

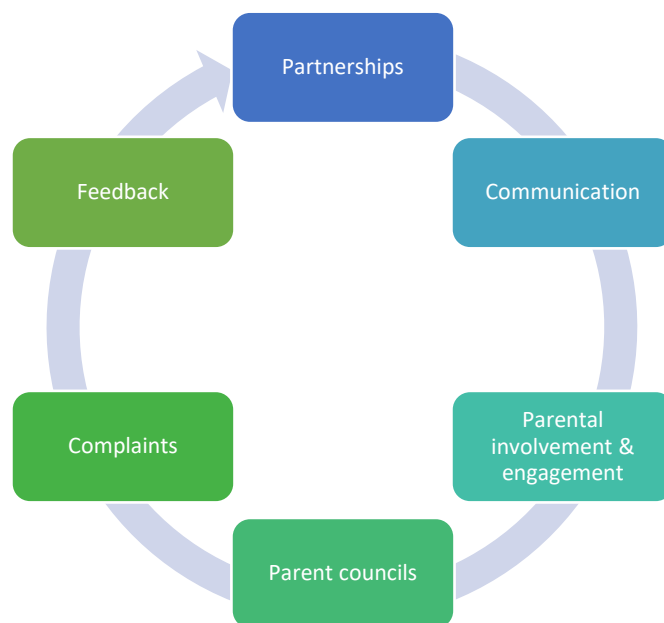


Argyll & Bute Council

Parental Engagement & Involvement Strategy

2025-2028

*A strategy to engage **all** parents and carers*



Introduction

Our vision, set out in our Our Children, Their Future, is that we want Argyll & Bute to be the best place to grow up. We want young people and families to remain in this area, and be attracted to live here. A key part of that vision is to strengthen high quality partnership working and community engagement. We recognise that most of a child's development takes place out with our schools and early years' establishments and therefore the role of families and carers is critical to ensuring our children and young people succeed. We want to support families to engage meaningfully in their child's education.

"Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life." Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

National Context

In July 2024, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child became statutory in Scotland. Article 5 of this convention clearly states that: *Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child's increasing capacity to make their own decisions.*

Education Scotland's Strategic Framework for Parental Involvement and Engagement, highlights the barriers to involving parents and families from 2011 to 2022 have significantly increased. This illustrates the importance of an active PIE Strategy to ensure that we can address such barriers. The National Improvement Framework highlights parent/carers engagement and family learning as one of 6 drivers in improving educational outcomes achieved by children and young people.

Parental Involvement and Engagement Census

The national Parental Involvement and Engagement Census 2022 data highlighted the following, as areas that parents/carers within Argyll & Bute were overall satisfied with:

- school staff are approachable and can be contacted within school opening hours.
- school staff respond helpfully to questions and comments.
- parents are kept well informed about their child's learning.
- the cost of school activities is affordable.

What we need to do to improve

The Parental Involvement and Engagement Census 2022 data highlighted the following as areas where overall parents/carers within Argyll & Bute felt more could be done:

- involve parents in the development of key policies and strategies
- Increase opportunities for parents/carers to be involved in the life of the school
- improve information for parents about how to help their child learn at home.
 - provide support for parents to understand children's rights.
 - Continue to build on and strengthen relationships between all families, practitioners, and senior leaders.
 - Continue to support settings to be open and encourage the involvement of parents in the work they do.

- Continue to provide useful information for parents to ensure they are well informed including information about ways to help with their child's learning at home and to support parents' understanding of children's rights.
- Increase opportunities for family learning and improve the sharing of information about family learning opportunities with families and settings.
- Continue to identify and reduce barriers to parental involvement and engagement.

Parent Councils

Through the Parental Advisory Group we identified the following priorities to support the role that Parent Councils undertake:

- Increase engagement in Parent Councils
- Improve training and support for Parent Councils
- Develop an induction approach for new Parent Council Chairs
- Further develop training for Parent Council involvement in the appointment of Head Teachers/Depute Head Teachers
- Increase engagement in School Improvement Plans
- Increase awareness of the work of Parent Councils with the Parent Forum

Children and Young People Identified

- More opportunities for parents and carers to come into school to allow them to show the learning that was taken place.
- Improve parent/carers confidence in supporting them in relation to their health and wellbeing and school work/studies
- Children's Rights are understood and respected by all

Key Objectives

Argyll & Bute's Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy creates a framework for strengthening the partnership approach to delivering improved outcomes for children and young people through:

- Strong partnerships
- Positive and purposeful communication
- Support for learning at home
- Support for Parent Councils
- A clear complaints procedure that provides opportunity for resolution
- Feedback to all stakeholders

1. Partnerships

We are committed to building and developing strong partnerships with parents. This means:

