

**Respondee information form**

996  
(English version)

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

Name: Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Address: Darach House, Stoneyfield Business Park, Inverness. IV2 7PA

Title of consultation: **MAKING THE DIFFERENCE –  
INVOLVING PARENTS BETTER IN SCHOOLS**

1. Are you responding as:

- an individual?   
**on behalf** of a group or organisation?

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

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

Yes

No

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

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 Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No

## **MAKING THE DIFFERENCE – INVOLVING PARENTS BETTER IN SCHOOLS**

### **CONSULTATION QUESTION TEMPLATE [ FOR PARENTZONE]**

***Question 1: Do you agree with the placing of a new duty on education authorities to promote parental involvement?***

Yes. Given the responsibility that Local Authorities currently have for the delivery of education and school services at local level it makes sense to strengthen the system through a, joined-up, strategic approach to parental involvement. Furthermore, planning at a local level permits a flexible and consistent approach tailored to meeting regional demands and needs. This would be particularly useful in meeting the varying levels of demand for Gaelic education provision across Scotland.

***Question 2: Do you agree that education authorities should be required to prepare new Strategies for Parental Involvement (SPIs)?***

Yes. This provides a good opportunity to take cognisance of recent developments in legislation such as the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, as well as Ministerial and government priorities such as Health, Youth Initiatives and Education Guidelines. More active parent involvement will also enable more effective focus on initiatives to promote sports and exercise among young people, combating such problems as obesity and thus securing, for example, health service cost savings in the future. Initiatives on other issues, such as racism, could similarly be effectively focussed through parents.

***Question 3: Do you agree that incorporating these Strategies in existing Annual Statements of Education Improvement Objectives and School Development Plans (as set out in the 2000 Act) is the right way for education authorities to set out their intentions? Or should this be done in some other way?***

Yes, parental input is a fundamental aspect of the education process. It is most important that as the involvement of parents in their children's schooling, should be supported through legislation, and such strategies, annual statements and plans should benefit from being integrated with the existing reporting formats. The process requires to be further strengthened through a robust reporting framework that permits an informed analysis of performance by education authorities. It is essential that the current reporting requirement, in respect of Gaelic needs and requests, is extended.

**Question 4: Do you agree that the current system of parental representation i.e. School Boards, should be replaced by a more flexible system of parent forum, as decided locally by the parents, in a way which best suits them and their school best?**

No, there should be a mandatory system to protect the interests of key stakeholders such as staff-members, parents, pupils and authorities.

The Bòrd supports the idea of expanding parent involvement in a parent forum structure, but such a structure should be based on the existing school boards.

Where schools feature parallel education streams, such as English and Gaelic medium, a system of proportional representation would be highly desirable. It would also be beneficial to those schools that teach Gaelic as a subject to have a Gaelic representative on their forum.

**Question 5: The Bill does not prescribe the means of appointment to the new forums (elections to Boards are mandatory) but provides for parents to decide this locally. Do you agree?**

No. A standard means of appointment is essential. Having to negotiate the design and delivery of a means of appointment could act as a disincentive to parents. A basic procedure with in-built flexibility for amendments would seem to be a more realistic and practical route to the establishing of a Parents Forum. The system currently in place for school boards is sufficiently robust

**Question 6: Do you agree that education authorities should have a new duty to promote the establishment of a parent forum in each school and to support their operation?**

Parent forums SHOULD be promoted, but as a means of further strengthening the current school board system which seems to satisfy such needs in a workable manner.

The support and encouragement of the education authority is paramount if such forums are to be successful.

