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## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS POLICY**

**Report by Service Director Children & Young People**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EDUCATION)**

**20 January 2015**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out a refreshed and revised Parental Involvement Policy for Scottish Borders Council replacing the existing policy approved in 2006.**
- 1.2 This updated policy comes as a result of a comprehensive piece of work involving teachers, parents and pupils and reflects the significant changes that that occurred in education since the original policy and the adoption of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.
- 1.3 The new policy also takes into account the findings of an extensive self-evaluation exercise held in 2012 which looked at "How well are parents involved in the life and work of our schools".
- 1.4 The policy reaffirms that when parents, carers and family members are effectively engaged in their children's learning, there is likely to be a positive impact on educational outcomes.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **2.1 I recommend that the Committee:-**

- (a) Approves the revised Parental Involvement in Schools Policy as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Scottish Borders Council produced a previous version of the Parental Involvement Policy in 2006 which covered all legal requirements of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 and was intended to support the establishment of Parent Councils in all Scottish Borders Schools. A Parental Working group worked together to establish the principles that they felt were important to develop a policy that had meaning for both parents and schools.
- 3.2 Parental Involvement in Scottish Borders Schools has evolved significantly since the original policy was written. The introduction of Curriculum for Excellence and the implementation of Journey to Excellence facilitated by HMIE have both contributed to a higher level of understanding the importance placed on Parental Involvement.
- 3.3 In 2011/2012 Scottish Borders Council conducted a Validated Self Evaluation into "How well are parents involved in the life and work of the school". This resulted in a series of recommendations that have been used as a starting point for this policy refresh.
- 3.4 A small working group of parents and teachers was set up to review the policy with the additional information available and redraft the policy to take account of new developments and recommendations.
- 3.5 Consultation with Parent Councils and Pupil Councils commenced in September 2013. This policy reflects the feedback from that consultation.

### **4 AIMS OF THE POLICY**

- 4.1 The aims of this policy are:
  - (a) To ensure parents and staff are aware of their role as partners in the education of children and of the complimentary roles they perform.
  - (b) To build good relationships between parents and school staff by encouraging mutual trust, respect and realistic expectations.
  - (c) To ensure effective communication between home and school.
  - (d) To ensure parents are provided with opportunities to increase their understanding of the education their child receives.
  - (e) To assist parents to feel welcomed and involved in the life of their child's school.
  - (f) To support parent groups such as Parent Councils to play a valuable role in building good relationships between and among parents, schools, support agencies and the wider community.
  - (g) To encourage all parents, through the parent forum, to express their views on their child's education in general and have confidence that their views will be listened to.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1 Financial**

There are no additional costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

**5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

In preparing this report, any risks associated with the approval of this policy have been considered and no specific concerns need to be addressed.

**5.3 Equalities**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

**5.4 Acting Sustainably**

There should be no detrimental economic, social or environmental effects in adopting this revised policy.

**5.5 Carbon Management**

This revised policy will have no effect on carbon emissions

**5.6 Rural Proofing**

This section should only be completed if this is a new or amended policy or strategy.

**6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council are being consulted and any comments received will be incorporated into the final report.

**Approved by**

**Carol Kirk**

**Service Director Children & Young People**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:**

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Lisa Anderson can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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