Partnership working to deliver a selfimproving Scottish education system

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First Minister priorities

- The FM delivered his first Programme for Government on 4 September 2024. His four main priorities are:
 - Eradicating child poverty
 - Growing our economy
 - Tackling the climate emergency
 - Improving public services



Strengths of Scottish education

- Record levels of literacy and numeracy attainment at primary school level, and improvements in secondary. (ACEL data, 12 Dec 2023)
- Record low attainment gap in literacy for primary pupils, and reductions at Secondary level between proportion of primary pupils from the most and least deprived areas achieving expected ACEL literacy levels (ACEL data, 12 Dec 2023)
- Record high positive school leaver destinations (95.9%). The Povertyrelated gap has reduced by three quarters since 2009/10.
- Scotland has the highest level of spending per pupil in the UK, and the best teacher-pupil ratio.



Our vision for education in Scotland: excellence and equity

- **Excellence** through raising achievement and improving outcomes: ensuring that every child and young person achieves the highest standards
- Achieving equity: ensuring every child and young person has the same opportunity to succeed

ADES Framework for Improvement

The National discussion suggested reframing the vision to all learners in Scotland matter within an education system which is ambitious, inclusive, supportive



National Improvement Framework

The key priorities of the National Improvement Framework are:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
- Improvement in achievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy.



Refreshed long term strategy for education

- 2 or 3 key short-term actions to drive improvement for children and young people at national level
- A refreshed long term strategy for improving education over the medium to long term, building on the various reviews and the recent National Discussion on the future of education
- Moving away from the current NIF drivers, to having well-defined outcomes that the education system will look to achieve setting out the rationale behind the planned improvement activity (using the available data) and then setting out the expected impact i.e. what will change and how it will change, and how we expect to measure progress.



Short-term actions

- National and local government needs to work in partnership to ensure the 2025 NIF is a framework within which all elements of the education and skills system can work together as one single system that has a collective responsibility to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- In the short term we will reform our education bodies and improve the ABC - attendance, attainment, behaviour and the curriculum in schools - to boost standards.



EDUCATION AND SKILLS REFORM HIGH LEVEL

APR - JUN 2024

2024

JUL - SEP

OCT - DEC 2024

JAN - MAR 2025

- May Graduate Apprenticeship Enhancement Group established
- Jun Education (Scotland) Bill introduced to Parliament.
- · Aug Centre for Teaching Excellence specification agreed
- · Aug Review of options for accreditation responsibilities of new qualifications body
- Aug 2024 Exam Results
- · Sep PSESR: Consultation on Legislation closes
- · Sep Internal SG commission on skills planning and guiding principles for developing regional skills planning approach
- Sep Scottish Government response to Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment (IRQA)
- Sep Programme for Government 2024/25

- · Oct Apprenticeship Project initial work
- · Nov Education Reform Programme Digital Strategy delivered
- . Dec Likely completion of Stage 1 of Education (Scotland) Bill
- · Dec Funding bodies simplification outline business case
- · Dec Review budget allocation for establishing the Centre for Teaching Excellence in light of new Scottish Government spending controls, with the aim to continue appointing a host University institution by the end of 2024
- By Dec Scottish Budget 2025/26

- · Jan Commence transitions from Education Scotland and SQA to new bodies
- · Jan-Feb Likely beginning of Stage 2 of Education (Scotland) Bill
- · Mar Skills planning business case options for future models

2026

SEP - DEC 2025

- . Autumn 2025 Day 1 of new HMIE
- Autumn 2025 Qualifications Scotland created and operational

APR - AUG 2025

- (created and operational), separate from refocussed Education Scotland

- . Apr Centre for Teaching Excellence established
- . Apr Likely beginning of Stage 3 of Education (Scotland) Bill
- May Royal Assent of Education (Scotland) Bill
- . Spring SQA Qualifications audit finalised
- · Spring New apprenticeship model options
- · Spring: Introduction of some new skills planning processes
- . Jul onwards Education (Scotland) Act likely commencement of provisions

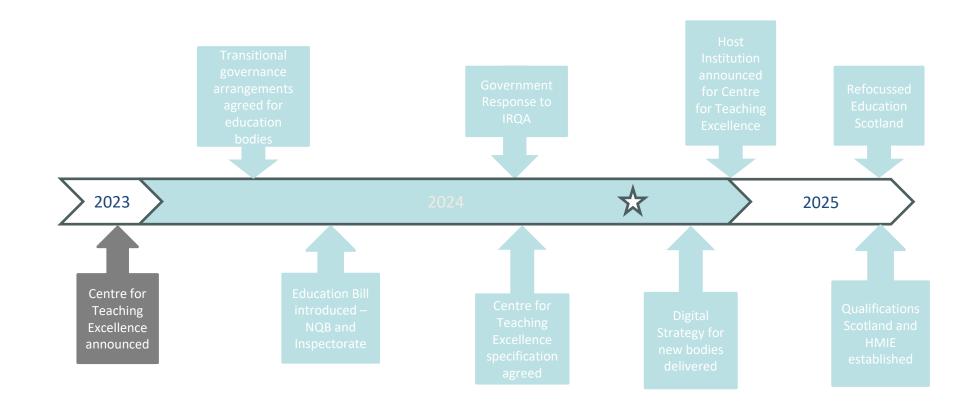
Government as na h-Alba

· Jul/Aug Simplified postschool funding body operational structures live

· Aug - Initial apprenticeship improvements implemented

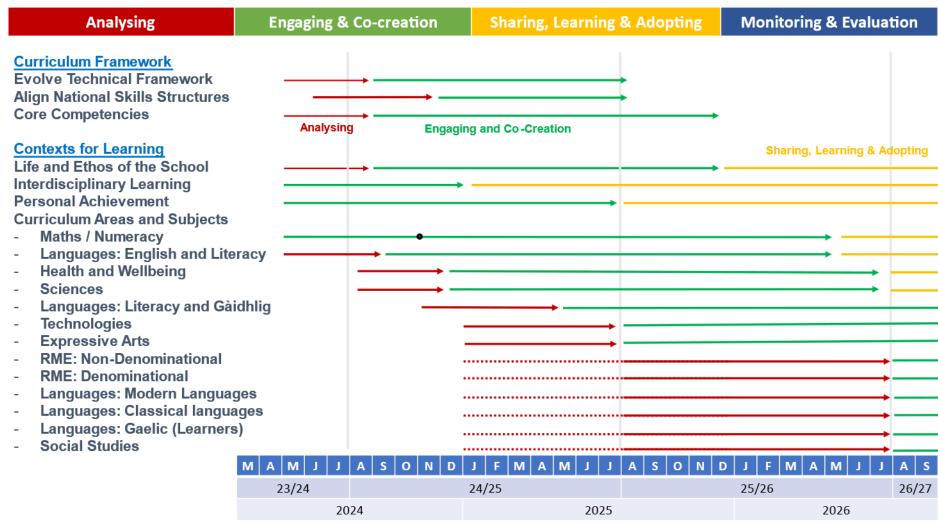
 New skills planning models implemented

EDUCATION REFORM HIGH LEVEL MILESTONES





Curriculum Improvement Cycle





Suggested long term outcomes

Discuss the initial draft long term outcomes on your tables. Input has been sought from a range of colleagues to date.

Please annotate the outcomes with any views and feedback



Feedback Questions Discussion