**Question 7: Should the Bill provide for 'composite' parent forums where this is the preferred option of parents in each school, in a combined school, or cluster of schools?**

Where such composite forums are formed membership should reflect a representational balance as a means of promoting a culture of inclusion within the organisation

**Question 8: Do you agree with the proposal for the involvement of education authorities to get the initial parent forum off the ground? If not, what alternative would you suggest?**

The current arrangement for the establishment of school boards is sufficiently robust

**Question 9: The draft Bill leaves the forum's 'constitution' to be determined locally, either by the parents or initially under the education authority scheme. Do you agree with this approach? If not, what alternative would you suggest and why?**

No. Whilst elements of the constitution should be determined locally, a requirement should be in place that such constitutions should be aligned with regional and national strategies for education.

**Question 10: Do you agree that membership of a parent forum should be confined to parents (the broad definition) of children attending the school or individuals co-opted by the parent forum? Should parents always be in the majority?**

No, membership of a parent forum should not be confined to parents. Specialised input gained through non-parent members can be of significant benefit to such forums and also act as a source of independent objective views of parent-centred issues.  
However, parents should always be in the majority in such a forum.

**Question 11: Do you have a view as to how the needs of looked-after children should be addressed and catered for in the Bill?**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not feel specifically qualified to comment on this.

**Question 12: Do you agree that the Bill should not result in parent forum members being subject to automatic disclosure checks but that members, like any other parent, should only be checked when engaging in activities defined under the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003?**

No. All appointees should undergo disclosure checks as a matter of form.

**Question 13: *On balance, do you agree that 'rights of attendance' for certain non-members of a parent forum should not be a part of the new arrangements? In other words do you agree that non-members of the parent forum should attend only by invitation, or do you believe the headteacher should have the right to attend, with the councillor or other individual by invitation?***

The head-teacher should always have the right to attend meetings, relating to his/her school.

It is also essential that forum meetings are open to attendance by parents, and the local councillor, as observers. Any input to a meeting by observers should be strictly at the invitation of the meeting chair.

**Question 14: *Do you consider these functions appropriate to parent forums? Would you suggest removing or adding any, or making some obligatory and others optional?***

No. Amendments to the constitution should be limited to agreed and specific areas.

**Question 15: The Bill has been drafted to allow the parent forum to find out and report the views of parents in the school on any matters which are of interest or concern to them. Do you agree with this open-ended provision or would you suggest defining the areas of interest more restrictively?**

Yes the Bòrd agrees with the proposed focus of the parent forum, and it does NOT support a more restricted definition of their function. Such a restriction could lead to single agenda issues being driven through the Forum, with the potential to impact negatively on its work.

**Question 16: Do you agree that the Bill should designate parent forums as 'agents' of the education authority for the purpose of their dealings with third parties, and that the issue of insurance should be looked into further? Or do you take an alternative view?**

Although the forums could have a significant impact on the effective promotion of local authority policy at grass-roots level, such actions should not be undertaken by parent forums acting as agents of the Local Authorities.

**Question 17: Are these the appropriate obligations to place on education authorities in relation to their working with parent forums?**

Yes, as a minimum.

**Question 18: Do you agree with the provisions requiring education authorities to provide financial support or support in kind to parent forums or would you suggest alternative arrangements?**

Agree that education authorities should support them.

**Question 19: Do you agree with the proposed duty on education authorities to provide advice and information to individual parents on request, on matters relating to the education of their children?**

Yes. Given that agreed timescales and procedures are in place.

**Question 20: Do you agree that education authorities should be enabled to replace the current system of appointing headteachers and deputy headteachers with more modern, flexible processes and procedures?**

No. The current system operated by the school board is proven as a robust and practical means of engaging with the recruitment and selection of head-teachers.

**Question 21: If you do not agree that the principle of parental involvement should be retained by the involvement of parent forums in the new senior appointments processes, please give your reasons.**

**Question 22: Do you agree with the proposal to require education authorities to establish complaints procedures in relation to the way they exercise their functions under the Bill?**

Yes. Procedures should be in-line and similar to the complaints procedures that are currently operated by education authorities.

