

Closing the Gap

Reducing the link between deprivation and poor educational attainment in Scotland

Our Vision

Our National Performance Framework highlights our ambition for our children and young people to grow up to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Scotland should be the best place to go to school. We want each child to enjoy an education that encourages them to be the most successful they can be and provides them with a full passport to future opportunity.

To achieve this, we need to raise attainment consistently and for all our children and young people, and progressively reduce inequity in educational outcomes.

Children living in the most deprived areas in Scotland are....

6-13 months behind their peers in problem-solving at age 5

11-18 months behind their peers in expressive vocabulary at age 5

Around two years of schooling behind their peers at age 15

This inequity gap holds true for school leavers at every single decile of area deprivation - not just the bottom 20% and most of this variation exists within rather than between schools.

We have a firm foundation in our key policies:

CfE

Curriculum for Excellence is our long-term platform for energising learning and teaching by providing more coherent and flexible learning, aimed at raising standards, improving knowledge and developing skills for learning, life and work for every young person.

GIRFEC

Getting It Right for Every Children is the overarching approach to all our policies and frameworks. GIRFEC is all about keeping the child at the centre, providing early intervention and co-ordinated support.

Early Years

We know that investing in the early years of a child's life can help prevent problems developing later on. This is why we established the Early Years Framework in 2008 and introduced the Early Years Collaborative - a multi-agency local quality improvement programme to put these principles into action.

Teaching Scotland's Future

Will provide a stronger and more coherent early phase of teacher education, enhanced opportunities for professional learning and a greater range of leadership learning opportunities.

What is happening to support this?

Leadership at all levels

The implementation of Teaching Scotland's Future

The establishment of a Scottish College for Educational Leadership

Excellence in Learning and Teaching

Curriculum for Excellence empowers teachers, schools and their leaders the freedom to innovate

Effective interventions

Encouraging collaboration and continuous self-improvement through our Self-Improving Schools Partnership Programme and Pathfinder Schools

Use of Evidence and Data

The establishment of literacy and numeracy hubs across Scotland to facilitate sharing of best practice

Funding for the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre

Engaging with Families and Communities

Providing accessible information through a refreshed Parentzone

Working with schools and the third sector to explore effective links and share ideas

What next?

We need to secure consistent, continuous improvement within our education system to meet the needs to every child.

We want to enable schools to successfully manage their own local improvements that will allow them to meet the particular needs of students, families and communities.

At the same time, we will equip teachers and professionals with the authority, resources and skills necessary to do this.