

The National Improvement Framework

An Ambitious Agenda for All

What is the National Improvement Framework?

The National Improvement Framework (NIF) sets out what needs to be done to improve Scottish education so that every child can achieve their full potential. It uses accurate information, gathered from schools, local authorities and national organisations, to find out what makes a positive difference to children's learning and to their health and wellbeing. Children, young people and parents/carers are asked about their experiences of Scottish education and these are taken into account too. All of this information is presented each year in the **National Improvement Evidence Report** and it leads to recommendations in the annual **National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan**.

The key priorities of the National Improvement Framework are:



to improve attainment for all, particularly in literacy and numeracy



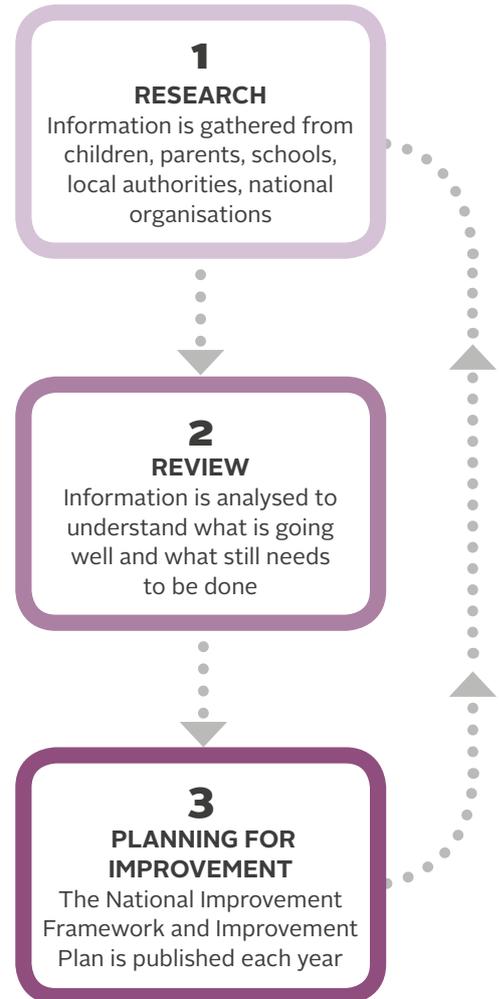
to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing



to close the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children



to improve employability skills and sustained positive school leaver destinations for all young people.

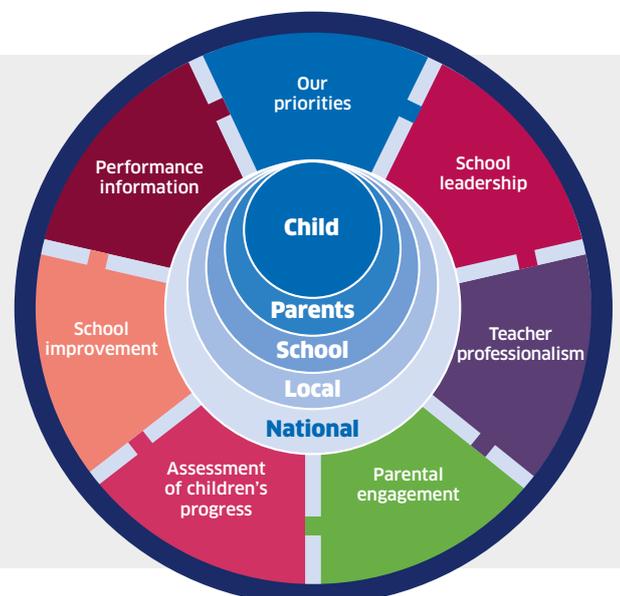


What improves children's learning and their health and wellbeing?

Research shows that several factors (or 'drivers for improvement') make a difference (see diagram to the right).

These drivers for improvement are:

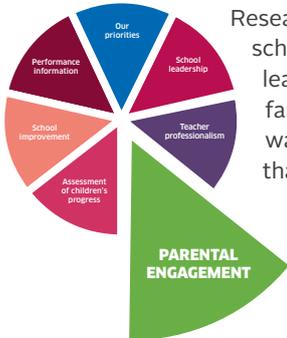
- parental engagement (your involvement in your child's learning and school-life)
- assessment of children's progress (how are children doing?)
- school leadership (headteacher training)
- school improvement (what else can schools do to help children?)
- teacher professionalism (teachers' ongoing learning and development)
- performance information (qualifications, awards, achievements).



What does this mean for me and my child?

As parents, we are able to be informed and engaged when schools share information with us about what our children are learning, about how they are doing and about the school. Good communication between schools and families ensures that children feel supported and encouraged.

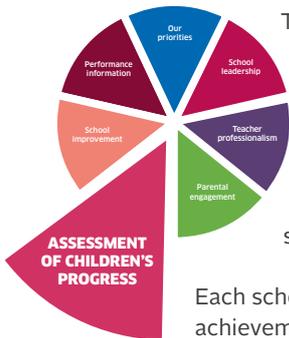
Parental Engagement



Research has proven that children are motivated at school when we show interest in our children's learning and when we support their school. When families learn together and value education, children want to try hard and do well. They also understand that we can all learn and improve throughout our lives.

The role of parents in schools, as helpers or as representatives of other parents on parent councils, is also crucial. Everyone benefits when parents work with school staff to enhance and improve the school. Parents, teachers and children all need to know how the school is doing, in order to be able to build on strengths, fill any gaps and to plan for improvement. Open and honest discussion and the sharing of information make improvement possible and help to build a strong school community.

Assessment of Children's Progress



Teachers use formal and informal methods of understanding how children and young people are doing. For example, in the Broad General Education (from P1 to S3) teachers may gather information from talks, projects, tests, group work and displays so that schools, children and parents know when each curricular level has been achieved. Then the next steps in learning can be planned for every child.

Each school then shares general information about the achievement of curricular levels with parents councils, the local authority and the Scottish Government.

As part of ongoing class assessments, children also undertake the Scottish Government's online standardised assessments in P1, P4, P7 and S3. Teachers and children can immediately use the findings of these to track progress and consider next steps.

The leaflet *Assessing Children's Progress: A Guide for Parents and Carers* explains more about this.

In the Senior Phase, information about qualifications, awards and what young people do when they leave school is fed into the annual National Improvement Evidence Report.

Progress with meeting targets to improve health and wellbeing is also reported on.

This way, we can all see how Scottish education is doing and what needs to be done next, which is set out in the National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan.

Useful Information

National Parent Forum of Scotland

Our Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell guides for parents/carers will give you more information about assessment, progression, qualifications and awards.
www.parentforumsScotland.org

National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan

www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework

National Improvement Framework Evidence Report 2016

www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/2207

Education Scotland's Parentzone Information on the National Improvement Framework

http://bit.ly/National_Improvement_Framework

Assessing Children's Progress: A Guide for Parents and Carers

www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parent-leaflet-assessing-progress.pdf

Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell

<https://wp.me/p8ouZV-25X>



 the National Parent Forum of Scotland

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