

**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL - EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES**

**RESPONSE to CONSULTATION on the DRAFT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

<b>1</b>	<b>The Strategy is easy to read and understand</b>		
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>The Purposes of the strategy are likely to be supported by parents</b>		
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>The six Aims of the strategy will lead to more successful partnerships with parents.</b>		
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>The Barriers to Involvement are the main ones</b>		
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Carrying out the Actions at 'Implementing the Six Strategic Aims' will make a positive</b>		
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>		
	<b>Additional Comments</b>		
Nil			
There is a typo on P5, in Monitoring and Rreview: should be "Two of Her Majesty's....." GLOW was not explained, and as a parent I did not know what this was			
A few additional "Barriers to Involvement" may be ;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- time-constraints - a number of parents juggle work, home and social activities already, which may prevent them from becoming involved</li> <li>- feeling of inadequacy from not understanding what may be required of them, and perhaps not feeling therefore that they have the skills to be involved;</li> <li>- poor / lack of communication - where sufficient notice of events / meetings is not provided;</li> <li>- child care issues - where parents cannot arrange child care to allow then to attend events / meetings</li> </ul>			
Nil			
<b>Barriers ro Parental Involvement</b>			
<p>One of the biggest barriers to parental involvement in their child's education is that parents still think that they send their child to school to be educated and that they should let the teachers do their job and not interfere. Today's parents need to be shown that things have changed and that by workng in partnership with the child's school then their education will improve. If the education authority want to involve parents in their child's learning then they must help parents understand the methods of teaching that schools use today. Parents were taught in a different way from how their children are taught today and as a result parents are frightened to show their children how to do things. A very good example of this is changes in the way maths are taught today. Parents are happy to work out maths problems with their children but then are then put off when their child says "<b>that is not the way we are shown in school</b>". Parents need to understand how the subjects are being taught before they can become effective in working with their child and the school.</p>			
<b>Establishment of Parent Councils</b>			
If head teachers have to actively promote and take part in parent council meetings and activities how do we find out if they have actually bought into the idea and do not just see it as an inconvenience and a 'tick box exercise'? Is there some form of evidence required to show that the head teacher does take on board things that the parent council may bring to them ?			
<b>One final point</b>			

Can you confirm which Armadale school has been used as an example of good practice on page 13 of the draft strategy document as the statement starts with Armadale primary then goes on to mention Armadale Academy ?

still feel that a large majority of parents are only willing to commit to a limited involvement, - this is particularly the case in certain school depending on social area.