

Parental Involvement Act 2006

National Parent Forum Scotland – Call for Evidence

See <http://www.npfs.org.uk/2016/09/01/parent-councils-we-want-your-views/>

The Parental Involvement Working Group of the Scottish Catholic Education Service encourages all parents and Parent Councils to respond to this Call for Evidence by the National Parent Forum Scotland.

Parental involvement in Catholic schools is important for all aspects of the life of the school as it aims to build a community of faith and learning. Any Catholic school exists to take forward the responsibility entrusted to parents for the education of their children, an education that is complete and acknowledges all aspects of the development of children and young people: mind, body, emotion, spirit.

Therefore, the Parental Involvement Working Group encourages you to respond to this Call for Evidence. In the course of doing so, you may wish to reflect some of the following points:

- The Parental Involvement Act 2006 has brought about a step change in the approach to parental involvement in education and is seen as a positive development
- The Catholic Church is explicit in stating that parents are the first educators of their children. Therefore, Catholic schools to which parents send their children are bound to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good
- By sending their children to an explicitly Catholic school parents are making a choice of looking for an education in which Gospel values are evident and influence all aspects of the life of the school. This is a positive aspect of education and should not be marginalised or treated as strange. It should be recognised as something that adds to all that the Government seeks to offer through education. It should be celebrated publically. In this way parents who send their children to Catholic schools can know that their choice is supported by Government and is seen as positive
- Parents who send their children to Catholic schools are keen for the school to involve them to the fullest extent in contributing to the life of the school because Catholic schools recognise their need for parents to play a full role if they are to be real communities of faith and learning
- Catholic schools, because they are explicit in the role that faith can play in adding to the life of the school, are able to make connections with the communities of faith – parishes – in the local area. In this way, Catholic schools are able to tap into a wider community involvement that involves parents but goes beyond them
- As in other schools, parental involvement in Catholic schools can be fragile. Therefore, in Catholic schools parental involvement should be nurtured and

encouraged in different ways. In a Catholic school, the senior leadership team should look to build the confidence of parents in contributing to the life of the school. The senior leadership team also should look to involve parents in the faith life of the school so that parents can contribute fully to the religious, spiritual and moral dimensions of the school