If you wish to reply electronically, please email your response by **Tuesday 7 June** to [parentalinvolvementbill@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:parentalinvolvementbill@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Or please return it to the following address:

Parental Involvement Bill

Schools Division

Area 2B

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ

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## **Electronic publication and additional copies**

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- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

If you have any comment about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to:

Name: Karen Piaskowski  
Address: Schools Division  
2-B  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

E-mail: [karen.piaskowski@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:karen.piaskowski@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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**Respondee information form Foirm fiosrachaidh neach-freagairt**

Lionaibh a-steach am fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal agus cuiribh còmhla ris an fhreagairt agaibh e, mas e ur toil e. Cuidichidh seo gus dèanamh cinnteach gun làimhsich sinne ur freagairt mar is còir:

Ainm: Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Darach House, Stoneyfield Business Park, Inverness IV2 7PA

Seòladh: Darach, Fèith nan Clach, Inbhir Nis, IV2 7PA

Tìotal Co-chomhairleachaidh: **A' dèanamh an eadar-dhealachaidh – A' leasachadh com-pàirteachas phàrantan ann an sgoiltean**

1. A bheil sibh a' freagairt mar: (cuiribh strìochag ann an aon bhocsa)

- neach fa leth?
- as leth buidhne?

2a. DAOINE FA LETH:

A bheil sibh ag aontachadh gum bu chòir ur freagairt a bhith ri fhaotainn gu poblach (ann an leabharlann RA agus/no air làrach-lìn RA)

Tha

Chan eil

2b. **Far nach eil dìomhaireachd air iarraidh**, bidh ur freagairt ri faotainn gu poblach air an stèidh a leanas (cuiribh strìochag air aon de na bocsaichean a leanas)

- Tha, dèan mo fhreagairt, m' ainm agus mo sheòladh poblach
- Tha, dèan mo fhreagairt poblach, ach fàg às m' ainm agus mo sheòladh
- Tha, dèan mo fhreagairt agus m' ainm poblach, ach fàg às mo sheòladh

2c. AS LETH BUIDHNEAN:

**Bidh** an t-ainm agus an seòladh agaibh mar luchd-fhreagairt ri fhaotainn don phoball (ann an leabharlann RA agus/no air làrach-lìn RA). A bheil sibh riarachtaichte gum biodh ur freagairt ri faotainn cuideachd?

- Tha
- Chan eil

3. A' ROINN FHREAGAIRTEAN/DOL AN SÀS SAN ÀM RI TEACHD

Roinnidh sinn ur freagairt air an taobh a-staigh le sgiobannan poileasaidh RA eile a dh'fhaodas a bhith a' dèiligeadh ris na cùisean air a bheil sibhse a-mach. Ma dh'fhaoidte gum biodh iad airson bruidhinn ruibh a-rithist anns an àm ri teachd, ach feumaidh sinn cead bhuaibhse airson sin a dhèanamh. A bheil sibh deònach gun cuireadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba fios oirbh a-rithist anns an àm ri teachd co-cheangailte ris an fhreagairt co-chomhairleachaidh seo?

- Tha
- Chan eil

**A' Dèanamh an eadar-dhealachaidh- a' leasachadh com-pàirteachas phàrantan ann an sgoiltean**

## Co-chomhairle air Dreachd Bile.

### **Ceist 1:**

Tha. Leis an dleastanas a tha aig ùghdarrasan ionadail aig an àm seo airson a bhi a' teàrnadh fòghlam agus seirbheisean sgoile aig ìre ionadail tha e a' dèanamh ciall an siostam neartachadh tro dhòigh aonaichte agus ro-innleachdail airson com-phàirteachas do Phàrantan. A bharrachd air a seo, tha plannadh aig ìre ionadail a' toirt cead airson dòigh sùbailte agus cunbhalach a tha air a' dhèanamh gus feumalachdan agus iarrtasan roinneil a choinneachadh. Bhiodh seo gu sònraichte feumail ann a bhi a' coinneachadh na h-ìrean eadar-dhealaichte dhe na h-iarrtasan airson ullachadh fòghlam Gàidhlig air feadh Alba

