

Priorities for Education in Glasgow



Glasgow City Council
Education Services
40 John Street
City Chambers East
Glasgow G1 1JL

Phone 0141 287 2000
www.glasgow.gov.uk

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For several years, we have kept the same six priorities and we have reported on our progress through our annual standards and quality report.

Our standards and quality reports in the last few years have recorded notable success in improving outcomes for our children and young people.

- Improved attendance
- Reduced exclusions
- More young people than ever before achieving Highers by the end of S5
- More young people staying on at school for S5 and S6
- Improved positive destinations, particularly the percentage of young people going to higher education

Attainment continues to be linked to deprivation with the young people living in the most deprived communities performing less well than those living in the least deprived communities. Importantly, however, attainment continues to increase which proves that we are continuing to raise the bar for all.

Glasgow's Improvement Challenge along with our aspiration to be a Nurturing City affords us the opportunity to reflect on our priorities and to review them.

Education in Scotland can present as a complex landscape which is why, in Glasgow, we focus on a small number of priorities and drive them forward relentlessly.

It is proposed that for the foreseeable future these are our priorities:

- Raising attainment and achievement through Glasgow's Improvement Challenge 2015-2020;
- Continue to improve how we meet the learning and care needs of children before they go to school and as they move through school, including how we support their families;
- As we move Towards a Nurturing city, continue to improve how we meet the needs of all children and young people, particularly those with additional support needs; and
- Make best use of our finance and resources to help ensure the best outcomes possible for our children and young people.

Additional notes

Raising attainment and achievement through Glasgow's Improvement Challenge 2015-2020

Glasgow's Improvement Challenge 2015-2020 is a holistic strategy to raising attainment and achievement for all children and young people and incorporates the Scottish Attainment Challenge. There are five strands:

- Raising attainment in literacy and numeracy through targeted support and interventions in primary schools;
- Improving children's health and wellbeing through nurturing approaches and increased participation in physical activity and sport;
- Supporting families to be better able to support their child's learning and development;
- Enhancing the leadership of senior staff; and
- Raising attainment in secondary schools through providing additional supported study, mentoring and an increased focus on learning and teaching.

Glasgow's Improvement Challenge is jointly funded from core funding from the Council, support from third sector, including charitable foundations, such as MCR Foundation, and the Scottish Government through the Attainment Fund. The Challenge is our core business and should be our prime focus.

Continue to improve how we meet the learning and care needs of children before they go to school and as they move through school, including how we support their families

The importance of early intervention in our nurseries cannot be over-estimated. It is our ambition that all of our nurseries are family learning centres, where families feel supported and are either directly supported in the nursery or are signposted to third sector support. We have many examples of best practice where our nurseries are working with partners to build the capacity of families to be better able to support themselves, but this is not yet consistent across the city. We will be continuing to extend our provision for early learning and childcare in line with local and national policy. This will require us to work with a range of partners including Scottish Government, childminders, third sector and private providers.

As we move Towards a Nurturing City, continue to improve how we meet the needs of all children and young people, particularly those with additional support needs

We continue to invest substantial funding into the development of nurture. We have nurture corners in nurseries, nurture classes in primary schools and nurture groups in secondary schools. Increasing numbers of staff have been trained in nurturing principles. We want all our schools and nurseries to be inclusive. We want our children and young people to be taught in their local communities and we want to reduce the number of transitions for those children with more complex learning needs.

In recent years, we have been increasing the range of specialist provision located in our mainstream primary and secondary schools. These enhanced provisions give more choices for parents and provide more opportunities for children and young people to receive support and learn alongside their peers as appropriate to their needs. We are committed to continuing to provide free-standing ASL provision. However, we need to continue to reform our provision to ensure that our children and young people have a flexible range of learning pathways.

Make best use of our finance and resources to help ensure the best outcomes possible for our children and young people

In public services, we continue to face financial challenges. It is important, therefore, that we remain focused on making best use of our finance and resources. This means that we will improve our approaches to managing the school estate through a well-managed maintenance budget for buildings. We will continue to encourage local children to be educated in their local schools and we will also monitor carefully school rolls and projections to ensure that we are making best use of our school estate.