Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy

East Renfrewshire Council Education Department 2018–2021
"Children, young people and families are experts when it comes to their own lives and as workers we need to tap into their knowledge and views by building meaningful relationships with them."

INTRODUCTION

1. This strategy outlines East Renfrewshire Council’s commitment to an intensified, more targeted focus on engaging and involving parents in their children’s learning and the life of their child’s school.

2. Education Scotland provide the following definitions of Parental Involvement and Parental Engagement:

   - The term parental involvement relates to the involvement of parents and carers in the life and work of the early learning and childcare setting or school. This can include parent representation on Parent Councils or associations, involvement in establishment self-evaluation and improvement work, and volunteering with fundraising activities or by sharing skills and knowledge to enrich the work, and volunteering with fundraising activities.

   - The term parental engagement most commonly refers to parental (and family) engagement in their child’s learning. This engagement can be at an early learning and childcare setting or school, in the home or the wider community.

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY PLAN

6. The strategy links closely to East Renfrewshire’s current Community Plan with the Scottish Government and will particularly contribute to Strategic Outcomes 2: • East Renfrewshire residents are healthy and active and will particularly contribute to Strategic Outcome 2: • Improve children’s attainment and achievement.

7. It also aligns to the Fairer East Renfrewshire Plan, and outcome 2.1: • Residents have the right skills, learning opportunities and confidence to secure and sustain work.

CONTEXT

8. Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 aims to help parents to be: • Involved with their children’s education and learning • Welcomed as an active participant encouraged to express their views on education. It places duties on school, local authorities and Scottish Ministers to help all parents to be involved in their own child’s learning, be welcomed as active participants in schools, and to be able to express their views on school education generally.

9. The National Improvement Framework for Improvement Plan (2018) builds upon parents’ involvement in the life of their child’s school and encourages parental engagement where parents are truly involved in their child’s learning.

10. The East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Parental Involvement Strategy aims to: • Strengthen parental involvement and representation in the life of schools & early years settings; • Ensure that parents are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child’s learning; • Reduce barriers which limit the involvement and engagement of specific groups of parents; • Improve professionals’ understanding and skills in parental involvement; parental engagement and family learning; • Improve children’s attainment and achievement.

AIMS

8. Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 aims to help parents to be: • Involved with their children’s education and learning • Welcomed as an active participant encouraged to express their views on education. It places duties on school, local authorities and Scottish Ministers to help all parents to be involved in their own child’s learning, be welcomed as active participants in schools, and to be able to express their views on school education generally.

9. The National Improvement Framework for Improvement Plan (2018) builds upon parents’ involvement in the life of their child’s school and encourages parental engagement where parents are truly involved in their child’s learning.

10. The East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) Parental Involvement Strategy aims to: • Strengthen parental involvement and representation in the life and work of schools & early years settings; • Ensure that parents are provided with the information and support that they need to be involved and engaged in their child’s learning; • Reduce barriers which limit the involvement and engagement of specific groups of parents; • Improve professionals’ understanding and skills in parental involvement; parental engagement and family learning; • Improve children’s attainment and achievement.

11. East Renfrewshire’s Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy 2018 – 2021 takes the wider context of a range of local and education priorities and plans that affect children and families.

These are detailed in the following:

- Parenting Strategy
- Early Years Strategy
- Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
- Literacy and English Strategy
- Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy
WHAT WE WANT TO DO AND HOW WE WILL DO IT

Population Outcome
We will ensure we are making good steps along the way.

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Our contribution
So we need to...

Critical Activities
By...

Engaging and involving parents in their child’s education.

Gathering information and support parents in their involvement.

Supporting establishments to develop and enhance support and opportunities for family learning.

Providing professional learning for Family Learning and Involvement.

Strengthening parental involvement and the confidence to secure the future of Family Learning (East Ren).

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Outcome
Outcome Population

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

2. % of educational Settings with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

3. % of parents responding positively regarding involvement of specific groups.

Evaluation of parental learning opportunities provided.

5. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO AND HOW WE WILL DO IT

Population Outcome
We will ensure we are making good steps along the way.

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Our contribution
So we need to...

Critical Activities
By...

Strengthening parental involvement and the confidence to secure the future of Family Learning (East Ren).

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Outcome
Outcome Population

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

2. % of educational Settings with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

3. % of parents responding positively regarding involvement of specific groups.

Evaluation of parental learning opportunities provided.

5. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO AND HOW WE WILL DO IT

Population Outcome
We will ensure we are making good steps along the way.

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Our contribution
So we need to...

Critical Activities
By...

Strengthening parental involvement and the confidence to secure the future of Family Learning (East Ren).

Intermediate Outcome
We will know we are making good steps along the way.

Outcome
Outcome Population

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

2. % of educational Settings with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

3. % of parents responding positively regarding involvement of specific groups.

Evaluation of parental learning opportunities provided.

5. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

2. % of educational Settings with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

3. % of parents responding positively regarding involvement of specific groups.

Evaluation of parental learning opportunities provided.

5. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure childhood and succeed

Critical Indicators

1. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

2. % of educational Settings with a Parent Council / Early Years Group.

3. % of parents responding positively regarding involvement of specific groups.

Evaluation of parental learning opportunities provided.

5. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

8

7
The strategy invites families to work in partnership with schools to help all children achieve the highest of standards whilst reducing inequity and closing the attainment gap.

Consultation
12. In formulating this Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy, East Renfrewshire Council Education Department has demonstrated its commitment to taking into account the views of parents, staff and other related agencies.

Equities
13. An Equities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of this strategy process.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY
14. There are no financial or efficiency implications as proposals will be funded from existing budget.

Partnership working
15. The strategy invites families to work in partnership with schools to help all children achieve the highest of standards whilst reducing inequity and closing the attainment gap.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
16. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department’s and schools’ Standards and Quality Reports.

APPENDIX 2
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
16. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department’s and schools’ Standards and Quality Reports.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
8
APPENDIX 2
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
16. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department’s and schools’ Standards and Quality Reports.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
8
APPENDIX 2
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS
16. The Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis within the Education Department with progress reported to the Education Committee on an annual basis through the department’s and schools’ Standards and Quality Reports.

APPLICABLE MATERIALS
Links to all relevant supporting documents detailed in this strategy:

• Parenting Strategy
• Early Years Strategy
• Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
• Literacy and English Strategy
• Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy

Supporting Materials
Links to all relevant supporting documents detailed in this strategy:

• Parenting Strategy
• Early Years Strategy
• Early Learning and Childcare Strategy
• Literacy and English Strategy
• Numeracy and Mathematics Strategy

Indicator
2017-2018 Value
2018-2019 Target
2019-2020 Target
2020-2021 Target
1. % of parents responding positively regarding levels of engagement in their children’s learning (Education Department’s parental questionnaire Q12).

2. Evaluations of professional learning opportunities provided to staff.

3. % of establishments with family learning strategies / programmes.

4. % schools with a Parent Council / Early Years Settings with a Parent Group (Assessment Established)

5. % of educational establishments achieving Family Friendly Accreditation at bronze or above (including all 3 sectors)

6. % of parents responding positively in the department’s parental questionnaire regarding:

- I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem (Q14)
- I am kept informed about the work of Parent Council and/or parent association (Q15)
- I feel encouraged to be involved in the work of Parent Council and/or parent association (Q16)

3 year average 78%
East Renfrewshire Council Education Department 2018–2021