### **Ceist 2:**

Tha. Tha seo a' toirt cothrom mhath mothachadh a' thoirt air leasachaidhean ùr ann an reachdais a leitheid Achd a Chànain Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005, a bharrachd air prìomhachasan ministriel agus riaghaltas mar: slàinte, iomartan Òigridh agus stiùireadh Fòghlam. Bheireadh barrachd com-phàirteachas dèanadach phàrantan cothrom fòcas nas èifeachdach a' thoirt air iomairtean airson brosnachadh spòrs agus eacarsaich am measg sluagh òg, a' sabaid duilgheadasan mar dhaoine a tha ro reamhar agus mar sin a' dèanamh tèarainte, mar eisimpleir a bhi a' sàbhaladh airgead anns an t-seirbheis slàinte anns an àm ri teachd. Dh'fhaodadh iomairtean air cùisean eile, mar gràin-cinnidh cuideachd a bhi air an dèiligeadh ri gu h-èifeachdach tro phàrantan.

### **Ceist 3:**

Tha. Tha cur a-steach bho phàrantan na phàirt bunaiteach den modh-obrachaidh foghlam. Tha e glè chudromach mar a tha com-pàirteachas aig pàrantan ann an fòghlam an cuid chloinne, bu choir taic a' thoirt dha tro reachdas, agus bu choir do ro-innleachdan, cunntasan bhliadhnail agus planaichean buannachd fhaighinn bho'n a bhith co-cheàngailte le na cruthan aithisgean a tha ann am bith. Tha am modh-obrachaidh feumail air barrachd neartachaidh tro frèam làidir a tha a' toirt cead airson sgrùdadh fiosraichte a' dhèanamh air obair le ùghdaranan fòghlam. Tha e cudromach gum bi an riatanas air aithisgean, a thaobh feumalachdan agus iarrtasan na Gàidhlig air an leudachadh.

### **Ceist 4:**

Chan eil, Bu choir siostam a bhith ann an àite co-dhiu airson dìon a' thoirt air na h-ùidhean aig na prìomh luchd-obrach mar an luchd-obrach fhèin, pàrantan, sgoilearan agus ùghdaranan. Tha am Bòrd a' toirt taic dhan smuain a tha airson leudachadh com-pàirteachas phàrantan ann an structair fòram pàrantan, ach, bu choir structair den t-seòrsa a bhi stèidhichte air na bùird sgoile a tha ann am bith. Far a bheil struth fòghlam dà chànanaich ann an sgoiltean, an leithid fòghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla agus na Gàidhlig, bhiodh siostam riochdachaidh co-roinneil glè ion-mhiannaichte. Bhiodh e cuideachd na bhuannachd do na sgoiltean a tha a' teagasg Gàidhlig mar chuspair, riochdaire Gàidhlig a bhi air am fòram

**Ceist 5:**

Chan eil. Tha dòigh fastaidh cunbhalach deatamach. Cha bhiodh pàrantan cho deònach nam biodh aca air co-rèitich a' dhèanamh air crùth agus air tèarnadh air dòigh fastaidh cunbhalach. Bhiodh e na bu choltach nan robh modh le sùbuailteach na chòis airson atharrachaidhean airson slighe practaigeach a' dhèanamh airson fòram pàrantan stèidhcheadh.

Tha an siostam a tha ann an àite aig an àm seo airson bùird sgoile làidir gu leòr.

**Ceist 6:**

Bu CHÒIR do fòram pàrant a bhith air a bhrosnachadh, ach mar dhòigh air neartachadh an t-siostam bùird sgoile an àm a tha a rèir choltais a' riarachadh na feumalachdan seo ann an dòigh a tha ag obrachadh.

