

Submitted to Take the survey
Submitted on 2022-11-16 14:53:17

Questions

1 What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

Individual pupils need an education that allows that to function within their attainment level in society. This should mean that whilst there are equitable opportunities that bright, able pupils get pushed and less able students are not made to feel like they cannot/are not achieving. The curriculum for exercise has reduced attainment overall because it is so full of tick boxes that do not fulfil learners needs

Education that is adaptive and responds to a range of different abilities. Not something that tries to teach everybody the same thing in the same way because that is 'fairer'

Teachers who are given the resources and the professional freedom to adapt the style and pace of learning according to the needs of the children - and who are not expected to deliver on a range of public health and social outcomes that are the result of underfunding of other public services.

Education that values children and young people and gives them confidence, inspiration and ambition.

Education that reflects the current social and technological environment, so that includes technology to a standard equivalent to most workspaces. Education that includes social and interpersonal skills that are not easy to learn given the current social and technological environment!

One that offers them a range of quality learning experiences to develop skills needed for life.

Inclusive, with additional learning needs well supported. An environment where teachers are able to exercise their professional judgement with autonomy and the curriculum is not overly prescriptive.

Focus on the basics like maths and English but more needed on learning new languages and in staying relevant with new technologies. A focus on resilience, problem solving and adaptability; preparing our young people for a fast paced and ever changing and often uncertain environment.

I wish for an education system where there's time and resources to teach numeracy, literacy, tech and sport but also music, art and drama. I believe that the jobs of the future will require a wide variety of skills. The more versatile the subjects the better.

Every child should be able to find a pathway to success be it through very practical tasks or very theoretical ones.

2 How do we make that a reality?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

The Scottish Government has failed to prioritise education over the last 15 years to the detriment of many children. Classes are full of children with significant additional health needs including mental health and behavioural problems and teachers are not getting funding for support for learning including Pupil Support Assistants, supported teacher-led learning and alternative education opportunities including non academic teaching.

The Scottish Government must increase support available to schools to allow class teachers to focus on individual teaching of all pupils and allow support to be given to those who need additional support needs. Teachers are finding their roles extremely challenging and turnover/recruitment is suffering as a result. Large class sizes make individualised teaching impossible.

Funding - sufficient for schools and for the other public services (health, social services) that support families so that their children are able to learn.

Not trying to 'level the attainment gap' by reducing expectations on everyone. It is not better if everyone has a universally bad experience and outcome.

Recognition that the more complicated social and educational requirements of children and young people require additional funding.

Proper support and funding of teachers - through training and across the profession - to ensure stability and high standards.

By valuing the teachers who inspire the children and support them. By investing in the schools

By giving teachers and local authorities the resources and space to make this happen: allowing them control over budgets and curriculum.

Additional teachers (the current ratios and number of children needing additional support are making effective teaching too difficult), better IT resources (roll out of new technology is far too slow). more training to keep teachers and syllabus relevant. Funding! Funding! Funding!

I wish the Scottish Government would make education the top priority.

3 How can every child and young person's individual needs be supported and addressed in the future?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

By having a teacher who can focus on teaching and not behaviour! A child who enjoys school will thrive but we are aware of the work that parents have to do in helping with learning - a lot of children do not have this support at home.

By giving schools the capacity (financial and otherwise) to respond to their needs.

By allowing schools the freedom to enhance and enrich the core curricular experience through things like trips, out of school opportunities, clubs, etc. At present this is incredibly variable and subject to the view and interpretations of the local authority.

Inclusive experiences should mean allowing everyone to take part, not stopping them happening because of a reluctance to ask for any money from anyone.

I understand that there needs to be a strong emphasis on numeracy and literacy as well as tech, and how all of these are vital in preparing our kids for a future job market, however I think that this very hard-nosed target-achieving approach, especially with younger children, tracks them too early and doesn't account for different learning curves and styles.

Better support in schools for students who are struggling. Focus on creating a calm learning environment. Investment in classrooms and outdoor spaces. Smaller class sizes, more music

In participating in the school community and having a say in things that matter to them (which happens in their primary school already). They will be supported if the teachers and school staff they are dealing with feel supported by the Scottish Government. Teachers have the knowledge how best to run a school. Their concerns must be listened to.

4 What is one thing that needs to stay and why?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

We currently have an incredible Head Teacher and (probably partly as a result) a very committed and dedicated staff. This has made their learning experience happy and fulfilled. Obviously maintaining this quality of education is key.

Lots of great things being done by our school: focus on school community, building social skills, work on equalities. The teachers show a huge amount of creativity and enthusiasm and the learners are very engaged.

Great school communication. Ability for schools to work within the curriculum to provide the most relevant education.

Curriculum for excellence is a great working document that's does allow for continuous learning

Learning across the year groups. My children benefit from knowing and learning together with younger and older children in the school. It gives them a sense of community and belonging.

The idea of giving every child an iPad is very new - learning about new tech is important. If this is the way or if there are better ways I think time will tell.

