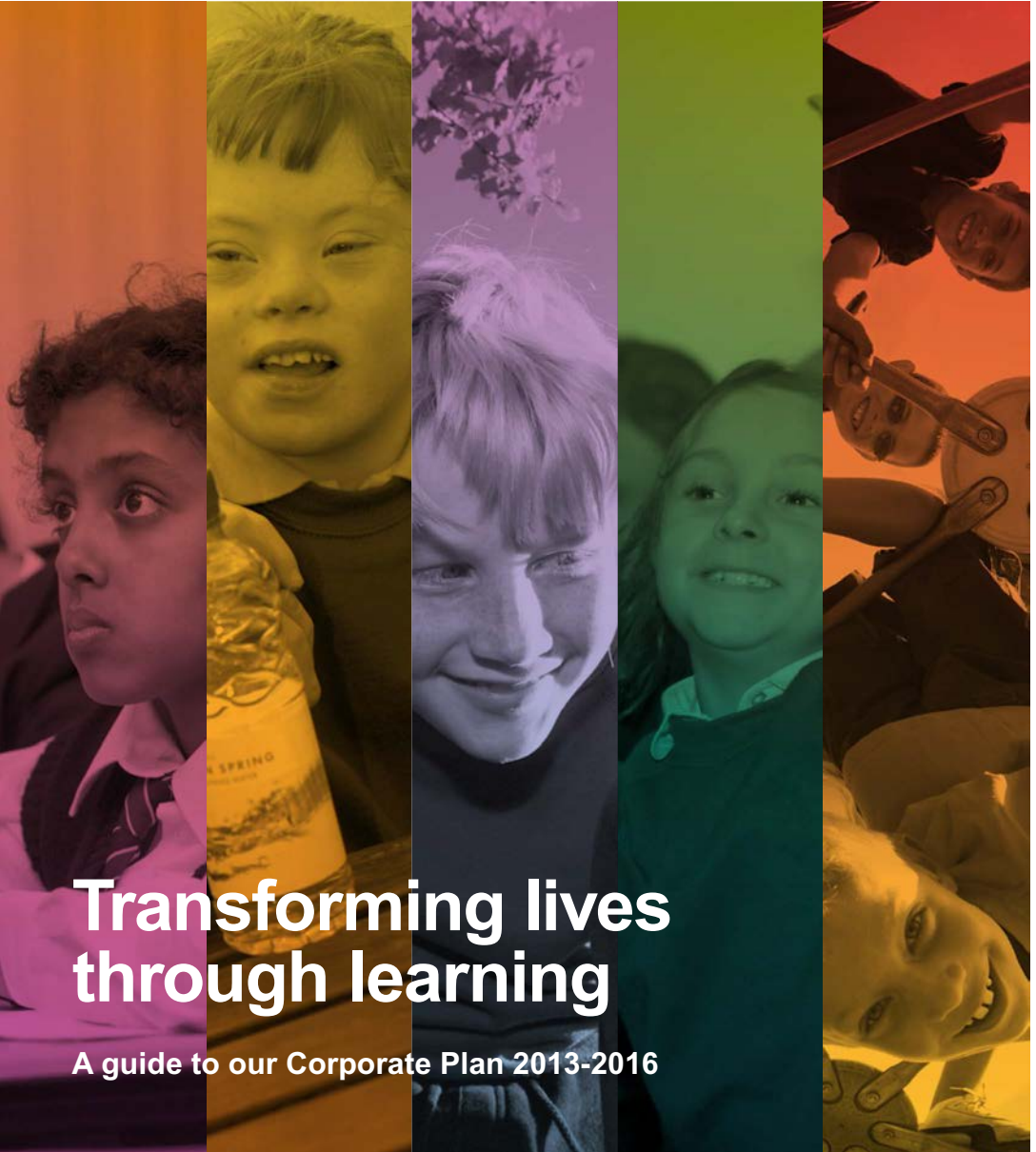




Education  
Scotland  
Foghlam Alba



# Transforming lives through learning

A guide to our Corporate Plan 2013-2016

- **Learners**
- **Parents**
- **Practitioners**
- **Teachers**
- **Directors of Education**
- **Volunteers**
- **Employers**



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# Who we are

## **Our purpose**

Education Scotland is the key national agency for promoting improvement in the quality and effectiveness of education.

