

Cùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Sgilean
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Jenny Gilruth MSP



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13 May 2025

Dear Convener

I am writing to you to inform the Committee that the Pupil Equity Funding Report will be published on Wednesday 14th May at 09:30am and will be available here:- [Pupil Equity Fund report | Scottish Attainment Challenge | Learning in Scotland | Education Scotland](#)

This report deepens the understanding of how Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) is improving outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty-related attainment gap.

Officials engaged with 129 schools across all 32 Local Authorities in partnership with Education Scotland Attainment Advisors. This report references a number of these schools, and the links to all 129 schools are included at the end of the Report so that people can follow up with schools direct if they wish to do so.

Officials have prioritised ensuring that the report is as engaging as possible. With that in mind, we have included links to videos of headteachers, teachers, pupils, a mentor and family link worker outlining their approaches and the impact PEF has had, with support from Education Scotland for the filming in some of those schools. We also received videos from Leith Academy, Edinburgh, the Nicholson Institute and Stornoway Primary School in the Western Isles, St. Machar Academy in Aberdeen and Renton Primary School in West Dunbartonshire. The videos are within the main Report and all are summarised at the outset and we have aimed to ensure the report is accessible for different audiences.

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Headteachers have been enormously positive in their engagement with this work and are highly appreciative of the added benefits PEF brings with it being viewed as a vital resource that enables headteachers to respond to the particular needs of children impacted by poverty (and in many cases many children are facing other barriers to learning, such as those with additional support needs) in their schools. PEF is helping headteachers drive attainment through high quality learning and teaching to improve attendance, support engagement with families impacted by poverty, tackle child poverty, improve health and well-being support and increase staff capacity.

This report provides an opportunity to share practice between schools and the education system more broadly and I am sure members will appreciate the excellent work taking place in our schools.

The PEF report is being published on Education Scotland's website alongside another interactive resource, *Evidence and Insights on the Poverty-Related Attainment Gap*. This report provides a concise and accessible overview of data and trends on the poverty-related attainment gap, and further insights into the impact of poverty on the educational outcomes of children and young people. The resource summarises evidence from a range of sources, including Scottish Government data collections, SQA qualifications data, longitudinal studies, international surveys, and secondary analysis. This includes the NIF measures of the poverty-related attainment gap as well as wider evidence on the impact of poverty on educational outcomes. All of the analysis is based on publicly available data and reports.

I trust this is useful to the Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to invite members of the Committee to join me on a school visit to an Edinburgh school to see how PEF is helping improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty. I anticipate the best timing for this would be in September when MSPs have returned from Summer recess. If this of interest then please liaise with my private office.

Yours sincerely,



JENNY GILRUTH

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