

school boards and parent councils: a comparison



CHOICE



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Size, composition and appointment		
School Boards		Parent Councils
Board size & make-up is a set ratio of parents, teacher and co-opted members. Four 'bands' are based on school roll, eg roll of <500 means 4 parents, 1 teacher and 2 co-opted members; >1500 means 7, 3 & 3 respectively. Parents always have a majority of 1 on the Board	NEW	The school's parent body (the new Parent Forum) will decide the size and composition of their Parent Council 830 out of 1000 parents think parents should be allowed to decide how the Parent Council in their school is organised – MORI poll
Formal elections for School Boards are held every other autumn	NEW	The method of appointing (and co-opting) Parent Council members will be decided by the parents. In denominational schools a church nominee must be co-opted
School Boards have no individual constitutions – the details are set out in statute	NEW	'Model constitutions' will be offered for parents' consideration, but not imposed on them. Parents will be able to make further amendments to the constitution at a later stage
Functions		
School Boards		Parent Councils
Functions to be exercised with a view to raising the standards and quality of school's education	EXPANDED	In future, also to aim to develop children's fullest potential – the wider definition of education in the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000
Promote contact between schools, parents and community	EXPANDED	In future, also with parents of prospective pupils and others (perhaps nurseries, colleges, etc.)
Report at least annually to the parent body on Board activity	CONTINUED	
Ascertain views of parents on matters which are Board responsibilities	EXPANDED	Ascertain views of parents on any matter of interest or concern. 790 out of 1000 parents think that parents should decide what is discussed at Parent Council meetings – MORI poll
Powers		
School Boards		Parent Councils
Request and receive advice, information and reports from education authority or headteacher	CONTINUED	
Make representations to authority or headteacher on arrangements for parent-teacher consultation and on information, statements and reports requested and provided as above	EXPANDED	Representation can be made on any matter of interest or concern to parents or the Parent Council
	NEW	In future, if representations made to an authority or headteacher remain unresolved, a Parent Council may then make them to HMIE
Raise funds, receive gifts and expend sums at their discretion for the benefit of the school, taking account of the headteacher's views	EXPANDED	In future, sums may be expended entirely at Parent Council's discretion
Involvement in appointment processes for headteachers and deputies (specifically at short leet and final interview stages)	EXPANDED	The Bill states the principle of Parent Council involvement in new appointment processes. There will be separate consultations by November on the detail – the intention being that there should be involvement at more than just 2 stages
Appointment of a clerk who, if not a Board member, may be paid	CONTINUED	
Approval of headteacher spend on books and teaching materials, subject to authority guidance and policy	DISCONTINUED	These 3 aspects of 'management' are being discontinued
Fix occasional holidays after consulting the authority	DISCONTINUED	"Boards have no desire to manage their schools" – SSBA President
Control the use of school premises outside school hours, subject to authority direction	DISCONTINUED	Few parents want control over these [3] issues; would prefer to be consulted – MORI focus groups
Education authority and/or headteacher responsibilities...		
School Boards		Parent Councils
Authorities and headteachers to give information and advice, on request	CONTINUED	
Take account of representations received and respond to them	CONTINUED	
Provide financial support including administration, training expenses and other outgoings	CONTINUED	
Provision of financial information, budget & outturn	CONTINUED	In future, on request rather than automatic, i.e. depending on the Parent Council's priorities
Headteacher has a right to attend School Board meetings	EXPANDED	In future, both a duty and a right to attend
Headteacher provides Board with an annual report on pupil attainment	EXPANDED	In future, the annual report will cover school's performance and headteacher's objectives and ambitions for the school. A summary copy will go to all parents
Headteacher informs the Board of policy changes in relation to the curriculum, pupil assessment, discipline, rules and uniform	EXPANDED	Headteacher to have regard to, and respond to, representations from Parent Council for information on or involvement in policy changes, on these 5 or any other matters

Further information about the Parental Involvement Bill

All of the following information is available on www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk

- › The Bill as published on 29th September 2005
- › The Report of the public consultations on the Bill
- › MORI Research on parents' views of the Bill proposals

We have also produced two leaflets about the Bill:

- › A leaflet for parents about the proposed Parent Councils
- › A summary of changes made to the Bill since the consultations

Visit www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk for more information on parental involvement including the *Making the Difference* series of leaflets produced for parents.

For further information, please contact

parentalinvolvementbill@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0131-244 4485

Further copies of this document are available, on request, in audio and large print formats and in community languages, please contact:

اس دستاویز کی مزید کاپیاں آڈیو کیسیٹ پر اور بڑے حروف کی چھپائی میں اور کمیونٹی کی زبانوں میں طلب کیے جانے پر دستیاب ہیں، برائے مہربانی اس پتے پر رابطہ کریں:

এই ডকুমেন্ট-এর (দলিল) অতিরিক্ত কপি, অডিও এবং বড়ো ছাপার অক্ষর আকারে এবং সম্প্রদায়ের ভাষায় অনুরোধের মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে, অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন:

Gheibhear lethbhreacan a bharrachd ann an cruth ris an èistear, ann an clò mòr agus ann an cànan coimhearsnachd. Cuir fios gu:

इस दस्तावेज़/कागज़ात की और प्रतियाँ, माँगे जाने पर, ऑडियो टैप पर और बड़े अक्षरों में तथा कम्यूनिटी भाषाओं में मिल सकती हैं, कृपया संपर्क करें:

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼/ਕਾਗਜ਼ਾਤ ਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ, ਮੰਗੇ ਜਾਣ 'ਤੇ, ਆਡਿਓ ਟੇਪ ਉੱਪਰ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਕੰਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ:

此文件有更多備份，如果需要，語音版本和大字體版本及少數種族語言版本也可提供，請聯絡：

يمكن أن تطلب النسخ الأخرى من هذا المستند كالتسجيل الصوتي والخط الكبير ونسخ بلغات أخرى، يرجى الإتصال على:

parentalinvolvementbill@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone **0131-244 4485**