

In Edinburgh children and young people are at the heart of our vision for the future

As Service Director, I am delighted to welcome you to our Edinburgh School Community. We want all our schools to provide vibrant, inclusive learning environments where our children and young people thrive; academically, socially and emotionally.

Our Vision for Education is “Edinburgh Learns for Life” and is designed to create a fairer, greener, healthier future for our young people and their families. Through the various aspects of strategy attached to this Vision, we are relentless in our collective ambition to transform lives by providing learning opportunities where our children and young people can find their passion in learning. Central to this is the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning experiences fostering creativity and nurturing individual talents. I believe strongly that this will enable them to live successful and happy lives now, and in the future.

As an inclusive community we work with parents, carers and, where appropriate, partner agencies to support all children and young people. By working together, we help children and young people to develop understanding about building positive relationships, respect, teamwork and fairness. We do this by providing engaging and relevant learning experiences, delivered by our staff who get the training and resources they need, and by working with the whole community to accept and care for one another. This isn’t always easy, but we believe it is essential so that our children and young people learn to understand and respect differences, can work together and can handle setbacks and difficult situations throughout their lives.

When children and young people experience adverse events, or as a response to their additional support need, they often let us know by reacting in different ways. This can sometimes present challenges for those around them. By working together, and by understanding the cause and working out solutions, we can find a way to solve or deal with these challenges. We will work with a child, young person, and their family to work out the best way forward. This may involve making adaptations, providing additional support or, in exceptional circumstances, identifying a change of learning environment.

We recognise that we all experience difficult times, and that everyone deserves the best possible care and support. In Edinburgh, we support children and young people to learn in different ways according to their needs. Children and young people learn differently with some requiring more support than others. This need for support arises for a variety of reasons including learning difficulties, challenges with emotional regulation and social communication issues. We must meet the needs of all our children and young people in a fair, compassionate, and proportionate way. We are fully committed to listening to any parent, carer, child, young person or member of staff to work together to resolve any challenges which may arise to enable all to reach their full potential.

Jackie Reid

Service Director and Chief Education Officer