

Education Reform

MARCH 2024

Reform of Scotland's approach and support for education and skills is essential to address changing needs, now and in the future.

In November 2023, Ms Gilruth, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills set out her priority to ensure reform is right for our system, post COVID, and creates change in practice and culture.

The Scottish Government continue to draw on the experience of people delivering education and recommendations of related reviews.





New national education bodies

New bodies for qualifications, assessments and inspections are an opportunity to deliver change in practice and culture.

- The Scottish Government are committed to implementing system and culture change that improves outcomes and supports professionals in classrooms and education settings.
- Legislation on some elements of the new national education bodies will be introduced in the coming months.
- The Scottish Government have made changes to their approach, ensuring enhanced engagement with teachers and practitioners.

This includes a new Ministerial group providing expert advice across Education and Skills, and a Chief Executive Forum to bring together the leadership of all bodies impacted by reform.



Key appointments to support education reform

In November, the Education Secretary appointed a Chair of the SQA and updated Parliament on an Interim Chief Inspector of Education.

Shirley Rogers, as Chair of SQA, will lead the organisation through reform and support the establishment of a new body.

Janie McManus, as Interim HM Chief Inspector of Education, will bring critical leadership as The Scottish Government separate the inspectorate function from Education Scotland.



Centre for Teaching Excellence

Establishing the Centre is central to closing the attainment gap.

- The Centre will support Scotland to remain at the forefront of innovation in education, ensuring that we harness the best of Scottish education and empower the profession, ensuring that each child and young person in Scotland has high-quality learning experiences.
- The Centre is being designed with teachers and professional associations to build on experience and needs, as well as drawing on the expertise of local government and our national education bodies.
- The Scottish Government anticipate the Centre will be hosted by a University, learning from the successful model of the Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (CELCIS).

Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment

Hayward Review

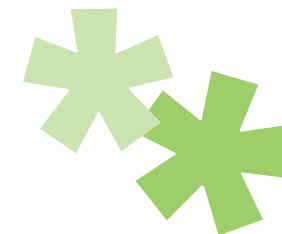
The Education Secretary is clear that any changes to qualifications and assessment must drive a fairer system for our young people.

- The Education Secretary values the views of teachers, which is why she asked schools and colleges to engage their staff on qualifications reform early this academic year.
- The feedback has been mixed in relation to the appetite for qualifications reform.
- The Education Secretary is mindful that views on reform have evolved since the pandemic and new challenges have emerged including changes to behaviour, relationships, falls in attendance, additional support needs and the cost-of-living crisis.
- Any reform to qualifications and assessment must acknowledge that context, and ultimately drive better teaching and learning in Scotland's classrooms.

Professor Hayward's recommendations, if implemented, would represent significant change, and must be considered carefully and as part of the broader suite of reform to education and skills.

- Professor Hayward set out a comprehensive report with 26 recommendations.
- Recommendations centre around the introduction of a Scottish Diploma of Achievement (SDA) with three mandatory elements: Personal Pathway, Programmes of Learning and Project learning.
- The Scottish Government are taking forward detailed examination of the proposals – ensuring Parliament and others across the system have the opportunity to engage with and shape our response.
- The Education Secretary has committed to return to Parliament to fully debate the proposals in the new year.

[gov.scot/groups/independent-review-of-qualifications-and-assessment](https://www.gov.scot/groups/independent-review-of-qualifications-and-assessment)



National Discussion on Scottish Education

The National Discussion was the biggest listening exercise ever undertaken around Scottish education.

Events and discussions took place across Scotland, led by schools, community groups, local authorities and third sector organisations.

consult.gov.scot/national-discussion-scottish-education

It is estimated that more than

38,000 people

were reached by the National Discussion

The discussion resulted in a Vision and Call to Action underpinned by three values

**ambitious
inclusive
supportive**

The core theme of the Call to Action is

Educating Our Future

which is the foundation for four elements of the report

Learners & Learning

A Learning System • Digital Futures

Human-Centred Educational Improvement

all of which provide the foundation for the delivery of our reform commitments.



npfs.org.uk

enquiries@npfs.org.uk

[parentforumsotland](https://www.facebook.com/parentforumsotland)

[parentforumscot](https://www.twitter.com/parentforumscot)