

## British Sign Language (BSL) Toolkit for Practitioners



This Toolkit is for practitioners who work with:

- Deaf children, young people and their families
- Parents and carers who use British Sign Language (BSL) and Tactile BSL in education

October 2022

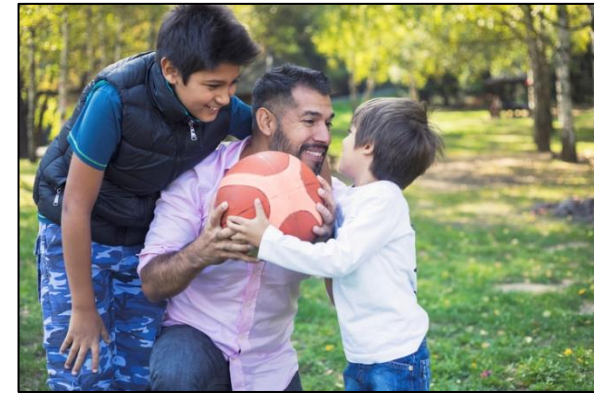


For Scotland's Learners with  
Scotland's educators

## Session 3 – British Sign Language with Deaf children: practical support for parents

18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 6:00-7:00 pm

# Overview



- Key national legislation, standards and rights of British Sign Language users in Scotland
- Understanding how to support your Deaf/hearing child or young person in their setting or school
- Outline of ways that children and young people can stay connected to their friends
- Key available support in Scotland to support parents

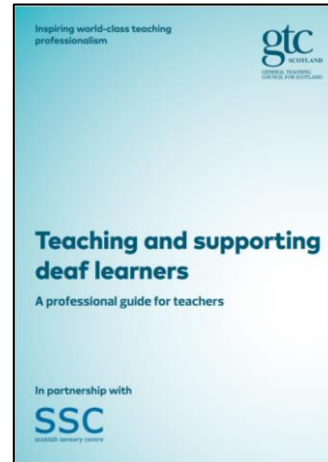
# Examples of key national legislation, frameworks, plans and documents

## Parental Involvement Act 2006 and Statutory Guidance



- ↗ Learning at Home
- Home/School Partnership
- ↘ Parental Representation

## GTCS



## National Plan



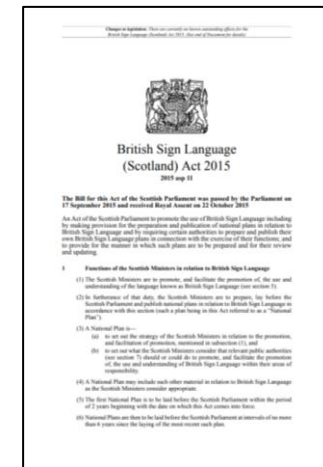
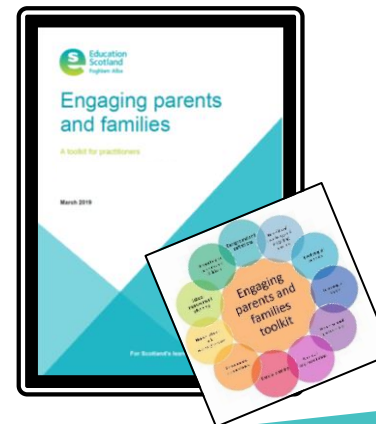
## BSL Toolkit



## National Improvement Framework



## Toolkit



## BSL (Scotland) Act (2015)

# British Sign Language National Plan 2017-23

## 10 long-term goals for BSL in Scotland

The Scottish Government's British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 and National Plan has several long-term goals for BSL in Scotland which include early years and education. One of these goals is to help parents who use BSL to be fully involved in their child's education.

### Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

#### Our long-term goal:

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a D/deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL.



### School Education

#### Our long-term goal:

Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child's education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school.

By 2020, Scottish Ministers will:

#### 16

Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) to remove barriers that make it difficult for BSL users\* to become registered teachers.

#### 17

Undertake additional investigations into the level of BSL held by teachers and support staff working with D/deaf and Deafblind pupils in schools.

