

Let's Talk Scottish Education  
**Our National Discussion**



Discussion guide for groups of **children and young people**  
This guide was designed for learners between 8-14 years old

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If your group can spare 140mins (split over two 50min sessions) this activity will lead your learners through all the national discussion's questions

## [Programme 2: Our future education](#)

If your Group has less time they can pick and choose between this package of eight shorter tasks, each one addresses one of the national discussion's questions.

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This series of group discussions can help learners take a focused look at topics of interest to them, including the future of learning, equity, wellbeing, rights and world

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# Introduction

This adaptable discussion guide was developed to help teachers, parents / carers, peers, youth workers, and others to help groups of children and young people take part in their National Discussion on Scottish Education.

This resource should help you to create spaces where learners can consider, discuss and reflect on what they expect from education.

Feedback from this guide's testing led us to provide a menu of activities for you to choose from.

Please look at the options and decide how you might use (or adapt) them to meet the needs and interests of your group.



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# Welcome

Professor Carol Campbell and Professor Alma Harris are helping to co-facilitate the National Discussion on Scottish Education. One of their jobs is to help make sure that anyone who wants to can take part. Click here to watch a video of how they plan to engage everyone and particularly those we don't normally hear from in the national discussion.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0BaSciflZQ>

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# The National Discussion Questions

The activities in this guide prepare learners to answer the national discussion's key questions.

## Key Questions

1. What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future and how do we make that a reality?
2. How do we ensure that children and young people in Scotland feel supported in their learning in the future?
3. What is one thing that needs to stay and why?
4. What are the most important priorities for a future Scottish education system?
5. Overall, what is your vision for the future of education in Scotland?
6. How can we make that future vision for education a reality in Scotland?
7. What are the most important steps we need to take to achieve the future vision for education in Scotland?
8. How can we ensure that everyone involved in education in Scotland has a say in future decisions and actions?



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# The National Discussion Questions

The guide will also help learners take a focused look at topics of interest to them. For example:

**Our Future Learning:** How can high quality educational experiences, teaching, and learning be best supported for children and young people in Scotland?

**Our Future Equity:** How can every child and young person's individual needs be supported and addressed in the future?

**Our Future Well-Being:** How can children and young people's mental, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing and safety be cared for and supported in the future?

**Our Future Rights:** How can the right of every child and young person to have opportunities to develop their full potential be achieved in future?

**Our Future World:** How can children and young people be helped to learn about our changing world, so they feel able to positively contribute?

**Opportunity for Additional Comments** Do you have any other comments that you would like to provide about a vision for the future of Scottish Education?

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# Programme I: 'I've got the power....'

## Summary

This activity will lead your learners through all the national discussion's questions

This activity should take place over two 50 minute sessions

Our future  
Education

## Lesson 1

Facilitator-led context setting: learning & the future: your vision (10 mins)

Individual task: structuring your vision: responding to the 5 bullet points on slide 7 (20 mins)

Planning and setting out your vision (20 mins)

## Lesson 2

Setting out your vision (30 mins)

Sharing your vision and discussing (20 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Individual presentations around vision statements

Vision statements

Engagement in discussion



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*It is 20 years from now. You are in charge of education in Scotland. You have the power. You are about to set out your vision for the kind of education you think will be needed by children and young people in the future. You can do this any way you like: as a speech; a visual presentation; a media campaign; through social media - the choice is yours...*

## Our future Education

- **The vision:** What kind of education will be needed in the future? What do you want it to achieve? For whom?
- **The actions:** What actions will you take to make that vision a reality?
- **The people:** When thinking about the kind of education which will be needed in the future, who are the people who really matter? How will you reach them? How will you make sure that they feel supported in their learning?
- **The opportunities:** What are the most important steps you need to take to achieve that future vision? How can you do that? Who do you need to help you?
- **The challenges:** What might stand in the way of bringing your vision to life? How will you overcome this?