- All parents will be welcomed and actively encouraged to become involved with and participate in the life and work of the school and early years' establishment. Schools and early years' establishments will make developing partnerships with parents a priority in school improvement plans.
- Parents will be given opportunities to discuss and agree with school and early years' establishment staff any particular types of support to suit individual parents' needs and circumstances.
- Schools and early years' establishments will identify and reduce potential barriers to parents becoming involved with the life and the work of the school and early years' establishments.
- Parents will have opportunities to contribute to school and early years' establishments' improvement plans and policy development.
- Schools and early years' establishments will be asked to identify a member of staff to help promote and support parental engagement.
- We will continue to seek the involvement of parents in the work of education committees through the creation of a Parental Engagement Advisory Group comprising of representatives from Parent Councils.
- A partnership approach will ensure that children and young people have greater confidence in accessing support at home in relation to health and wellbeing and in supporting their child's studies.
- There will be a clear professional learning framework for all teaching staff to understand their role in relation to parental involvement and engagement

2. Communication

We are committed to providing useful information about children's learning and communicating effectively with parents. This means:

- Schools and early years' establishments will communicate regularly with parents providing relevant and timely information about children's learning.
- Schools and early years' establishments will consult with parents about preferences for methods of communication.
- Schools and early years' establishments will consult with the Parent Council about the ways in which they report to parents on children's learning and progress.
- Non-resident parents will be provided with regular reports on their child's learning as agreed with the Head Teacher or Head of Establishment.

3. Parental Involvement & Engagement

We are committed to providing opportunities for parents to share in their child's learning at home. This means:

- Schools and early years' establishments will work with parents to decide how schools can support learning at home.
- Schools and early years' establishments will signpost parents to ways in which they can get support for family learning at home or in the local community.
- Schools and early years' establishments will develop and review home learning policies in consultation with pupils, staff and Parent Councils.
- All parents and carers will have the opportunity to come into school to see the learning that takes place within the establishment.
- Parental Involvement and Engagement opportunities will be linked to school improvement plans.

4. Parent Councils

We are committed to supporting Parent Councils to ensure that they have sufficient opportunities to be involved with the life and work of the school and early years' establishments. This means:

- Parent Council Chairs will be supported to complete appropriate training to understand their role
- Head Teachers will be supported with relevant training and advice in relation to supporting the work with their Parent Council
- Schools and early years' establishments will seek views of the Parent Council on the development of the school improvement plans and significant school policy development.
- Parent Councils will contribute to the recruitment of senior school staff with the relevant support and training provided.

5. Complaints

We are committed to help parents resolve any concerns or issues at the earliest opportunity.

This means:

- Parents can bring any concerns directly to their child's school or early years' establishment and can expect the school or early years' establishment to take steps to resolve the concern, working in line with the rights of the child, within five working days.
- Schools and early years' establishments will provide parents with a staff member to contact to resolve any concerns.
- If any parent is not satisfied with the way their complaint has been responded to, parents can make a formal complaint in terms of the Argyll & Bute Council complaints procedure which can be accessed at [Complaints | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/complaints)

6. Feedback

We are committed to seeking the views and opinions of parents/carers, staff and pupils about how we are involving and engaging parents in our settings. This means:

- We will consult with parents and representatives of Parent Councils in the creation and review of this Strategy.
- We will consult with the Head Teacher Advisory Group on the creation and review of this Strategy.
- We will consult with pupils on the creation, review and impact of this strategy
- We will continue to engage in the national PIE Census to evaluate progress in key areas
- We will monitor Connect engagement reports
- We will audit complaints
- We will audit School Improvement Plans
- We will review this Strategy every three years taking into consideration the feedback and monitoring information

Glossary

Parent: Parent refers to the mother or the father of a child or young person, or to any foster carers, relatives or friends who have been given responsibility for looking after or bringing up a child or young person. We will use the term 'parent' or 'parents' to refer to all parents and carers throughout this document.

Parental Involvement: Parental involvement describes the ways in which parents can get involved in the life and work of their child's school.

Parental Engagement: Parental engagement is about parents' and families' interaction with their child's learning. It can take place in the home, at school or in the community.

Family Learning: Family learning encourages family members to learn together as a family. Family learning activities can also be designed to enable parents to learn how to support their child's learning.

Learning at home: Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. It can take place through every day activities that families already do and can overlap with aspects of organised or active learning activities.

Key Documentation

[Guidance on the Scottish Schools \(Parental Involvement\) Act 2006 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

[Learning together: national action plan on parental involvement, engagement, family learning and learning at home 2018 – 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

[Engaging parents and families - A toolkit for practitioners | Resources | Education Scotland](#)

[Education: improvement framework and plan - 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

[Scottish Schools \(Parental Involvement\) Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

[Microsoft Word - QP cover.doc \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

[Empowering parents and carers - agreed draft \(education.gov.scot\)](http://education.gov.scot)

[How good is our school fourth edition - HGIOS 4 | Inspection frameworks | Inspection and review | Education Scotland](#)

<https://education.gov.scot/media/y3pjj4s5/familylearningframeworkapril18.pdf>

<https://www.argyll->

[bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated_files/argyll_bute_vision_strategy_final_web.pdf#:~:text=The%20national%20vision%20and%](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated_files/argyll_bute_vision_strategy_final_web.pdf#:~:text=The%20national%20vision%20and%20)