## **Our scope**

Set up in 2011, our work covers all areas of education in Scotland for learners of all ages, including early years centres, all types of public and private schools and colleges, community learning and development (CLD), teacher education, voluntary organisations and prison education.

## **Our objectivity**

We are accountable to Scottish Government Ministers but have a high degree of operational independence to ensure we can deliver on our objectives with maximum impact.

## **Our national reach**

One of our unique strengths is that we engage with all educational organisations and providers across the country, which helps us share best practice, inspiration and guidance across the board.

## **Our expertise**

In addition, we have access to the best educational expertise in Scotland and further afield, which means we are using the most up-to-date information and skills to deliver our objectives.

You can find the full version of our corporate plan at [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan)



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Our corporate plan sets out an ambitious strategy for **improving education** in Scotland over the next three years. It contains information on the activities we will undertake to bring about a step change in the quality and equity of Scottish education.

Our ambition is for excellence in all areas of teaching and learning, ensuring that Scottish education ranks amongst the **best in the world**. To make these changes we will work closely with teachers, lecturers and the wide range of other professionals who have a role to play in promoting and supporting learning. We will also provide support to parents of young learners and to learners themselves to help ensure they are all receiving the best possible education.

In setting our objectives for the next three years we **consulted extensively** with other agencies and partners with any responsibilities around education. The outcome reflects a **shared consensus** on the sort of approach that will be successful in promoting improvement in education in Scotland and, more specifically, the sort of role which we should play. We hope you will help us bring about these **important and exciting changes** in education in Scotland in the coming years.

**Our values:**



**integrity**  
**respect**  
**excellence**  
**creativity**

*Learners in Scotland will progress in one of the most effective education systems in the world, renowned for the ability of national and local partners to work flexibly together to achieve high-quality and equitable outcomes for all.*

We have agreed this collective ambition in consultation with our staff and partners. Achieving this vision will mean:

- > **educational outcomes for all learners are improving,**
- > **inequity in educational outcomes is eradicated, and**
- > **public confidence in education is high.**

**The vision**



*We will provide the best blend of national support and challenge to inspire and secure continuous improvement in experiences and opportunities for all learners in Scotland.*

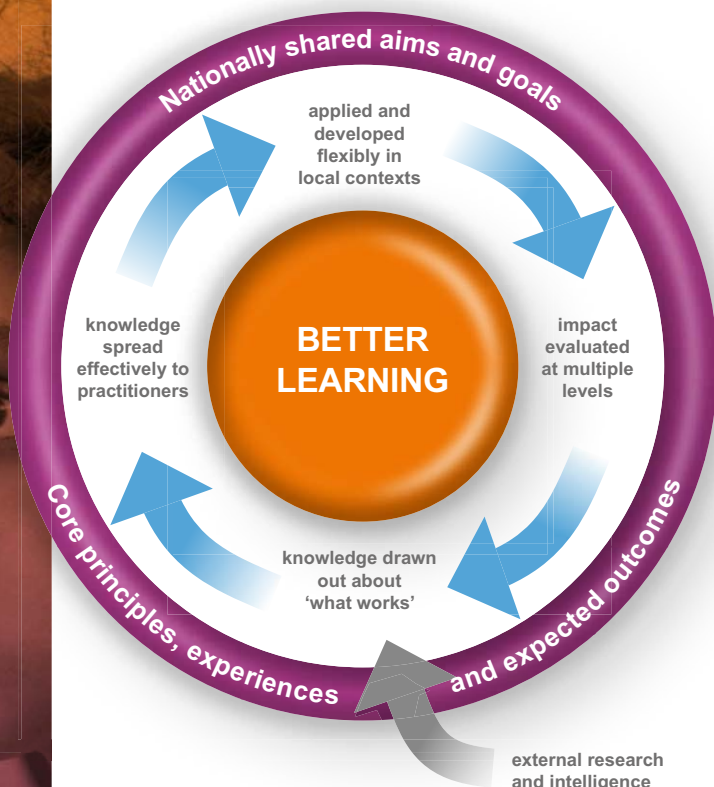


We have developed our mission to highlight the distinctive role that Education Scotland will play in driving the Scottish approach to educational improvement, in our role as Scotland's key national improvement agency for education.

