

NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK – STATUTORY REVIEW

Purpose

1. To ask the members of the Curriculum and Assessment Board for their views on the proposals for the National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan 2020.

Background

2. The primary purpose of the National Improvement Framework (NIF) is to improve the quality and consistency of data, and to extend understanding of what works to drive improvements for children and young people across all parts of the Scottish education system.
3. The annual NIF and Improvement Plan provides a single, definitive document, that explains how we will secure educational improvement. It sets out the vision and priorities that everyone needs to be working towards, as well as the improvement activity that needs to be undertaken to deliver those key priorities.
4. We published the [2019 NIF and Improvement Plan](#) in December last year. We have a statutory duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to review the Framework and publish a plan on an annual basis. As part of the review, we have to provide education authorities, teachers, pupils and parents with the opportunity to express their views, and to have regard to any such views.
5. This paper sets out proposals for the broad structure and focus of the NIF and Improvement Plan 2020.

Structure

6. Following the consultation process over the last couple of years, the general consensus has been that significant change to the content of the NIF would not be welcome, as the NIF priorities and drivers of improvement were still relevant.
7. We are proposing, therefore, that, unless the consultation process demonstrates a need for changes to the NIF priorities and drivers, they should remain broadly the same in order to maintain the continuity needed to support improvement planning.
8. Retaining the existing priorities and drivers, would not prevent a broadening of the focus of the NIF if that was seen to be helpful. For example, the 2019 NIF had an increased focus on areas such as early learning and childcare, and health and wellbeing in order to stress the coherent and continuous nature of the Scottish education system from 3-18, and the importance of health and wellbeing in the wider NIF priorities. We expect to build on that in the 2020 NIF and Improvement Plan, and continue to strengthen the links between the vision and holistic approach of CfE, alongside the drive to deliver the improvement activity in the NIF, as recommended by the International Council of Education Advisers (ICEA).

9. While the NIF is a national plan, it is important to consider how we ensure a partnership approach to developing the improvement activities for 2020 onwards, and that we have an appropriate balance between the national perspective and regional improvement activity. Improvement activity will, therefore, be drawn from the regional improvement plans produced by the 6 Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs), as well as the 32 local authority 2019/20 improvement plans which will, in turn, have been informed by improvement planning at individual school level.

10. The current NIF vision, priorities and drivers are set out below:

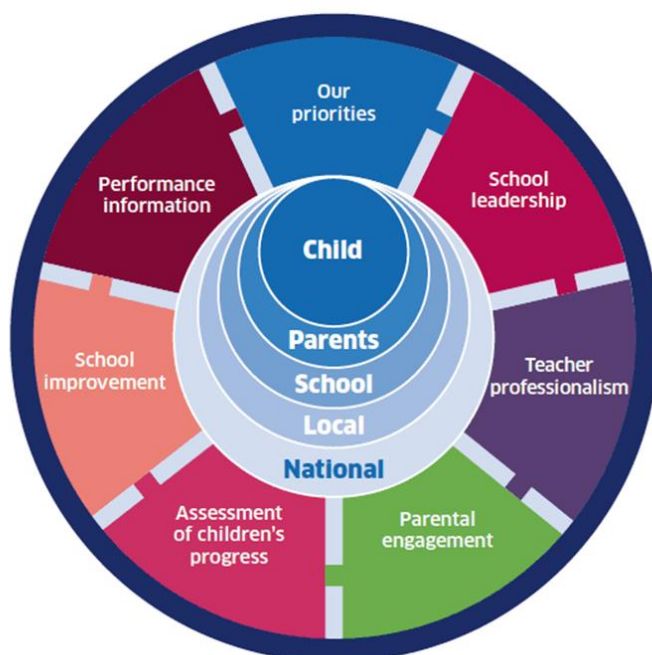
NIF Vision

- Excellence through raising attainment: ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, set out within Curriculum for Excellence levels, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed.
- Achieving equity: ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap

NIF Priorities

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people

NIF Drivers of Improvement



11. It would be helpful to have the views of the Curriculum and Assessment Board on the following:

- **Are any changes required to the NIF priorities and/or the drivers of improvement.**
- **Should there be an increased focus on any particular area?**
- **Are there further improvement activities needed - if so what are they and can they be measured?**
- **Are there gaps in the evidence to help us to understand what is working?**
- **How can we ensure an appropriate balance between the national perspective and regional improvement activity?**
- **Anything else you think we need to consider as part of the review.**

12. If you do have any comments, then please send them to Judith Tracey at Judith.tracey@scot.gov to enable them to be taken into account as part of the review.

Learning Directorate
September 2019