



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Scotland's Futures Forum  
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach



**Goodison Group**  
in Scotland

INFLUENCING LEARNING



## Let's Talk Scottish Education

With a National Discussion on Scottish education taking place in autumn 2022, the Goodison Group in Scotland and Scotland's Futures Forum explored three key questions for the future.

Reflecting on our previous work on education in 2030 and beyond, participants considered visions for the future of Scottish education and how any vision could be made a reality.

The event, which took place both at the Scottish Parliament and online, supported a contribution to the National Discussion.

**TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2022, at the Scottish Parliament and online**

## Background

From March 2017 to March 2020, the Goodison Group in Scotland and Scotland's Futures Forum explored what school, education and learning might look like in 2030 and beyond.

At the heart of the project was a scenario describing what school, education and learning might look like in the future. The scenario was not a prediction or manifesto; it was designed to provoke thought and debate.

The project report also considered the key aspects of change: the levers, acupuncture points and acceleration points.

The project was followed by a conference, which was held over two online sessions in November 2020 and February 2021. Participants were asked to step back from dealing with the day-to-day challenges to consider the question "Where next for education in Scotland?"

More information on the project and conference, including the scenario itself, is available online:

- [Scotland 2030: Education Overview | Scotland's Futures Forum \(scotlandfutureforum.org\)](https://scotlandfutureforum.org)
- [Future Schooling, Education and Learning: Where next for education in Scotland? | Scotland's Futures Forum \(scotlandfutureforum.org\)](https://scotlandfutureforum.org)

## Approach

Much of the work that we undertook remains relevant to the National Discussion on Scottish education. However, we recognised that a lot has changed since we published the original report, not least with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, on 8 November 2022 we held an event with a range of stakeholders at the Scottish Parliament and online to contribute to the National Discussion.

Reflecting on the 2030 programme and conference work as a starter, over 30 participants explored three questions from the [National Discussion guide for adults](#):

- What is one thing that needs to stay and why? [Q3]
- Overall, what is your vision for the future of education in Scotland? [Q5]
- How can we make that future vision for education a reality in Scotland? [Q6]

Participants worked in small groups to review the 2030 programme work, and share and discuss their thoughts and ideas with others in the community.

The discussion was held under the Chatham House rule.

## Output

Following the event, the Goodison Group in Scotland and Futures Forum produced a combined output from the 2030 programme, the conference, and the November session as a contribution to the National Discussion.

The output is available on the Futures Forum website:

- [Let's Talk Scottish Education: A Contribution to the National Discussion | Scotland's Futures Forum \(scotlandfutureforum.org\)](https://scotlandfutureforum.org)

## Participants

TITLE	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION	Attended
Ms	Margaret	Alcorn		In Person
Dr	Alan	Bainbridge	Queen Margaret University	In Person
Mrs	Isabelle	Boyd	Cor ad Cor	In Person
Mr	Ronnie	Boyd	Cor ad Cor	In Person
Mr	Michael	Cockburn	Cockburn Business Consultancy	In Person
Mr	James	Cook	Highland Council Education	Online
Ms	Dee	Davison	University of Edinburgh	Online
Prof.	Graham	Donaldson	Independent Consultant	In Person
Mr	Stuart	Farmer	Institute of Physics Education	Online
Mr	Bryan	Fleming	FJ Philanthropy	In Person
Mr	Craig	Fleming	FJ Philanthropy	In Person
Ms	Alison	Hawkins	Early Years	In Person
Mr	Michael	Heffernan		In Person
Prof.	Peter	Higgins	University of Edinburgh	In Person
Ms	Gillian	Hunt	Children's Parliament	In Person
Ms	Kate	Johnston	Upstart	In Person
Ms	Eve	Lewis	Sparqs	In Person
Mr	Rob	Littlejohn	Scotland's Futures Forum	In Person
Mrs	Tina	Livingston	Goodison Group in Scotland	In Person
Ms	Cathy	McCulloch	Children's Parliament	In Person
Mr	James	McEnaney		Online
Mr	Neil	McLennan		Online
Ms	Jane	Minelly	Bothwellpark High School	In Person
Prof.	Ken	Muir	University of the West of Scotland	Online
Mr	Darren	Osborne	Braw Talent	In Person
Dr	Gill	Robinson		In Person
Ms	Sue	Palmer	Upstart	Email
Ms	Pat	Scrutton	Intergenerational National Network	Online
Mr	Ninian	Stuart	Centre of Stewardship	In Person
Mr	Mark	Taylor	ICAEW	Online
Mr	Derek	Young	Institute of Physics Education	In Person