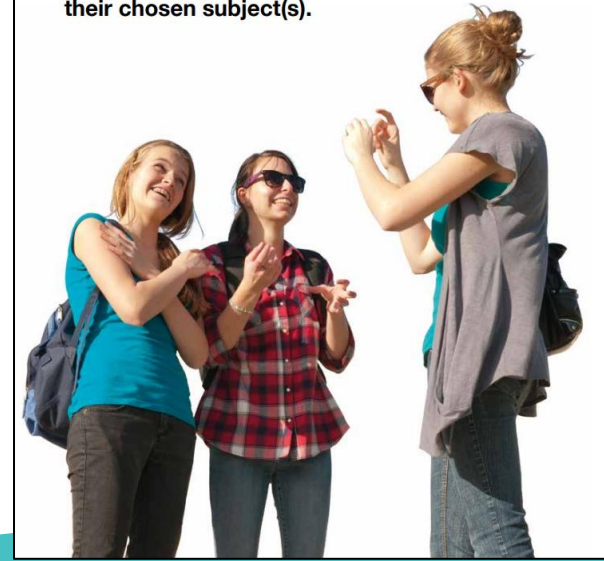


\* Wherever we refer to 'BSL users' we mean D/deaf and/or Deafblind people (those who receive the language in a tactile form due to sight loss) whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language.

### Post-School Education

#### Our long-term goal:

BSL users\* will be able to maximise their potential at school, will be supported to transition to post-school education if they wish to do so and will receive the support they need to do well in their chosen subject(s).



# Local authority British Sign Language Plans

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## British Sign Language Act and national/local plans

For a signed video of content on this page, please visit our [BSL landing page](#).

The Scottish Government's [British Sign Language \(BSL\) Act \(2015\)](#) and [National Plan](#) has several long-term goals for BSL in Scotland which include early years and education. One of these goals is to help parents who use BSL to be fully involved in their child's education. Further information on the BSL Plan is available on the [Scottish Parliament website](#).

### Local Authority British Sign Language Plans

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeenshire Council
- Angus Council
- Argyll and Bute Council
- The City of Edinburgh Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Dumfries City Council
- East Ayrshire Council
- East Lothian Council
- Fife Council
- Glasgow City Council
- Highland Council
- Midlothian Council
- Moray Council
- North Ayrshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Orkney Islands Council
- Perth and Kinross Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- Scottish Borders Council
- South Ayrshire Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- Stirling Council
- West Dunbartonshire Council

Contact Scotland

- [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#) is a Scottish Government service that connects Deaf BSL users across Scotland with all of Scotland's local authorities, voluntary organisations and the private sector. The online BSL Interpreting video relay service (VRS) means that Deaf BSL users can contact any service that relies on telephone contact with their service users or customers. It also means that local authorities, voluntary organisations and the private sector can use this easy and flexible way to interact with Deaf BSL users who access their services.

Related links

[Local Authority Plans - BSL Scotland Act 2015](#)

Local Authority Plans - BSL Scotland Act 2015

## Authority Plans

### Local Authority Plans

A-D E-H I-L M-P Q-T U-X Contacts

Council Area	Link to BSL version	Link to Plan
Aberdeen City	<a href="#">BSL</a>	<a href="#">Plan Document</a>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/bsl/british-sign-language-act-and-national-local-plans/>

<http://bslscotlandact2015.scot/plans/>

# Rights of Deaf children and young people

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

Scottish Qualification Authority:

- Qualifications in BSL for pupils - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65529.html>
- Teachers - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/36298.html>
- Pupils - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/103011.html>
- Deaf BSL users in Scotland can use BSL for [exams](#)
- Rights of children aged 12-15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1GJFMnprY8>
- Extra support in exams - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX3RkPb-eVU>
- BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 promotes that information and services will be accessible to BSL users across the Scottish public sector

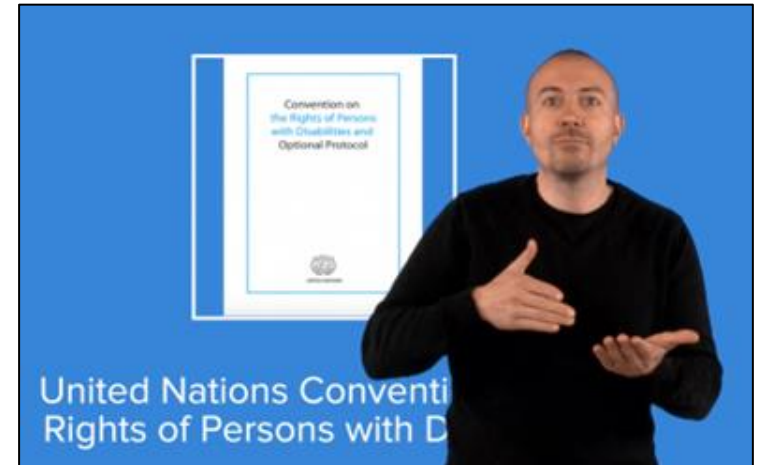


# United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- (UNCRPD) recognises and promotes the use of sign language to allow persons to 'seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice' (Article 21)

