

Parental Engagement in Edinburgh (Summary)

Parent Forum	All parents and carers of children at a school
Parent Council	Representative body of parent views
Locality Groups – 4 mainstream, 1 special schools and 1 ASN mainstream group	Representatives from Parent Councils meet to discuss local issues
Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)	City of Edinburgh Council Sub-Committee. City-wide forum with representatives from Locality Groups.
Education, Children & Families Committee	City of Edinburgh Council Committee. Parent representative from CCwP attends.
National Parent Groups	National Parent Forum of Scotland / Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)

Engagement Groups – Additional Information

Parent Forum

A collective term used to describe both (a) all parents and carers of school pupils; and (b) the 'Annual General Meeting' of the Parent Council.

Parent Council

Representative body of parent views – representing all parents and carers of children at a school. Some schools will operate with both a Parent Council and a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) whilst some choose to cover all aspects with just a Parent Council in place. Each Parent Council will have a constitution which states the aims and operating principles of the group, and how they intend to support their associated school.

Locality Groups

Representatives from Parent Councils meet to discuss local issues. Provides an opportunity for Parent Councils to share information or best practice and receive updates from the Council on policy or processes effecting schools and education. Also provides an opportunity to share information or debate issues or any concerns that may be experienced by schools in the same locality area, e.g.: catchment area reviews; building works.

Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP)

The CCwP is a forum that gives parents from across the city the chance to discuss citywide and national issues with members of the Council and other groups. Representatives attend from each of the city's Locality Groups and the Committee meet four times a year. This forum provides a parent perspective at local and national level; identifies common areas of discussion; makes a recommendation to the Council on the appointment of a parent representative (non-voting) to the Education Children and Families Committee; ensures parent groups e.g. National Parent Forum and Scottish Parent Teacher Council are represented; provides an opportunity to for the Council to communicate with neighbourhood groups and the wider parent councils on government and council education policy.

Engagement Groups – Additional Information

Education, Children & Families Committee

City of Edinburgh Council Executive Committee; main purpose to develop and approve policies, strategies, programmes and projects relating to education, children and family services and work with officers, communities and partners to implement them. Their remit covers the Council's education, children and families services; Lifelong Learning and Libraries; and major capital programmes or projects implementation, asset planning and facilities management for the Council's education, children and families services.

The committee has one parent representative – they do not have a vote, but they can speak on the behalf of parents, taking their views from Locality groups and the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP).

Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)

Connect is an independent charity funded by membership. Their purpose is to make parental involvement in education as good as it can be by working with Members, parents and education partners; and by delivering a range of training schemes and projects.

They provide professional learning opportunities for those working in Education; training and events for parents; and a huge range of support materials to help Parent Councils and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) set up and manage their responsibilities.

National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)

The Forum works in partnership with national and local government and other organisations involved in education and child wellbeing issues to ensure that parents play a full and equal role in education. The overall aim is to help every child to maximise their potential through their school life. The NPFS runs focus groups and online surveys for parents to have their say; holds national and local events such as conferences and information days; keeps parents up to date with the latest educational developments through their website, e-newsletter and social media channels; and can provide support to local parent councils by providing advice, information and practical help.