

# BETTER DEAL CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

## Workload/Class Contact Time

The Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) has agreed to establish an oversight group with Scottish Government, COSLA and Teacher Trade Union representation (including NASUWT). This group will meet regularly to assess progress on delivering the promised reduction in Class Contact Time.

NASUWT has asked the new Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic, Màiri McAllan, to consider our evidence that the key drivers of workload outlined in the National Tackling Bureaucracy reports from a decade ago still exist, and to work with councils across the country to address these, namely: excessive forward planning in primary schools; over-assessment in secondary schools; overbearing and ineffective tracking and monitoring procedures; and unwieldy and unachievable School Improvement Plans.

## Behaviour

NASUWT continues to push for the National Action Plan on Relationships and Behaviour to be properly embedded in schools and has asked the new Cabinet Secretary to audit the extent to which councils and schools around the country have adopted the Action Plan. NASUWT has a presentation on the Action Plan which can be delivered in any setting – please contact your NASUWT Local Secretary or the NASUWT Scotland office if you are interested in this being delivered locally to you:

[scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)

The Scottish Government has launched a formal consultation on mobile phone use in schools. While NASUWT will certainly be submitting a formal response, individual members are also free to make their own. The consultation can be found here: [Restricting mobile phones in Scotland's schools – Scottish Government consultations – Citizen Space](#)

## Parliamentary

### Programme for Government/Cabinet Secretary Keynote Speech

As MSPs returned to Holyrood, the First Minister announced the Programme for Government for the next five years. There was not a huge focus on education (though this was addressed by a follow-up announcement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic), but there were welcome commitments to address violence and abuse of women and girls, as well as some additional money to help address the poverty-related attainment gap.

The Cabinet Secretary announced that she was accepting the main recommendations of the McManus *Additional Support for Learning Review*, published earlier this year:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/additional-support-learning-review/pages/8/>

NASUWT will be forming a group of members to consider these recommendations and how they should be achieved. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact us at [scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)

At a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary in late September, NASUWT expressed concerns that there was no guarantee to ring-fence the £920m in Barnett Consequentials flowing from reforming special needs provision in England for investment in ASN spending in Scotland.

## Policy

### Curriculum and Qualifications Reform

A group of NASUWT activists met with Education Scotland in late August to explore the early draft samples of the revised curriculum.

(These can be found at:

[https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/u\\_avCAPNrFZJ7R3s8hOcGHdIU?domain=blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/u_avCAPNrFZJ7R3s8hOcGHdIU?domain=blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/))

Feedback was mixed: there were positive comments regarding some subject/curricular areas; however, concerns which were raised by members related to: an overload of information in some curricular areas (especially maths/sciences); inconsistencies across curricular areas in acknowledging the decolonising of the curriculum; and the apparent abandonment of children in specialist establishments whose achievements seem incapable of being recognised by the new framework.

NASUWT also highlighted larger flaws with the proposed timescale and nebulous nature of key planks of the revised curriculum (such as Interdisciplinary Learning and Recognising Wider Achievement), which will require much clearer explanation/exemplification.

Education Scotland is supposedly revising these early drafts by the end of September into final drafts, which will then become the published revised curriculum in January 2027 – ready for apparent implementation in the primary sector by August 2028.

Alongside plans to introduce reformed qualifications at SCQF Levels 3, 4 and 5 in 2031 and SCQF Levels 6 and 7 in 2032, this seems a very ambitious timeline and NASUWT has taken the opportunity to question this in many forums.

A meeting of the SNCT on 23 September saw the Teachers' Side reject the offer of two additional in-service days in the 2026/27 academic session (in February and May), given this will only scratch the surface of what is required to properly support the implementation of any revised curriculum. The Scottish Government has agreed to revise its proposals around this and to return to the SNCT with these soon.

### Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland has announced two surveys in which members may have an interest in participating:

- The first is for educators who wish to input their views on national and vocational qualifications. This survey is open until 5pm on Friday 2 October and can be found here:  
<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/QqoICZVYgS70OK2tzfVViBhYZb?domain=smartsurvey.co.uk>
- The second survey is focused only on proposed changes to the Advanced Higher English course. It is also open until 5pm on Friday 2 October and can be found here:  
<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/Nx66CMQwXC2QYW1C4fZZi8tFls?domain=linkprotect.cudasvc.com>

## **Consultations**

We have responded to a consultation on Protections in the Justice System for Women and Girls.

This and previous submissions can be accessed here: [NASUWT | Consultation Responses](#)

## **Health and Safety**

### **Air Quality: Engine Idling**

Work has continued with the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland on this matter, with an agreement to undertake Parliamentary advocacy and a public outreach campaign to draw attention to the failure to enforce fines for engine idling outside schools. This includes a plan for a public event in Aberdeenshire, the constituency of Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs.

### **Air Pollution: School Buses**

We are working with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on a pilot project to assess the impact of air pollution on school buses. This involves putting portable air-quality monitors onto some buses to assess pupil exposure.

## **Equalities**

### **NASUWT Scotland Equalities Conference**

Our flagship equalities event took place in Glasgow on 19 September and delegates were treated to inspiring keynote addresses by Brian Costello from HeadStrong Minds and Jordan Daly from Time for Inclusive Education (TIE), as well as an engaging panel session on poverty and equality alongside workshops on gender, racism and health/disability.

## **STUC**

### **STUC General Council and Strategy Session**

The General Council overwhelmingly supported independent proposals about future funding of the TUC and STUC. In short, over the next ten years, the affiliation charge for Scottish members to the TUC will gradually decrease whilst the affiliation charge to the STUC will correspondingly increase. This will have the effect of increasing STUC revenues, whilst remaining cost-neutral to unions like NASUWT which affiliate to both the TUC and STUC.

The General Council was advised of how the constitutional change affecting conferences would work in practice: 2026 will see all conferences taking place; in 2027, there will be Congress and the STUC Women's Conference; in 2028, the STUC LGBT+, Black Workers' and Disabled Workers' Conferences will take place; thereafter, the Conferences will continue on a two-year cycle.

## **Forthcoming Meetings/Events**

8-9 October: NASUWT Health & Safety training (Stage 2), Edinburgh

10 October: NASUWT Black Teachers' Consultation Conference

10-11 October: STUC Black Workers' Conference, Clydebank

16 October: NASUWT Fringe Meeting, SNP Conference, Aberdeen

21-22 October: STUC Women's Conference, Dundee

27 October: Tutoring and Accrediting NASUWT Courses, Edinburgh

11 November: NASUWT Equality Champions training, Edinburgh

16-17 November: NASUWT Workplace Representatives training, Edinburgh

21-22 November: STUC Disabled Workers' Conference, Clydebank

23 November: NASUWT Discrimination training, online

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, then contact [scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:scotland@mail.nasuwt.org.uk) in the first instance.