Tha tàic agus misneachadh dhen ùghdarras foghlam air leth cudthromach ma tha na fòraman gu bhith soirbheachail

**Ceist 7:**

Far a bheil fòraman a tha air an dèanamh suas bho eileamaiden eadar-dhealaichte air an stèidheachadh, bu choir dhan bhallrachd sealltain co-chothrom riochdachaidh mar dhòigh air brosnachadh cultar gabhail a-steach air taobh a-staigh a bhuidheann

**Question 8:**

Tha an òrdachadh aig an àm seo airson a bhith a' cruthachadh bùird sgoile làidir gu leòr.

**Question 9:**

Chan eil. Fhads am bu choir eileamaidean den bhun-reachd bhi air an dìongmhailta gu ionadail, bu choir riatanas a bhith ann gum bu choir bun-reachdan den t-seorsa a bhi co-ionnan le ro-innleachdan nàiseanta agus roinneil airson fòghlam.

**Question 10:**

Chan eil. Cha bu chòir bàllrachd de fòram pàrantan a bhith airson pàrantan a mhàin. Dh'fhaodadh buannachd sònraichte a bhith ann agus fiosrachadh sònraichte fhaighinn bho bùill nach eil nam pàrantan. 'S urrain dhaibh cuideachd sealladh neo-eisimeileach cothromach a' thoirt air cùisean co-cheangailte ri pàrantan. Bu choir don mhòr chuid a bhith nam pàrantan ann an fòram a leitheid.

**Question 11:**

Chan eil Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' faireachdainn gum bu chòir dhaibh iomradh a' thoirt air a seo.

Chan eil. Bu chòir dhan a h-uile neach a' dhol tro deuchainn foillsicheadh mar pàirt den chùrsa.

**Question 13:**

Tha daonan coir aig gach ceannard-sgoile a bhith aig coineamhean, a tha dàimh ris an sgoil aige neo aicse

Tha e cuideachd cudthromach bum bi na coineamhean fòram fòsgailte airson pàrantan agus an comhairliche ionadail mar luchd-amharc. Bu chòir do cur a-steach sam bith bho an luchd-amharc a bhi aig fiathchadh an neach cathrach.

**Question 14:**

Chan eil. Bu chòir do atharrachaidhean air a bhun-reachd a bhith air an cumail gu roinnean àraid agus air a bheil co-ionnan.

**Question 15:**

Tha. Tha am Bòrd ag aontachadh leis am fòcas a chaidh a' chur air adhart airson fòram nam pàrant, agus CHAN EIL e a' toirt taic do mìneachadh nas cuingealaichte den obraich aca. Dh'fhaodadh cuingealaichte den t-seorsa torit air cùisean clàr-gnothaich singilte a bhith air an cur tro'n fòram, a tha comasach buaidh àicheil a bhith air an obair aige

**Question 16:**

Ged as urrain buaidh sònraichte a bhi aig na fòraman air brosnachadh èifeachdach na pòlasaidhean ùghdarrasan ionadail aig ire beachd an t-sluaigh. Cha bu choir gnìomh den seorsa a bhi air an dèanamh le fòraman pàrant a tha ga dhèanamh as leth ùghdarrasan ionadail.

**Question 17:**

Tha. Mar cuid as bu lugha.

**Question 18:**

Ag aontachadh gum bu choir ùghdarrasan ionadail a bhi a' toirt taic dhaibh.

**Question 19:**

Tha. Ma tha dòigh-obrach agus clàr-ama ann an àite.

**Question 20:**

Chan eil. Tha an siostam a tha air obrachadh leis a bhòrd sgòile dearbhte mar dhòigh làidir agus practaigeach airson a bhith taitneach le taghdadh agus togail ceannardan.

**Question 21:**

**Question 22:**

Tha. Bu choir do dhòighean-obrach a bhi ann an lòine agus coltach ri dòighean-obrach airson gearrain a tha air an obrachadh le ùghdarrasan foghlam.

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E-mail: [karen.piaskowski@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:karen.piaskowski@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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