

Empowering Schools – Consultation on School Governance, Nov: 2017 - Key Points

1. A Headteachers' Charter will set out HT powers and responsibilities

- Freedom to decide teaching and learning policy, how best to design the curriculum in line with the Curriculum for Excellence and to determine improvement priorities.
- A new duty to work collaboratively with other schools.
- A new duty to involve the Parent Council and Parent Forum in 'substantive matters of school policy and improvement'.
- Expectation HTs will work collaboratively with other professionals to achieve excellence and equity in their schools.
- Freedom to decide the staffing and management structure in school and decide who works in the school.
- Be open to professional challenge from peers / staff / community / local authority / school inspectors.
- More control over school related budgets
- Expect high quality professional support from a newly established Regional Improvement Collaborative and "world class educational support services" from the Council.

2. Parental and Community Engagement

- Current HT duty to "inform and consult with their Parent Council" will be replaced by a duty "to work collaboratively with their Parent Councils on substantive matters of school policy and improvement."
- The duty to collaborate with parents on policies, improvement planning and curriculum design will also apply to the Parent Forum.
- The legal definition of parental involvement will be extended to include all aspects of parental engagement.
- The duty of Parent Councils to represent the diversity of the school community to actively promote contact with pupils.
- Every school will have access to a home – school link worker.

3. Pupil Participation

- General duty on HTs to promote and support pupil participation in the pupil's own learning, decision-making relating to the life and work of the school and pupil participation in the wider community.

4. Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs)

- RICs will take over all aspects of school improvement planning from local councils.
- There are 6 RICs covering the whole country.
- Highland is in a RIC with Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Shetland, Orkney, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll & Bute.
- Each RIC will led by a RIC Lead (already appointed).
- RICS are expected to have a Regional Improvement Plan in place by January 2018.