My children are happy in their school because they are lucky to have good teachers led by an excellent head teacher. I do have some concerns about the future when the current head teacher retires because it has such a huge influence on how the school is run. The curriculum is enhanced because of the way the staff teach it - on it's own it is uninspiring and clearly not successful.

5 What are the most important priorities for a future Scottish education system?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

Think carefully about what is expected and what can realistically be achieved from individuals.

Emphasise vocation early and give children with less academic potential practical skills that they can apply to manual vocations.

Do not set an average level of attainment that allows more able children to not be encouraged to fulfil their potential.

Empower individual school to act in the best interests of their pupil base and above all delegate funding for support for additional needs learners.

Give children ambition and inspiration to set goals and the tools to achieve them.

Consider the children and young people in all decision making, ensure all schools have the support of outside agencies to create a multi disciplinary approach that puts children's needs first

I would like to see a greater emphasis on finding out where individual kids' strengths lie and helping them explore those, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. This in addition to the very necessary core curriculum in literacy and numeracy.

Focus on ensuring sufficient staff resources to support learners.

Help our young people develop the confidence and range of skills to allow them to persue multiple and varied careers.

I witness that there is a growing number of children with special needs in primary schools across Edinburgh (I don't know and can't tell if that's also the case in Trinity Primary). If inclusion is to work these children will need extra staff and extra resources in order to thrive and in order for all other children to be able to learn without disruption.

Give the teachers and school staff a decent salary and make sure you increase the number of people who actually want to do this all important job!

6 How can we ensure that everyone involved in education in Scotland has a say in future decisions and actions?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points, specifically in relation to articulating the views of parents:

Parental engagement is key to policy making. Alerting parent council bodies to consultations is key although more public messaging should also be encouraged via schools or advertising.

I think there are currently structures which are available to do this: through the parents council, for example.

Through active engagement with schools and parent councils.

Parental engagement is really important, although I think perhaps that my view as a parent is not equal to the professional view of a head teacher who can see things in the round. Parent Councils can do some of this work but we know that they are not always very representative - and the representation at Local Authority level is poor (our Local Authority has one parent rep volunteer representing c100000 parents and no vote on the relevant committee). More direct communication with all parents (not just PC members) is probably required. Connect would seem to be a good organisation in this regard - National Parent Forum for Scotland seems to be a Government department and not representative.

7 How can children and young people be cared for and supported in the future? (i.e. physical and mental wellbeing)

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

In schools that value them as individuals and encourage them in all aspects of their learning

By continuing to attend a school that involves parents and learners

By having enough to eat, a warm house and by living in a society that supports and encourages learning.

At school, by having teachers with the capacity and freedom to respond to my child's needs. And by being supported by a curriculum that develops core skills whilst fostering a love of learning.

After school, by having opportunities and pathways across a variety of industries and opportunities.

8 How can the right of every child and young person to have opportunities to develop their full potential be achieved in future?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

By giving sufficient funding to councils to allow sufficient support to be in place in each school. The councils should be challenged on how they use budgets and accountable for attainment within their areas compared to other areas.

By resourcing schools properly to meet the needs of the children.

By ensuring that the preschool and post school provision are also adequately funded and joined up with the school system.

By fostering a sense of inspiration and ambition for all children.

By focusing on teacher training and ensuring funding for schools is in place

By looking at and mitigating the wider social issues which impact on school learning.

By putting more support into schools.

By placing trust in the teaching staff to make decisions which are right for their school community

9 How can children and young people be helped to learn about our changing world, so they feel able to positively contribute?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

By giving them a voice that is listened to and platforms to speak from. Our school does this well I think

By engaging with them and giving them a voice - at local authority and Government level as well as in the school (which in my experience does it well).

By bringing in people from outside the school - guest speakers, visits to workplaces, etc - to 'round out' the curriculum and put it into context.

School visits from professionals of all sectors - renewable energy, innovative jobs - school visits from people who immigrated, people who make a positive contributions to society. Also in culture.

10 Do you have any other comments that you would like to provide about a vision for the future of Scottish Education?

Please add your response in the text box:

This is the response from the Parent Council of Trinity Primary School in Edinburgh. In responding to this question our members made the following points:

In general, I feel that the efforts of the schools are frustrated by the local authorities and the Scottish Government. These groups have too little engagement with learners and their families - and with school staff - and often focus on the wrong things because they are easier to implement from a policy point of view. Scottish Education seems to have lost its way a bit and it would be great to see standards improve.

Scottish education was once highly regarded in comparison to the rest of the UK. This is no longer the case and attainment is lower than ever compared to England/Wales and particularly Northern Ireland. This is because of government mismanagement and micromanagement - of teachers voices being lost in a politically driven agenda.

The Curriculum for Excellence is the complete opposite of excellent and needs complete overhaul.

11 You are able to upload a file to help summarise your response here (optional):

file upload:

No file uploaded

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Helen Duncan

What is your email address?

Email:

parentcounciltrinity@gmail.com

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

[For Individuals] Are you responding as a: a) learner, b) parent, c) teacher, d) school support staff, e) education practitioner, or f) other?

Select Role:

Other::

[for organisations] What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Trinity Primary School Parent Council

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your discussion response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with the national discussion's survey?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: