

A list of Acronyms used in Scottish education 2018

1+2	Mother tongue plus two additional languages	The policy to expand and improve language learning so that by 2021 every child will learn a first additional language from P1 and a second by P5
ASL	Additional Support for Learning	Additional support for learning means giving children extra help or support so they can get the most out of their education.
ASN	Additional Support Needs	A child or young person is said to have additional support needs if they need more – or different support – to what is normally provided in schools or pre-schools to children of the same age.
BGE	Broad General Education	This is the learning which is done from the age of 3 to 15 – up to the end of S3. The aim is to make sure children have a wide-range of learning until S4 when they will start to specialize in different subjects.
CfE	Curriculum for Excellence	CfE is the way schools and early years centres organise learning and teaching for 3 – 18 year olds. It was introduced with the aim of making sure education is relevant to the changing world. It aims for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a more interactive approach to teaching - a slimmed-down curriculum - more cross-subject work - a focus on literacy and numeracy - a modernized qualification system
CLD	Community Learning & Development	Teams who work with and support communities in areas such as adult and family learning and youth work.
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities	A membership organization for councilors in Scottish local authorities.
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	Each teacher in Scotland is required to undertake a certain amount of CPD each year to maintain or upgrade skills and knowledge. <i>(See PRD and PU)</i>
CSP	Co-ordinated Support Plan	A child/young person is eligible for a CSP when they need support at school from services other than education services, on an ongoing basis. A CSP document gathers together reports and plans from all the professionals who will support a child with

		while FTE 0.5 means the person is half-time.
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child	A Scottish Government policy which aims to make sure all Scotland's children, young people and their families have support across public services, such as health, education and social work.
GME	Gaelic Medium Education	A form of education where pupils are taught mainly in Scottish Gaelic, with English as a secondary language.
GTCS	General Teaching Council Scotland	This is the professional body which maintains the register of teachers and ensures teachers' professional standards. In Scotland, children must be taught by qualified and GTCS registered teachers. <i>(See Connect leaflet: "What is General Teaching Council Scotland [GTCS]?" for more information)</i>
HE	Higher Education	This is post-compulsory education which usually takes place in universities.
HMIE	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education	The Inspectorate carries out inspections of all places of learning – nurseries, schools and colleges to make sure they are performing well, gathers good practice and gives guidance on how to make improvements. HMIE is part of Education Scotland.
HNC	Higher National Certificate	HNCs are offered by colleges, some universities and many training centres. They usually take one year to complete and provide skills you need to do a job.
HND	Higher National Diploma	HNDs are offered by colleges, some universities and many training centres. They usually take two years to complete.
HT	Headteacher	Also known as a rector, a headteacher is the leader and manager of a school.
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	ICT in education can be found in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a subject, e.g. computer studies - as a tool to support teaching and learning, e.g. the use of whiteboards - as an administrative tool
IEP	Individual Education Plan	An IEP is a document which sets out the goals and achievements of each school pupil. Every child should have an IEP and should also have an input to its content; it should be reviewed regularly. <i>(See PLP)</i>
ITE	Initial Teacher Education	This describes the courses taken by people who want to become teachers. Courses are available at eight universities across Scotland through a four-year undergraduate course leading to a BEd degree and a one-year Post Graduate Diploma (for people who

PPP	Public Private Partnership	A collaboration between a local authority and private companies, often used in the building and management of schools. Also known as PFI.
PRD	Professional review and development	Each teacher has the right to an annual PRD interview to focus on their strengths and areas for development and to agree on their training needs. This links with GTCS's Professional Update process for ensuring teachers keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date. <i>(See PU)</i>
PSA	Pupil Support Assistant	Usually helps support individual pupils with specific tasks. Also called Learning Support Assistants.
PSD/E	Personal and Social Development/Education	Under Curriculum for Excellence this is now called Personal Development. Pupils may choose to build up a range of personal, social and vocational skills by choosing one unit of work from each of these groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self in Society - Practical Abilities - Self and Work
PT	Principal Teacher	In primary schools, this is usually a classroom teacher who also takes on some managerial roles within the school. In a secondary school, this is a promoted post as head of a department or a guidance position.
PU	Professional Update	This supports teachers to develop their skills and work; teachers are asked to keep a record of their learning throughout their careers. This is submitted to GTCS every five years and signed off by a line manager.
PVG	Protection of Vulnerable Groups	The PVG Membership Scheme is the Scottish disclosure system. It aims to ensure those who have regular contact with vulnerable groups do not have a history of harmful behaviour. <i>(See Connect leaflet, "Guidance on the PVG Act for Parent Councils/PTAs" for more information)</i>
QIO	Quality Improvement Officer	Usually a local authority officer who has a specific job around improving the performance of schools.
RIC	Regional Improvement Collaborative	These six new boards bring together a range of professionals including local authority and Education Scotland officers with a focus on supporting teachers and other school staff to improve outcomes for children and young people. The RICs will be expected to help share good practice

	Engineering, Maths	
SVQ	Scottish Vocational Qualification	These qualifications are based on standards drawn up by industry, commerce and education.
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service	UCAS process most applications for entry to higher and further education throughout the UK.
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child	This is an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a set of rights.
VSDS	Volunteer Scotland – Disclosure Services	VSDS provides free support for voluntary groups when their helpers join the PVG Membership Scheme. Connect 4 star members can access this through Connect. <i>(see PVG)</i>
VSE	Validated Self-Evaluation	This aims to support and challenge the work of education authorities to improve the quality of education and outcomes for learners.

We would like to know

Did you use this leaflet? Did you find it helpful? Please give us your comments.

About Connect

You may be interested to know that we offer our members a range of benefits including our membership-linked insurance. Other benefits include:

- Free Information & Training Sessions
- Access to online meetings and surgeries
- Our Backchat newsletter and E-Updates
- Access to the member's-only section on the Connect website
- Annual Lecture
- Telephone and email helpline
- A wide variety of leaflets and other resources
- **You are welcome to use information from this leaflet however, if you do please acknowledge Connect.**

September 2018

Connect, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB

Tel: 0131 474 6199

Email: info@connect.scot

Website: www.connect.scot

