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Let's talk Scottish Education:

# Our National Discussion



COSLA



A discussion guide to gather the views of **young children**\*

#TalkScottishEducation

*\*This guide was designed for learners between 3 and 7 years old but can be used with other age groups as appropriate to needs*

# Introduction

This discussion guide has been produced to help gather the views of young children.

This guide has been designed in the form of a picture book to speak directly to young children and explains to them why their views are important and how they can respond.

Please choose between the options within this guide to best suit the needs of your children. You can adapt them as required.

Creative responses are encouraged as we know young children's voices are expressed through their **actions**, **emotions**, and **words**.  
(Realising the Ambition: Being Me, 2020)

This guide has been designed with children between the ages of 3 to 7 in mind but it can also be used with children and young people of all ages who may respond best to this approach.





*'Here's what  
I think...'*

*A guide to help you join in with Scotland's  
national discussion on education*

# *What's happening?*

*People all over Scotland are talking about education.*

*A promise has been made to listen to the views of children and young people just like you.*

*So, your 'voice' in this discussion is very important.*



# Why do you need my views?

*As a child in Scotland your views matter.*

*You know what is working best and what could make things even better for children just like you in the future.*

*You also have the right to be heard by adults when they make decisions that will affect you.*

*Your views are important, they will be listened to carefully and used to make Scottish education better for everyone.*



You can help by thinking about these questions carefully and answering them in any way that works best for you...

*What* do you think children should be learning - and why?

*Where* are the best places children can learn - and why?

*How (in which ways)* do you think children should be learning - and why?

*Who* do you think children learn best with - and why?





Hold on...Did you say  
'answer in a way that works best for me?'

*Yes.* It is important that you feel your thoughts are shared in a way that suits you.  
This could be through writing, drawing, photographs or recording a clip.  
You could answer on your own, with a friend or as part of a group.



*'What do I do if I need lots of help with this...'*

*It's important that all 'voices' are heard!*

*The adults around you may use methods such as photographs or clips to help you express your voice - just like they do when they create floorbooks or learning stories with you.*

*Through these methods we will be able to see what matters to you and what can help children like you in the future.*

*"What do my actions, emotions and words tell you about what I need from you to grow and develop in every way?"*

*(Realising the Ambition: Being Me, p.46)*





'What will  
happen next?'

We have a special link where your views can be uploaded through a form  
<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/national-discussion-feedback>

[Click here for the form](#)

Or, you can send your ideas by email: [nationaldiscussiononeducation@gov.scot](mailto:nationaldiscussiononeducation@gov.scot).

[Click here to email](#)

Or you could share your response to inspire others using the hashtag #TalkScottishEducation with the help of an adult.

Every response will be carefully listened to  
and help make Scottish education even better.

  
**THANKYOU**



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