Success will depend on combining effectively our partners' contributions with our own in a joint focus on improving Scottish education.



# Improving education the Scottish way



## Improving education the Scottish way

Evidence suggests that the education system in Scotland is 'good' but with the help of our partners we want it to become a 'great' system. We want to ensure this happens as soon as possible and have designed an approach to accelerate this process.

We want to build and support a learning system in which the strong collective engagement of a highly professional workforce creates a **Virtuous Cycle of Improvement**. This learning system has learners at the centre and relies on a high-quality professional workforce to make it work.



**In prioritising our work over the next three years we have focused on the areas in which we believe we can make the **strongest contribution**.**

Our **strategic objectives** directly support delivery of our vision and mission. They define in more specific terms the key ways in which we believe we can support the collective national effort to give our learners the **best education** we can provide.

The first five of our strategic objectives relate to the intended impact of our external services and activities on **improving the quality** of Scottish education. The sixth strategic objective is internally focused and relates to how we intend to improve our own **capability and effectiveness** as an organisation.

Our strategic objectives have been refined through extensive consultation and detailed research. Within each of these objectives we have set ourselves tasks which will be monitored and measured to ensure we are achieving our objectives.

Here is a taster of how we will deliver on these objectives, for more detailed information visit **[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan)**.



# Our strategic Objectives





## **Strategic Objective 1:** **Build a world-class curriculum for all learners in Scotland.**

We are ensuring that national guidance on the curriculum is established in all areas and that guidance is kept under review to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the years ahead. We also have a lead role in the development and implementation of the new national strategic guidance on community learning and development. We are committed to the development of curricula across other learner groups, such as colleges. We will continue to develop Glow and promote the use of other technologies to encourage the most innovative practice in learning and teaching.

## **Strategic Objective 2:** **Promote high-quality professional learning and leadership amongst education practitioners.**

We are increasing our focus on regular engagement of practitioners in collaborative learning and enquiry. We have a key role to play in promoting and delivering effective professional development opportunities on a national basis, promoting high-quality professional practice both in terms of service delivery by individual education practitioners and the leadership displayed in educational services and establishments.



### **Strategic Objective 3:** **Build the capacity of education providers to improve their performance continuously.**

We believe in building in quality from the ground up. We have a range of ways in which we provide relevant guidance, advice and support to providers across all sectors of education and we encourage effective self-evaluation and improvement through our inspection and review processes. We will continue to develop our work in this area, enhance its impact further and extend it to areas we don't yet reach.

### **Strategic Objective 4:** **Provide independent evaluation of education provision.**

A core part of what we do involves a range of independent inspections and review programmes. We provide objective evidence from evaluations of both current and newly emerging practice, so that education providers can share learning and build on each other's successes.

This complements the growing range of internal self-evaluation evidence. We provide impartial evaluations to drive improvement at individual establishments across regions and at the national level, where we will continue to provide Scotland-wide scrutiny on themes of current national priority.



**Don't become complacent. We can't become complacent. We live in an exciting, ever-changing world full of exciting, ever-changing individuals. Let's keep up with it. Let's celebrate it."**

Pupil, Balfron High School, Stirling

## **Strategic Objective 5:**

**Influence national policy through evidence-based advice.**

As the national education improvement agency we have access to a uniquely broad base of knowledge and evidence from our own evaluative and engagement activities. This, combined with international analyses, allows us to provide high-quality, professional advice in ways that have a positive influence on the policy-making process. Building on our close connections across Scottish Government and with other national bodies, we will engage in increasingly responsive and agile ways in order to maximise our impact in this area.

## **Strategic Objective 6:**

**Improve our organisational capability and invest in our people.**

As a key national agency for education and learning we will seek to be an exemplar learning organisation. This objective reflects our commitment to continuous improvement of our systems and practices. We will focus on our greatest resource, our people, supporting their development and performance, and ensuring we have the right people, with the right skills, in the right roles.

This document provides a brief overview of our corporate plan for the next three years. To learn more about our organisation and how we plan to improve education in Scotland, and to see our full corporate plan 'Transforming lives through learning', please go to **[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/corporateplan)**. We hope you will join us on this journey.



Transforming lives through learning

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**Our corporate plan is available in Gaelic on our website and in other languages upon request.**