

Consultation Questions
Section 1

1. Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4 and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in Scotland? If not, why not?

Yes, I agree.

2. Do you agree that the language initiatives described on pages 6 – 12 and elsewhere

In the main, although I am concerned about the

<i>are the key areas for language promotion in Scotland? If not, why not?</i>	position of Scots.
3. Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?	Mostly, but I fail to see how Scots will be promoted with respect and pride if the Executive fails to name it specifically.
<i>4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</i>	<p>I would like to express my concern that Scots is not specifically named in the new 3-18 Curriculum for Excellence guidelines. I feel that the 1991 guidelines for 5-14 English language have played a big part in the teaching of Scots in the classroom, and worry that without specific mention Scots would be pushed into the educational background once again. As a class teacher in the middle of a Scots language topic, I have witnessed first hand the sheer joy in children when they realise that their natural language is a legitimate one. They have gone home at the end of the day and passed what they have learned on to their parents - many of whom were taught when Scots was still considered a 'dirty' language, or worse, that it was 'bad English'. This has generated some wonderful conversations, both in class and in homes. We had a very successful Scots assembly during which the children were clearly very proud of their language and the response from parents was fabulous. The children are much more comfortable with language knowing that Scots and Scottish English can live side by side. What guarantee would there be for classes of the future to share this knowledge were the Scottish Executive to omit Scots in the new curriculum? The recent upsurge of Scots literature, for adults and children alike, is tantamount to its popularity at home and abroad. As a language graduate I am fully aware of language diversity in Scotland, but as a Scot and a teacher I feel strongly that Scots should be given specific mention alongside Gaelic, Urdu, Punjabi and Polish. It would be shameful were we to allow this beautiful and ancient language to be relegated by neglecting to promote it through the curriculum. I urge you not to let this happen and to reconsider the position of Scots in the new guidelines.</p>
5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the strategy?	