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## Programme 2: Our future education

Alternatively, pick and choose between this package of eight shorter tasks, each one addressing one of the national discussion's questions

**Task 1:** What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future and how do we make that a reality?

**Task 2:** How do we ensure that children and young people in Scotland feel supported in their learning in the future?

**Task 3:** What is one thing that needs to stay and why?

**Task 4:** What are the most important priorities?

**Task 5:** What is your vision for education?

**Task 6:** Making the vision a reality?

**Task 7:** What are the most important steps we need to take?

**Task 8:** Have your say



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# **Task I:What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future and how do we make that a reality?**

## **Summary:**

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

## **Outline**

Facilitator-led context setting: learning & the future: making a vision reality (5 mins)

Group activity: Petition design (30 mins)

Sharing petitions (15 mins)

## **Anticipated outputs**

Petitions

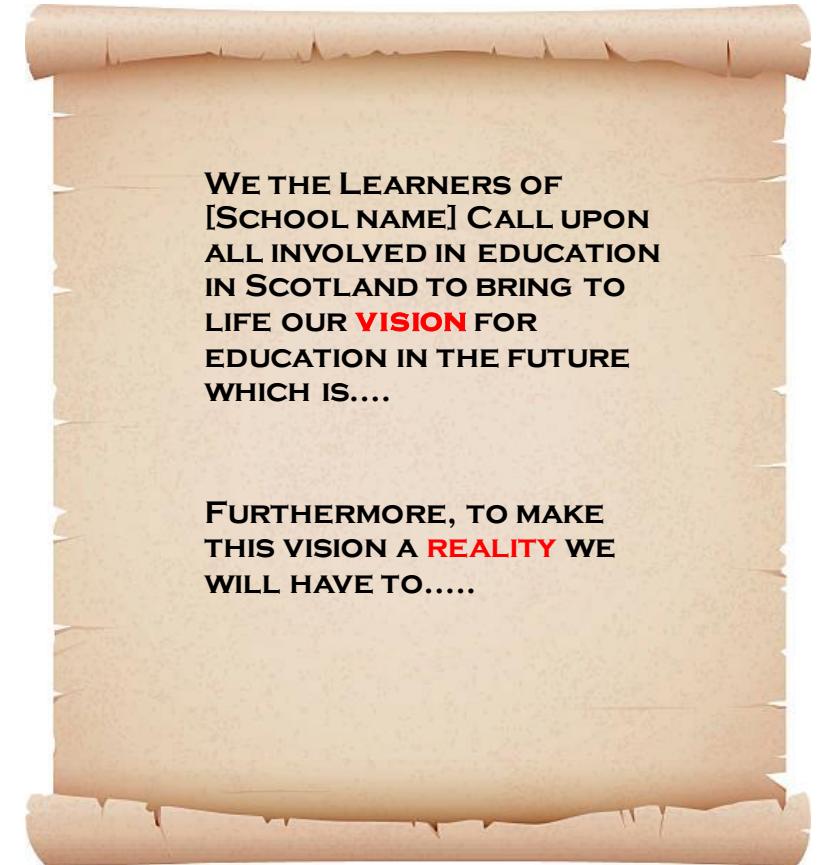
Engagement in discussion



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## What kind of education will be needed by children and young people in Scotland in the future and how do we make that a reality?

- Sometimes when people want something to happen, they design a petition.
- A petition sets out the changes people want to see or what they want to be done – their **vision** for the future.
- Draw up your own petition for education in Scotland in the future.
- In your petition you should make it clear what kind of education you think will be needed by children and young people in the future and how that can be made a reality.
- You can add artwork and graphics to your petition.



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## **Task 2: How do we ensure that children and young people in Scotland feel supported in their learning in the future?**

### **Summary:**

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

### **Outline**

Facilitator-led context setting: learning & the future: supporting learners (5 mins)

Group activity: Aliens' report (30 mins)

Sharing and discussing reports (15 mins)

### **Anticipated outputs**

Aliens' reports

Engagement in discussion



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## How do we ensure that children and young people in Scotland feel supported in their learning in the future?

- The year is 2042. Two aliens are revisiting planet earth for the first time in 20 years
- In 2022 a **vision** for education to make sure that all children and young people feel supported in the learning was agreed by all involved in education
- They have been sent to find out about '**what happened next**' in education in Scotland since the last time they were here in 2022
- They must send a report back to their home planet which shows how well children and young people feel supported in their learning in 2042
- Produce the report they will send back in a format of your choice



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# Task 3: What is one thing that needs to stay and why?

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions. It could take 50 mins to complete.

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: what needs to stay? (5 mins)

Class activity: populating display board (20 mins)

Reviewing and discussing post-its (10 mins)

Agreeing the top or top three priorities (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

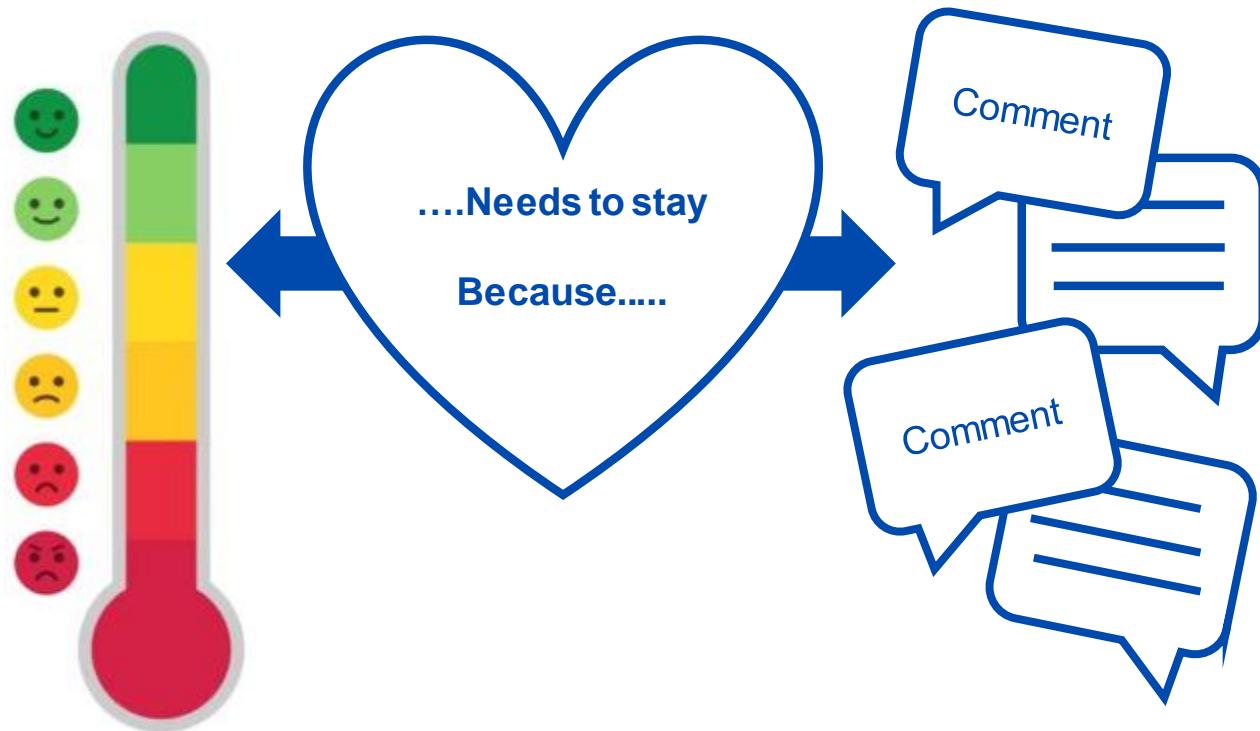
Display board post-its and emojis

Engagement in discussion



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## What is one thing that needs to stay and why?



1. Set up a display board in your classroom
2. Use post-its to add what you think **what needs to stay and why**
3. Mark one of the **emojis** to each suggestion as your 'vote' about this suggestion. You could also add a **comment** about your choice of emoji
4. As a class, see if you can come up with **ONE** thing that everyone agrees should stay... and if that's impossible, try for the top three things!

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# Task 4: What are the most important priorities?

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: what might the priorities be? (5 mins)  
Individual or paired activity: report card design and completion (30 mins)  
Sharing and discussing report cards (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Report cards  
Engagement in discussion



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## What are the most important priorities for a future Scottish education system?

- Design a report card for the Scottish education system which shows what's going well, and what the priorities for the future should be
- Starting with what's going well (and so needs to stay), now think about the future priorities (so what needs to happen) for a future Scottish education system.

### REPORT CARD Education in Scotland

Strengths/ What's going well

The things which are going well just now are...

Priorities for the future

The First priority should be.....

Then...

Then...

Next Steps

To make these priorities happen you now need to...

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# Task 5: what is your vision for education?

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: vision statements (5 mins)

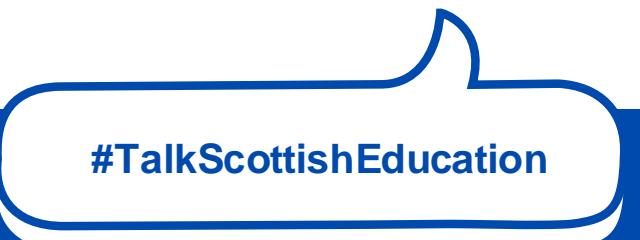
Individual or paired activity: populating the vision statement pyramid (30 mins)

Sharing and discussing vision statements (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Vision statement pyramids

Engagement in discussion



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## Overall, what is your vision for the future of education in Scotland?

Create a vision statement pyramid for the future of education in Scotland. Some examples are provided.

### Vision Statements

Many organisations and groups have vision statements which set out their aims in very few words.

What vision statements are you aware of?

The mission of Scottish education is to....

The values which will be needed are.....

What will need to be done.....

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# Task 6: Making the vision a reality

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: steps towards the vision (5 mins)  
Individual or paired activity: job card design and completion (30 mins)  
Sharing and discussing job cards (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Job cards  
Engagement in discussion



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## How can we make that future vision for education a reality in Scotland?

Often when a job needs done a **job card** is produced. This shows what's to be done, by whom and any other information needed – for example, any resources you might need.

Create your own job card for making the future vision for education a reality in Scotland

**What is the vision?**

First step to make this happen

Who is responsible for this first step?

Who might need to help?

Resources needed

Deadline

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# Task 7: What are the most important steps we need to take

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50mins to complete

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: next steps and resource requirements (5 mins)

Paired or group activity: top three steps and resources (30 mins)

Sharing and discussing next steps (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Three pots display

Engagement in discussion



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## What are the most important steps we need to take to achieve the future vision for education in Scotland?

- Any steps which would need to be taken to achieve the future vision for education in Scotland would have to have resources – for example, time, people, money to name but a few....
- Imagine three different pots – one has unlimited resources the other has a limited amount of resources and the last has no resources
- For each pot, think about what would be the top three steps you would want to (and would be able to) do if you had unlimited, limited or very few resources
- Would the steps be different depending on the resources you have available?



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# Task 8: Have your say...

## Summary:

The activity prepares learners to answer one of the national discussion's key questions.  
It could take 50 mins to complete

## Outline

Facilitator-led context setting: having your say about education (5 mins)

Individual activity: have your say post-its (15 mins)

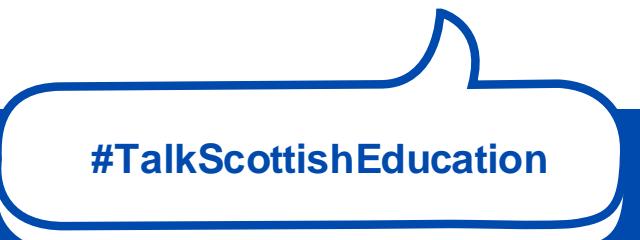
Individual activity: responding to others' post-its (15 mins)

Open discussion (15 mins)

## Anticipated outputs

Have your say display

Engagement in discussion



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## 8. How can we ensure that everyone involved in education in Scotland has a say in future decisions and actions?

- Here are some suggestions about how you might have your say in the future decisions and actions about education
- Add any other suggestions you might have using post-its
- For any of the suggestions add a comment about this suggestion – would it help **you** to feel involved? Might it help **others**? (or not be helpful for them?)

How to have your say....

Through your pupil council

Using social media to make suggestions

Through surveys which you complete

Through your parents/carers

Through your school/teachers

... ?

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## Programme 3: An in-depth look

This series of group discussions can help learners take a focused look at topics of interest to them, including the future of learning, equity, wellbeing, rights and the world



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- Explore each of the five themes.
- For each, share your responses to the question on post-it notes.
- How do your responses compare to the responses of others?

**Our future learning**

**Our future equity**

**Our future wellbeing**

**Our future rights**

**Our future world**

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Our future  
learning

**How can high quality educational experiences, teaching, and learning be best supported for children and young people in Scotland?**

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## Our future learning

# Our future learning: Prompts

- What would excellent learning for every young person look like in the future?
- What different things do you need at different times in your education? What needs do others have which might be different and how can we meet those needs?
- Who are the main people who should be helping learners? What support might they need to help learners? Who could provide this?
- How involved should parents and carers be in supporting your learning? What can they do to help?
- What do you think you should be learning about in future? What do you think you'll need to know and do in order to be successful?
- Does your learning need to change? Does learning help you to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor?
- What do you think success is? How should it be measured? (Can it?) How would you like your success to be recognised?
- How should success in education be measured?

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Our future  
equity

**How can every child's and young person's individual needs be supported and addressed in the future?**

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## Our future equity: Prompts

- What needs to be done to make sure education is fair for everyone? What needs to be done to make this happen?
- What gets in the way of children and young people feeling part of education and achieving? What do you want to achieve?
- What would education in the future look like if every child was respected, valued and included, and no-one was left behind? How can this be achieved?
- How can an education system make sure that everyone feels involved?
- How can children and young people learn to understand and value everyone in Scotland and around the world?
- What would need to change to make this all happen?

Our future  
wellbeing

**How can children's and young people's mental, emotional, social, and physical wellbeing and safety be cared for and supported in the future?**

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## Our future wellbeing

# Our future wellbeing: Prompts

- What needs to be done to make sure that all children and young people feel safe in education settings?
- How can your wellbeing be supported/ supported better?
- How do we help everyone to feel good about themselves? How do we help everyone to be ready to learn?
- How should we help children and young people to be physically active in the future?
- How can education in future help support children's and young people's mental health?
- How can your views, experiences and suggestions be listened to, understood and included in decisions about education in future?
- How can we make sure that in future, education leads to respectful relationships for all?
- How can the future wellbeing of adults also be supported and addressed? What difference might this make to you?

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Our future  
rights

**How can the right of every child and young person to have opportunities to develop their full potential be achieved in future?**

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## Our future rights: Prompts

- How can the education system in future make sure that the rights of children and young people are met?
- How can a future education system that is child/young person-friendly and learner-centred be developed?
- How might education in future safeguard the rights of all young people?
- How can you be supported to develop your understanding of human rights, to live peacefully, and to respect others and the environment?

Our future  
world

**How can children and young people be helped to learn about our changing world, so they feel able to positively contribute?**

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## Our future world: Prompts

- What are the key issues that you feel strongly about right now? Are these things you talk about in education? How can they be best explored in future?
- How can education help you to become all that you can be?
- How can digital ways of learning help you best?
- How can online safety be supported?
- How should learning and teaching about climate change, the environment, and sustainability be improved ?
- What do you think you need to know about the world you live in, how it is changing, and how you can contribute to it (locally and/or globally)?

## What happens next?

Education plays a key role in finding solutions to global and local challenges and in making sure children's rights are respected. That's why we need to listen carefully to you – whether you are a learner, parent, teacher, practitioner or someone who has an interest in the future of education.

Your response will be independently analysed alongside all other responses to contribute to an inclusive and exciting future vision for Scottish Education.

Follow **#TalkScottishEducation** on Twitter or Instagram to keep up with the discussion.

The discussion will conclude on 5th Dec 2022. We look forward to reporting back to you in Spring 2023 on the vision you've informed.



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# Feedback

Thank you for taking part in the National Discussion.

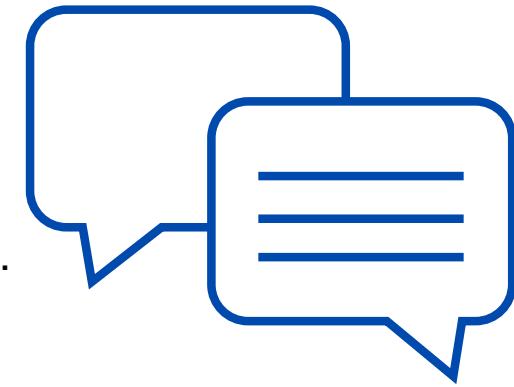
These tasks will have helped us all think about some of the National Discussion questions.

Learners should now either work in groups – or with the facilitator - to complete their group's response via the following link: <https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/national-discussion-feedback>

Or, complete their own personal response via the following link:

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/national-discussion-on-education>

If neither of these options fit your group's needs, you can instead choose to email a summary to: [nationaldiscussiononeducation@gov.scot](mailto:nationaldiscussiononeducation@gov.scot), or post on social media **#TalkScottishEducation** (via Instagram or Twitter). Please remember to include a rough description of who was in your group and how many people took part.



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