

Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) Census

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) Census?

The National Action Plan on Parental Engagement as well as the National Improvement Framework require evidence to ensure their aims are being delivered.

Surveys capturing aspects of parental involvement and engagement in Scotland are currently delivered by a range of stakeholders, including local authorities, Education Scotland and parental representation bodies such as the National Parent Forum Scotland (NPFSS). These are largely uncoordinated exercises which do not allow for easy comparisons between different local authorities or to build a coherent national picture. The PIE Census aims to rationalise the collection of Parental Involvement and Engagement data by providing a set of questions all local authorities will be invited to ask in their respective areas, which should result in comparable data being collected.

Once available, the data will be used primarily to drive improvement at a local level but also to help monitor the progress of policies rolled out at a national level.

Which parents/carers should complete the PIE Census?

All parents/carers who have children in publicly funded primary and/or secondary schools in Scotland are invited to take part in the census. Questions will focus on the experience with the child/children's school overall, therefore only one questionnaire per school will be issued to parents/carers with more than one child. This has the advantage of saving time parents/carers would be required to spend on answering the census questions, which is likely to have a positive impact on response rates.

What does the PIE Census ask?

The PIE Census questionnaire was designed to cover the main areas discussed in the National Action Plan on Parental Engagement. These have been condensed to fit the following themes: 'Parental Engagement', 'Parental Involvement', 'Learning at home / in the community' and 'Family Learning'.

The survey has been tested and completion time of the questionnaire is between 10 and 15 minutes.

How will parents/carers complete the PIE Census?

Parents will be emailed a link to the census questionnaire provided on the SmartSurvey online platform. Parents may also access the questionnaire via a number of other routes such as the Council's website or social media for example. Parents will be able to respond either on their personal computers, laptops, smartphones or tablets. An option for paper completion will be provided where necessary. A plan is in place to communicate the survey via news, radio, paper and online methods.

Who created the questions and designed the questionnaires?

The Scottish Government led on setting up and managing a dedicated Content Group for the PIE Census, which met for the first time in September 2018 and finalised the recommended questionnaire in December 2018. The group comprised of Parental Engagement Officers from selected local authorities, as well as representatives from the

Scottish Government, Education Scotland and National Parent Forum Scotland. Most of the questions used in the questionnaire have been taken from other sources (for example: Local authority parent surveys, pre-inspection questionnaires) and modified to fit the requirements of the National Action Plan and recommendations from the group.

What is the likely frequency for conducting the PIE Census?

This will be agreed between local authorities and Scottish Government policy colleagues. The first sweep of the Census is intended to run on a pilot basis, following which an evaluation will be undertaken in Autumn/Winter of 2019 to assess the feasibility of repeating the exercise in future years.

How will the information be kept confidential?

Responses to the PIE Census questions will remain confidential to protect all parents/carers, and access to any data would be severely restricted to those on a strict need to know basis. Any additional information that would directly identify a parent/carer, such as their name and address, are kept separate from the data generated by the responses given in the Census.

Schools will not have access to individual level parent/carer data that would identify parents. Where possible, they will see school level results based on grouping together parent/carer responses. For example, an analysis provided to schools may show that 85% of parents/carers within a school reported feeling satisfied with their child's school, but the school would never know how each individual parent/carer responded to this question.

Our Privacy Statement can be found at: <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Education-and-Learning/PIE-Census-Privacy-Statement.pdf>

Will results from the PIE Census be published?

Yes. Local authorities and schools are encouraged to use the aggregated results from their PIE Census as part of their own evidence in identifying where action is needed to improve the parental involvement and engagement of parents/carers.

Where can I get more information, or who can I contact to further discuss the Censuses?

For further information please communicate with Raymond Buckley, Project Manager, National Improvement Framework Analysis Team, Scottish Government on 01312440233 or e-mail raymond.buckley@gov.scot