

# respondee information form

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: Mrs Gwyn Abernethy

Postal Address: Pier House,  
Skipness,  
By Tarbert, Argyll PA296 XT.

Consultation title: **Making the difference – Improving parents’ involvement in schools**

**1. Are you responding as:** (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual?  (go to 2a/b)
- (b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation?  (go to 2c)

**2a. INDIVIDUALS:**

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
- No, not at all

**2b. Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address





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**Community Services**

Director: Douglas Hendry

Mrs G Abernethy

**Skipness Primary School**

Skipness By Tarbert Argyll PA29 6XT  
Tel: 01880 760 246 Fax: 01880 760 246

Our Ref: Your Ref:

If phoning or calling please ask for:

e-mail: enquiries@skipness.argyll-bute.sch.uk

31 May 2005

Parental Involvement Bill Consultation  
Scottish Executive Education Department  
Schools Division  
Area2-B North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Dear Sirs

**Parental Involvement Bill Consultation**

As a teaching head teacher in a small rural school with over 25 years experience in both primary and secondary sectors, I am horrified at this draft bill. The questionnaire in the draft document was decidedly loaded and so I prefer to write my submission.

Parent forums as suggested would degenerate within a few months to a shambles and the credibility of education further damaged because:

1. The parents you wish to target will immediately feel threatened by suggestions that they form their own constitution and bureaucracy would once again frighten off the majority of parents.
2. Small groups of articulate parents each with their own agenda will vie with each other to further their own particular cause.
3. The most extreme views campaigned by the most vociferous (precluded from appointment to a School Board by the voting system) would be heard.

We are fortunate in this small rural school that all parents support the School Board and most have at some time been a member of the board. There has been reluctance to become involved on occasions. However every parent is needed in our situation and we ensure a non threatening environment once people have been appointed, with the result that parents feel comfortable and are pleased to support the school. We have had very successful School Board socials involving the local community. The answer to greater parent involvement lies in reducing the bureaucracy of the existing School Board system and ensuring an open, welcoming environment for all parents, where they can gradually become more involved in the life of the school.

I urge you to abandon this proposed bill, as it will not attract any more parents than at present and do untold damage to the education system.

Yours sincerely

Head Teacher  
**Mrs G Abernethy**



Schools Curriculum Award  
2000



**2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes No **3. SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT**

We will share your response internally with other SE 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 the SE to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes No