

Directors of Education



15 January 2019

Dear Colleagues

Invitation to practitioner engagement events - Included, Engaged and Involved Part 1: A Positive Approach to the Promotion and Management of Attendance in Scottish Schools (IE1)

Throughout 2018, Scottish Government officials have been working closely with a wide range of stakeholders reviewing the existing guidance on attendance, previously titled 'Included Engaged and Involved Part 1: Attendance in Scottish Schools. This document has been refreshed and updated to take account of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Equalities Act 2010, Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and the various other new policies that have been introduced since IE1 was first published in December 2007. It is important to ensure that this document remains current and a working group was formed earlier this year to begin the review.

Background

IE1 provides advice and guidance for schools and local authorities on the promotion of good attendance in schools. Absence, whatever the reason disrupts learning and the Scottish Government is committed to promoting good attendance in schools. It draws together advice on good practice and establishes requirements regarding classifying and recording attendance and absence.

In addition to the classification of attendance and absence, this guidance seeks to explore and address wider issues around the promotion and management of good attendance and the prevention and reduction of absence. The guidance seeks to make stronger links between absence and the protection of children. Attendance is one of the 5 key drivers for raising attainment as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge alongside attainment, exclusion, engagement and participation.

The policy documents Included, Engaged and Involved Part 1: Attendance in Scottish Schools and Included, Engaged and Involved Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and

Managing School Exclusions are underpinned by the development of positive relationships and behaviour in whole school communities.

The *IE11* working group brought together expertise and knowledge from across the country to inform and drive forward refreshed guidance on promoting and managing attendance. The document is in the final stages of draft and we would like to hear the views of those in learning communities.

Three engagement events will take place in February and March 2019, and will last approx. 3 hours. This is an opportunity for your local authority to send representatives who have a knowledge and understanding of this area within a local authority and school context and can help shape this updated national policy guidance. This might include both local authority and school representatives.

Places can be booked for the following dates and venues through the links below.

- **Aberdeen – 19 February** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/included-engaged-and-involved-part-1-engagement-tickets-54847110183>
- **Glasgow – 21 February** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/included-engaged-and-involved-part-1-engagement-tickets-54849761112>
- **Edinburgh – 1 March** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/included-engaged-and-involved-part-1-engagement-tickets-54845862451>

Attendees will be sent a copy of the new guidance in advance of the meeting, which will be in draft format and under strict embargo.

If you have any questions in the meantime please contact Iain Mitchell on 0131 2441505 or iain.mitchell@gov.scot

I look forward to working with stakeholders at the engagement events.

Yours sincerely

Iain Mitchell
Support and Wellbeing Unit