

Submission from Christine Hamilton

I would like to contribute my views on your enquiries into how Scotland can help address any educational attainment gap. As a mother of 5 children I have been involved in the Scottish education system for 23 years – as a parent. I have been an active member of Parents Associations & Parent Council at different periods over the last 23 years.

With the introduction of CfE I had great anticipation for the benefits that CfE could bring for my children and all children in Scotland. However in the last few years I have become increasingly uneasy about the lack of attainment information available to me regarding my children's education. My eldest child who is now 26 went through the 5-14 curriculum, looking back I was a very informed parent in regard to her educational development, I knew when the national testing was taking place and how well she was progressing in school. Occasionally I would know her actual national testing score. I knew the different Levels A to F and had the security of knowing that she was coping well and moving through the levels.

Now at Primary level CfE I have no knowledge on how my other 4 children are progressing. I am becoming increasingly frustrated that I am less informed now than I was under the 5-14 frameworks. I thought through CfE that gaps in my children's education would be more easily identified and feed back to me as the parent – who then, as an informed parent with specific details on my child individual education needs could try to help my child in the areas that they were struggling with.

If parents are not getting feedback on key educational stages in their child's development, how can we as parents possibly help them? Schools/education departments need to do more to inform parents of any assessment's (if any), more detailed progress & any specific learning difficulties, only then can parents effectively work in partnership with their school and help raise all pupils' attainment.

At the moment parents do not really have a clue about CfE or what the framework is trying to achieve. Education Scotland's website is very good and gives great information regarding attainment & assessment all of which I strongly agree with and support! However the theory is not happening at grass roots level, parents are becoming more and more disenfranchised. Someone needs to take the reins of CfE and steer all Councils in the correct direction otherwise we are going to have more children falling through the ever widening attainment gap.

I hope your consultation findings help make significant improvements to Scotland education system and allow all children in Scotland to reach their full potential.

Christine Hamilton

Parent of children attending Glasgow City Council Primary & Secondary Schools