

AGREED DRAFT

EMPOWERING SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Introduction

An empowered system expects, and creates, the conditions for all to work within a culture of collaboration and collegiality with learners, parents, colleagues and multi-agency partners. All share a vision for education based on the values and needs of the community.

‘Improving the education and life chances of our children and young people is the defining mission of our Scottish education system. Our shared ambition is to close the unacceptable gap in attainment between our least and most disadvantaged children and to raise attainment for all.’

Education reform - Joint Agreement, June 2018

A wide-range of national organisations have a role in supporting an empowered system. These include professional associations, unions and regulatory bodies. The Scottish Qualifications Authority has an important role as the national awarding and accreditation body. A number of organisations represent Local Government while the Scottish Government and Education Scotland lead in terms of setting policy, supporting quality and improvement. A range of other organisations represent parents and learners at local and national levels.

All organisations have an important role in creating a supportive culture which enable school communities to take key decisions about teaching and learning. Scottish Government and national organisations are part of a collective endeavour and should ensure a coherence of policies, guidance and key documentation.

Policy development at national level should ensure coherence with the principles of an empowered system at all levels.

Principles

In an empowered system, national organisations:

- ensure getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is central to all policies which support children, young people and their families;
- place children and young people’s outcomes at the centre of policy development and decision-making;
- display commitment to strengthening our school and teacher-led system at all levels creating the conditions for school communities to flourish;
- support schools and local authorities in taking decisions that suit the needs of their learners;

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- involve stakeholders in the development of policy and support which affects them, taking a rights-based approach when appropriate;
- promote coherence across policy development; and
- continue to work together to establish a culture of collaboration and collegiality across the Scottish education system.

Resources

- The Joint Agreement on Empowering Schools: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-policy-ambition-joint-agreement/>
- DSM revised guidelines: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/devolved-school-management-guidelines/>
- Empowered System Guidance: <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/an-empowered-system>
- GTCS Standards: <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-standards/professional-standards.aspx>