



the National Parent Forum of Scotland

Focus Group on the Governance Review

We are holding a parent focus group to form a parents opinion on the Scottish Government's consultation on the Governance Review. the review consultation can be accessed here: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

The starting point for the Scottish Government is we have a good education system, with good nurseries and schools and good early years practitioners and teachers. But it's also true that Scottish education does not deliver the same outcomes for all children, particularly children from the poorest backgrounds. The Review is concerned with how Scottish education can deliver excellence and equity –meaning to raise standards in education for all children and young people and to close the educational attainment gap.

Essentially, this could mean a significant shift of power and funding from councils to head teachers and a greater share of resources to schools with higher numbers of disadvantaged pupils. With this, comes a shift in responsibility and accountability.

The Review is interested in some big issues and challenges - like giving more power to teachers and schools about what and how they teach, devolving decision making from Local Authorities to head teachers and schools, changing the way funding is allocated, developing more community-led learning particularly in remote and rural settings. There is an idea for new education regions.

Some questions that we would like to discuss:

1. How do we want schools to be run?
2. What services and support should be the responsibility of schools (as opposed to others such as the local authority)?
3. What adds value to the learning experience and how could it be made easier for this to happen?
4. What kind of decisions should teachers and headteachers be able to make to support effective learning?
5. To what extent are our school leaders fully qualified to do this?
6. Can you see anything in the way that schools are currently governed that gets in the way of the delivery of an excellent education or more equitable outcomes?
7. What role should parents and children play in school life?

- How can they be supported in these roles?
8. ...and what is the role of communities, employers, colleges, universities and others
 - What actions should be taken to support the roles these partners can play?
 9. How could governance arrangements support more community led learning and childcare, particularly in rural areas?
 10. What are your thoughts on Regional Boards, where will they fit into the system?
 11. Who should have the final say, will it be the headteacher if it is devolved, Local Authority or Regional Board?