

Response ID ANON-KU9R-UDZ8-P

Submitted to Let's Talk Scottish Education - feedback from group discussions
Submitted on 2022-12-01 16:38:24

About you

Roughly how many people took part in this group discussion?

please estimate how many people took part in your group discussion:
5

Were members of your group mostly speaking as: a) children and young people, b) parents, c) teachers, d) practitioners, e) other

Please choose from dropdown list:
Parents

If other, please describe here::

Does this group consider itself to share common characteristics? If so, please describe.

Please select from the dropdown list:
Yes

Please describe the characteristics that your group members share (e.g. age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality etc.):

Gender - all female

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your group's feedback. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name of group

If we can refer to your group, what should we call it? (i.e. name of school, youth group etc)

Name:
Lead Scotland

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

What is your email address?

Email:
rscarlett@lead.org.uk

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Opportunity for creative feedback

Do you want to share anything to help summarise your group's discussion (e.g. videos, photos, post casts, news reports, mind maps, drawings etc.)

Please select from drop down list:
No

Here you are able to upload a file to support your response:
No file uploaded

insert cloud storage url here:

Survey routing

Which discussion guide did your group use to take part in the national discussion?

Please pick from dropdown list:
Guide for groups of adults

Feedback questions

Did your group's discussions talk about the kind of education Scotland will need in future?

Please choose from dropdown list:
Yes

If so, please summarise key points:

"Make education fit around the child, not the child fit around the education, including if they're more advanced with their learning." The point this parent was making referred to the idea of having a more tailored approach to learning levels for children, according to their ability rather than their age/stage.

"Too much focus on academic, more practical routes are needed. For example in Germany there are three different types of school depending on the type of education."

"We need an education system that focuses on teaching children to think for themselves, to be critical thinkers and know how to debate and take on other people's views without conflict. There are too many tick boxes around reading and writing."

"Take a person centred approach to learning."

"Better interpersonal and dynamic interaction with teachers, not just a transactional relationship."

"A flexible approach to timing, allow repeat years more easily, move the system according to capacity not age."

"Help neurotypical children learn how to make friends with neurodiverse children."

The point this parent was making was that the emphasis should be on making neurodiverse children feel included, rather than trying to get them to fit into a mould.

"Don't just teach by repeating knowledge."

Did your group's discussion talk about how to make their vision for future education a reality?

Please pick from dropdown list:
No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group's discussion talk about how we ensure children and young people feel supported in their learning?

Please pick from dropdown list:
No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group's discussion talk about what in the Scottish education system needed to stay and why?

Please pick from dropdown list:
Yes

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

The group struggled to come up with anything they thought needed to stay. This was a group of parents of children with additional support needs (most of their children were neurodiverse). Instead of focussing on what needed to stay, parents suggested getting rid of GIRFEC and in reference to Curriculum for Excellence, they said more doing and less talking was required. One parent did comment on how useful they had found it to have one named person as a key point of contact for their child and how great it was they could easily communicate with them by various methods, especially as the person was trained and knowledgeable in supporting children with ASN. The other parents commented they didn't have a similar specific contact. This fed into a previous discussion we'd had about the fact there was a huge amount of inconsistency with the delivery of additional support for learning across schools.

Did your group's discussion talk about the most important priorities for a future Scottish education system?

Please pick from dropdown list:
No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group's discussion talk about how we can ensure that everyone involved in education in Scotland has a say in future decisions and actions?

Please pick from dropdown list:

No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group talk about anything else relevant to the future of learning?

Please pick from dropdown list:

No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group talk about anything else relevant to the future of equity in education?

Please pick from dropdown list:

Yes

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

"Don't be dismissive of parents, we need to be included as have knowledge and ideas about how to get the best from our children." This point was echoed by other parents with a general feeling of being completely cut out and ignored.

"staff need to recognise that a diagnosis isn't needed to be able to appropriately support a child with ASN."

"Improving the diagnostic process and system." Another parent argued that earlier diagnosis is needed and waiting times need to be reduced.

"more effective use of digital technology for learning and assessments," One parent commented that her child had been prevented from answering questions in an exam using a digital method despite them having significant issues with writing by hand."

"more flexibility is needed in placements and approaches - there is no one way to work with autistic children."

"support children who are intelligent and articulate but who struggle massively with exams to be able to achieve their qualifications."

"more joined up thinking and better understanding of what disability is and how it affects people differently."

"more standards and consistency needed across Scotland in support for learning."

"Schools need to do more rather than inauthentic ways of showing support." This point was being made in reference to 'virtue signalling' events a school might have on raising money or awareness for a specific cause while not addressing fundamental issues and needs of children with ASN.

"teachers need to be open to learning on how to support an individual."

"better more targeted specific training is required."

Did your group talk about anything else relevant to the future of wellbeing in education?

Please pick from dropdown list:

Yes

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

"schools publishing stats on school uniform wearing not necessary!" This was thought to be harmful for children's wellbeing and a waste of resources

"more focus on wellbeing rather than on academic achievements is needed at certain times, e.g during covid."

"more use of lunch time and break time clubs."

"recognise digital learning isn't right for all with the push for digital learning."

"make sure children and young people feel safe enough to tell you they're not OK."

"ensure there is space for everything that is needed, example a 'nurture room.'" One parent gave an example of how a teacher made the decision to cut their office in half so the space could be used for a nurture room after a new school building hadn't made space for one in new plans.

"don't highlight attendance stats if young person wants to learn and achieve their best but can't always give full attendance due to ASN."

"allow children to join class digitally if it gets too much to be there in person."

"it's vital the school show they care about wellbeing, ask how kids are, be person centred."

"too much focus on uniform instead of on social and emotional needs."

"understand the challenges for children's asn around constraints of wearing a tie or uniform in general,"

"recognise the strength of online friendships and their importance to wellbeing." This parent was making the point kids are not always just mindlessly looking at social media apps, they make genuine friendships online and find them safer."

Did your group talk about anything else relevant to the future of rights in education?

Please pick from dropdown list:

No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Did your group talk about how children and young people can be helped to learn about our changing world, so they feel able to positively contribute?

Please pick from dropdown list:

No

If so, please summarise any key points not yet mentioned:

Please list any other comments that you would like to provide about a vision for the future of Scottish education:

Please summarise any key points not yet mentioned: