

CILIP in Scotland (CILIPS) is the Scottish arm of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. CILIP is the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers. Many of our members work in school libraries.

We therefore note with concern the proposal to reduce the number of school librarians in Edinburgh which will result in a part time service.

CILIPS recognises that Edinburgh Council is facing difficult budget choices as a result of significant financial pressures. However, we maintain that the availability of access to full time professional school librarian expertise contributes to successful delivery of curriculum outcomes, promotion of literacy and reading, and should be retained. School librarians support pupil preparation for the challenges of life in the 21st century in areas such as internet safety, information and digital literacy and the encouragement of reading for pleasure.

CILIPS holds that the concept of 'literacy across the curriculum' within Curriculum for Excellence is best supported by access to information in a wide range of formats, and with the aid of a trained information professional who works in partnership with teaching staff in schools.

As the professional body for library and information professionals, we maintain that school libraries are unique in their ability to support teaching and learning and should be the central resource of the school, open every day and staffed by a professionally trained librarian. We therefore urge Edinburgh Council to consider alternatives to a part time professional library service for schools.

Best regards

Catherine Kearney

Director

CILIP in Scotland