

Parent & Carers

Date 25 June 2026

Our ref CEJS/S&LL/JR/mmccl

Dear Parents & Carers,

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since I wrote to you having taken up post as Service Director in December 2024. As this term comes to a close, I should like to thank you sincerely for your partnership and support. This provides a crucial bridge between our early years settings, schools, communities, and home and is greatly valued by me, our Senior leaders and staff teams. Across this session, I have seen innovative learning experiences, our confident young people grow and thrive alongside daily acts of care and kindness which make a real difference. None of that would be possible without your trust, encouragement at home and your involvement in school life.

I know that you will share my shock and grave concern about the horrific attacks that took place in Edinburgh last Friday night. The Council Leader and the Chief Executive have both been clear in their commitment to work with our communities to foster a sense of belonging where all young people, and their families, feel safe and at ease in their own houses, nurseries, schools and streets. If you have any ideas about how we can do this together, please do get in touch with me directly.

Despite the challenges we face, I continue to be hugely appreciative of the privilege it is to lead the Education Service in Scotland's capital city. I am sure you will join with me in thanking our staff teams, who work in our schools and settings, who work incredibly hard to support our young people and families. Every single person counts and makes a valuable contribution to the education and lives of our young people.

We have made several improvements during the current session, including implementing our new Inclusion model, expanding our curriculum offer significantly to provide our young people with greater opportunities to pursue pathways which enable them to find their passion in learning. This is essential in making sure they want to come to school every day, engage in their learning positively and, crucially, experience joy along the way. We all recognise that when we love what we are doing, we learn, and feel, better.

As we go forward, I am confident that we will continue to make further improvements across our Service and look forward to presenting our Standards and Quality report for session 2025-26 and new Education Improvement Plan 2026-29 at Education, Children and Families Committee in September. These provide a more detailed overview of our performance and priorities for the next three years. We will continue with our relentless focus on improving outcomes for all our young people, including those who are living in poverty, are care experienced and who are experiencing other barriers to learning and success.

I want to thank you again for entrusting our teams with your child's education and care. I look forward to continuing to build on this partnership as we move forward into next session and beyond. I would like to stress that, where you, or your child, are experiencing challenges, or need help, that we want to hear from you and work with you to solve problems as early as possible. We want to prevent things getting worse or families falling into crisis.

To our young people- huge congratulations on all you have achieved this year. If you need help with anything, please do reach out and ask. We are all here to make sure your education is the best it can possibly be. Rest, play and get ready for the next chapter in your lives.

I am looking forward to Session 2026-27 with great hope and excitement and hope that you are too. I should like to wish you, and your family, a wonderful break doing what you enjoy most with those you hold dear.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Reid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jackie Reid
Service Director Education, Skills and Chief Education Officer