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-21-freedom-of-expression-and-opinion-and-access-to-information.html>

**Coming soon** - videos for parents and young people on UNCRPD



<https://www.eud.eu/eud/toolkits/euds-crpd-toolkit-for-nads/>

# Understanding how to support your Deaf/hearing child or young person in their setting or school

- Understanding and engaging with education, settings and schools
- Information for staff in settings and schools

Awareness of BSL, Deaf Culture and Identity	Clear communication channels
Effective communication	Fluency in BSL
Use of the BSL Toolkit	Access to information



# Understanding how to support your Deaf/hearing child or young person in their setting or school (Cont.)

- Involving BSL users in the wider life and work of the setting or school

Parent Council	Improvement planning	School events
Fundraising	Extra-curricular activities	After school and breakfast clubs
Family Learning	Classroom helpers	Open days
Volunteering	Parents evening	Deaf peers and mentoring support

# Outline of ways that children and young people can stay connected to their friends

## Reason:

- British Sign Language users generally have more friends in lower stages of primary but fewer in the upper stages and in secondary.
- Children, both Deaf and hearing, need support to develop relationships.

# Outline of ways that children and young people can stay connected to their friends (Cont.)

## Solutions:

- Provide opportunities for Deaf children to meet other Deaf children at a local and national level informally and at organised events such as Youth Clubs. For example, regular meetings on an online platform could be arranged between a Deaf child from a Deaf family and a Deaf child from a hearing family.
- As a starting point, consider having a regular toddlers' group to provide opportunities for parents to meet and socialise. It is important to ensure that there is at least one fluent Deaf BSL user and a BSL/English interpreter available at the group. Consideration should be given to potential transport issues that might arise for parents.

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Home > Parentzone Scotland

## Parentzone Scotland

Parentzone Scotland provides information and advice about education in Scotland. It includes practical ideas to support learning at home in a variety of curriculum areas, along with information on additional support needs, and tips on how parents can get involved in their child's school and education.

### BSL

Access British Sign Language (BSL) translations for key information and advice to help parents support their children's learning including.

### My child

Find out what your child is entitled to in terms of learning and support as they progress through their education.

### Curriculum in Scotland

This section provides a simple introduction to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence, including information on the Broad General Education and the Senior Phase.

### Learning at home

A positive home learning environment makes a big difference to children's learning.

### My school

Find information on some of the different options available when choosing a school for your child.

### Additional support

Find out about specific support needs and what you can do to support your child.

### Getting involved

As a parent or carer you can make an enormous difference to your child's chances of success in school, at home and in their later life.

### News

Find useful news for parents and carers.

# Information to support learning



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SCOTLAND



# Discussion

- What kind of support would you like to see as a parent?
- What barriers do you experience as a parent?
- What do you feel the solutions are to these barriers?
- What are your experiences of education with your child in their setting/school?
- What support would you like from your child's setting/school?
- Is there any further information you would like on Parentzone Scotland?

## Jamboard:

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1LDtpXxST\\_mZLDVN9q-sWo5mpO0e-ST5O9NycvIEjBTE/viewer?f=7](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1LDtpXxST_mZLDVN9q-sWo5mpO0e-ST5O9NycvIEjBTE/viewer?f=7)

# Case Studies

## Engaging parents in language learning

Moorfoot Primary School and Garvel Deaf Centre -

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/engaging-parents-in-language-learning-moorfoot-primary-school-and-garvel-deaf-centre-inverclyde-council/>



## Good practice in working with deaf learners, their parents and families

St Roch's Secondary School & St Thomas' Primary School -

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/good-practice-in-working-with-deaf-learners-their-parents-and-families-bsl-plan/>

# Contact Details

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