. There is an emphasis on empowering school communities to make local decisions, based on local needs. A key workstream of interest to parents focusses on parental involvement and engagement.

Learning Together is the National Action Plan

It covers parental representation, engaging parents in their children's learning, home learning and family learning. Read Learning Together here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-together-scotlands-national-actionplan-parental-involvement-parental-engagement/>

Children and Young People (CYP) Act (2014)

The main aim of this legislation is

- to make sure children's rights are kept in mind during the design of policies and services, and when people work with young people (see Getting it Right for Every Child below)
- to improve the way services work to support children, young people, and families (see Getting it Right for Every Child below)
- to strengthen early years support for children and their families (see Early Learning and Childcare below)
- to improve planning for looked-after children.

For more information go to: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/contents>

Early Learning and Childcare (1140 hours statutory entitlement from 2020)

The Scottish Government's plan to offer 1140 hours free early learning and childcare (nursery) to all eligible children aged three to five (and some two-year-olds) from August 2020 is a key policy commitment. Sometimes called 'funded' early learning and childcare (because it is being funded by the Scottish Government), it is free to families. Local authorities have been running trials of the 1140 hours, as they work towards full implementation, since 2017. Funded places will be available in local authority nurseries, in partner provider centres, with partner childminders and sometimes in forest kindergarten. A 'blended' model of childminders and nurseries may also be available.

United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history, the UNCRC states that every child has

- the right to a childhood (including protection from harm)
- the right to be educated
- the right to be healthy
- the right to be treated fairly
- the right to be heard.

For details of all articles, go to the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People's website: www.sccyp.org.uk/rights. The Scottish Government is consulting on how to embed or integrate the UNCRC into all Scottish legislation by 2022.

Additional Support for Learning

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2014 sets out rules for schools and others to meet the needs of children and young people who need additional or different support, so they can get the most out of their education and reach their full potential.

This doesn't just apply to children who have long-term learning difficulties or disabilities. Children may need support for many reasons eg if they have are very able, are experiencing poor mental health, family problems or bereavement, adopted, fostered or looked after. Sometimes this may only be for a short time. . You will find useful information on www.enquire.org.uk

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) was introduced in Scottish schools in 2010, updating the way our children learn and progress. The purpose of CfE is to make learning and teaching in schools child-centred and relevant to the changing world. This means that school education should be flexible enough to give children and young people opportunities and experiences to stretch and challenge as well as meeting their needs and addressing their interests and passions.

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

Getting it Right for Every Child is a Scottish Government initiative which aims to make sure all Scotland's children, young people, and their families have consistent, coordinated support across the various public services. It sets out to make sure that children, young people and their families who are getting support of any kind will:

- understand what is happening and why
- be listened to carefully and have their views heard and understood
- feel confident about the help they are getting
- be actively involved in discussions and decisions that affect them
- be able to rely on help being appropriate and available early, rather than when things reach a crisis point
- have a more streamlined and co-ordinated response from service providers.

For more information, go to: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People>

Equality Act (2010)

The Equality Act is anti-discrimination legislation which sets out to safeguard people who have one or more 'protected characteristic'. Protected characteristics include: gender (including gender reassignment), religion or belief, age, disability, race, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy and sexual orientation. It is recognised that all people fall under one or more of these categories and so could be discriminated against.

The Act requires any organisation carrying out a public function (including schools) to work to:

- eliminate discrimination and victimisation
- advance equal opportunities
- foster good relations between those with and without 'protected characteristics'.

The Act applies to employers, service providers and education providers, who not only have to show they are promoting equality, but that they are also challenging discrimination. For more information, go to:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/legislation/equality-act2010>

National Improvement Framework (NIF)

The Framework was launched by Scottish Government in January 2016 and its priorities are

- to improve attainment for all, especially in literacy and numeracy
- to reduce inequality in education
- to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing
- to improve employability skills and help young people towards positive destinations.

The NIF highlights the importance of gathering and sharing accurate information, including Scottish National Standardised Assessments. The evidence from these assessments will be shared with parents. As part of the NIF, Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) have been formed. There are five clusters of local authorities, sharing good practice and working together on Regional Improvement Plans, to improve outcomes for children and young people. The focus is on equity, addressing the impacts of disadvantage.