

Education, Children and Young People Committee
Wednesday 17 December 2025
37th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Education and Skills Cross-Portfolio Session

Introduction

1. The Committee will hold a cross-portfolio session with Scottish Government Ministers.

Committee meeting

2. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from:
 - Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills;
 - Natalie Don-Innes, Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise;
 - Ben Macpherson, Minister for Higher and Further Education;
 - Clare Hicks, Director for Education Reform
 - Alison Taylor, Interim Director for Learning
 - Andrew Watson, Director for Children and Families
 - Adam Reid, Deputy Director for Skills, Scottish Government.
3. As it is a cross-portfolio session, Committee Members will be asking questions on a range of policy areas within the Education and Skills portfolio, including:
 - Colleges, including:
 - Sustainable Funding
 - Fair Work
 - Universities, including:
 - Sustainable funding
 - Widening Access
 - Schools, including:
 - Teacher workload and contact time
 - Educational attainment and the poverty related attainment gap
 - Behaviour

- Additional Support for Learning, support for mainstreaming and specialist provision
 - School estate
- Early Learning and Childcare
- National Review of Group-based Child Sexual Abuse

Clerks to the Committee
December 2025