



### **Enhanced Political Awareness**

Authentic engagement in a research/practice partnership to strengthen leadership for critically conscious school communities

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School of Education





**Enhanced Political Awareness (EPA)** How critically conscious are your chool communities?









Glasgow High Street St Mungo's Mural (Smug, 2016)

Education is always a political act, which can be used both to maintain the status quo and to promote social change.

Paulo Freire









**Data/Evidence Experience Interrogation** Knowledge

**Criticality Policy EPA** Research **Praxis** 

**Interpretation Political Literacy** Questioning

**Enhanced Political Awareness (EPA)** 

**Activism** Courage **Critical Consciousness Leadership and Teaching** 









#### **OUR PURPOSE**

Sustainable development goal 4:

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.



#### CHALLENGES

We have identified five grand challenges that offer the most promise in achieving our vision of A world class learning city founded on nurture principles, ensuring every learner is able to embrace their potential.



#### **OUR VISION**

A world class learning city founded on nurture principles.



Achievement and Progress



**OUR VALUES** 

COMPASSION, AMBITION, TRUST, EQUITY

Networked Learning Organisation

Connected Learnina

Engagement, Participation and Inclusion

Education Improvement Service

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- ☐ Why? What? How? When?
- Programme
- ☐ Strategic role and remit
- Culturally Responsive Curriculum
- ☐ GTCS Professional Standards
- Impact



'Always looking inward, outward and forward.'





**Practitioners** are able to influence the development of local and national policy

#### MIDDLE LEADER PERSPECTIVE







Informed Decision Making

and families are

'Education professionals should not be viewed as merely the implementers of curricular decided policies and centrally, rather education professionals should be leading and informing the design and development of educational changes' - 'All Learners in Scotland Matter' (Scottish Government, May 2023)

School culture and learning impact

Enhanced Political Literacy

Pupil Parliament, Rights Respecting Schools, Eco Committee, Parent Council

Staff and students are empowered to take control of their professional development

School context awareness

Covid (Alternative Certification), Inclusion, Equalities, Cost of the School Day

Policy is shaped by context and enacted sensitively at all levels



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To what extent does leadership across your system(s) enhance stakeholders' capacity to recognise, understand and critique social injustices, to prepare our communities for living and leading in politically and socially troubling times.





Picture Source: World Bank, 2023









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Thank you to the BELMAS Community and to our hosts in Belfast BELMAS







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