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A list of acronyms used in Scottish education, August 2017

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 Primary 1 and a second by Primary 5.
ADES	Association of Directors of Education in Scotland	The national organization which represents directors and senior managers from Scottish local authorities.
AHDS	Association of Head Teachers and Deputes in Scotland	AHDS is union for promoted teachers in primary, nursery and ASN schools.
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.
ATP	Action Team for Partnerships	These teams are part of Partnership Schools Scotland led by SPTC. The ATP includes staff, families, pupils and representatives from the wider community and they set goals and organize activities to involve more and different people in children's learning.
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.
CA	Classroom Assistant	Classroom assistants provide support to teachers.
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:

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		<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	<p>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.</p> <p>A CSP document gathers together reports and plans from all the professionals who will support a child with additional support needs in school, for example speech and language therapists, social workers.</p> <p>A CSP should be reviewed every year and parents have a key role in this process.</p>
CT	Class teacher	
DHT	Depute Head Teacher	The role of the DHT will vary from school to school but generally he/she will stand in for the headteacher as necessary and will have responsibility for leadership and management of colleagues.
EAL	English as an Additional Language	<p>This includes children/young people and parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who have recently arrived in Scotland from another country and are new to learning English - who have always lived in this country but use a language other than English at home.
EIS	Educational Institute of Scotland.	The largest teaching union in Scotland.
ELC	Early Learning & Childcare	<p>This term is meant to emphasise that care and education of very young children are not two separate things as babies and young children are learning all the time.</p> <p>Early Learning & Childcare settings include family centres, nursery schools, nursery classes attached to primary schools, and childminders. These places may be run by local authorities, private businesses, voluntary sector organisations, and self-employed individuals.</p>

ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages	A service, usually organized by the local authority to provide English classes and other information for those people whose first language is not English.
EYO	Early Years Officers	These people make up most of the staff who work in nurseries and pre-school settings in Scotland.
FE	Further education	This is post-compulsory education which is different from that offered in universities. It is mainly taught in colleges and is sometimes done as work-based learning or in adult and community learning.
FLO	Family Learning Officer	This person may develop and run courses and activities for families so they can help support their child's learning.
FSM	Free School Meals	
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent	This is a way to measure how much time a member of school staff works in school. For example, FTE of 1.0 means the person is equivalent to a full-time worker, 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.
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 SPTC leaflet: "What is General Teaching Council Scotland {GTCS}?" for more information)</i>
GUS	Growing Up in Scotland	Growing Up in Scotland is a long-term study tracking the lives of thousands of children and their families from the early years, through childhood and beyond. The main aim of the study is to provide new information to support policy-making in Scotland but it also intended to provide a resource for practitioners, academics, the voluntary sector and parents.
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 to give

		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, eg computer studies - as a tool to support teaching and learning, eg 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 have a subject degree) in Education (PGDE).
LA	Local Authority	There are 32 local authorities in Scotland.
LAC	Looked-After and Accommodated	A child who is looked after and housed by the local authority. Some children are <i>looked after</i> at home.
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender	
MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament	
NAS/UWT	National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers	A teaching union.

NIF	National Improvement Framework	Launched in January 2016, this Scottish Government framework is about measuring and evaluating performance in schools. It includes parents and carers as part of the process. Importantly, it introduced standardized assessment of children.
NPFS	National Parent Forum for Scotland	Supported by the Scottish Government, NPFS provides a parental perspective for local and national policies and issues and helps support parental involvement.
NQ	National Qualifications	NQs are taken by young people in secondary schools and colleges (and some training centres).
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification	These are work-based qualifications.
OSCR	Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	OSCR decides whether to grant an organization charitable status and to enter it on the Scottish Charity Register. They then monitor the charity to check it complies with the law.
PEF	Pupil Equity Funding	This money is given to schools to help support children who may be falling behind and don't have the same chances in education because their family is experiencing poverty or other financial difficulties. The aim is to support children in P1 to S3 and the amount a school receives depends on how many children are registered for free school meals. For every child that is registered, the school receives £1,200. The headteacher decides on how the money should be spent in discussion with staff and parents.
PLP	Personal Learning Plan	A document/folder where a pupil can keep a record of his/her goals and achievements alongside examples of their work. (See IEP)
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. (See PU)

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 SPTC 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.
RME	Religious and Moral Education	
SCCYP	Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People	The Commissioner aims to promote and protect the rights of children and young people in Scotland.
SCEL	Scottish College for Educational Leadership	SCEL supports teaching staff by providing access to high quality leadership programmes of training.
SCQF	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework	This organization promotes lifelong learning in Scotland. The Framework can help parents and youngsters to plan learning and develop routes through different types of learning to reach learning goals.
SEYO	Senior Early Years Officer	Work in pre-school and nurseries.
SHRE	Sexual Health and Relationships Education	

SHANARRI	Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included	These are part of GIRFEC and are necessary for a child or young person to reach their potential. They are used to record observations, events and concerns to create an individual plan for a child.
SIF	Summary of Inspection Findings	This document is available on the Education Scotland website following an inspection.
SIP	School Improvement Plan	This document should show improvement targets for a school. The Parent Council should help draft this.
SLS	School Leaders Scotland	A teaching union for headteachers and deputes.
SMT	School Management Team	Usually includes the headteacher and deputes; may also include the business manager and principal teachers.
SNAG	School Nutrition Action Group	A committee which usually includes school staff, pupils, parents and local people to promote healthy eating within the school community.
SPION	Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network	A network group for local authority officers who have a specific role in supporting family engagement.
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority	SQA is responsible for the design, setting, assessment and certification of qualifications.
SSTA	Scottish Secondary Teachers Association	A teaching union.
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths	The name used for this group of subjects.
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.
VOICE		A teaching union.

VSDS	Volunteer Scotland – Disclosure Services	VSDS provides free support for voluntary groups when their helpers join the PVG Membership Scheme. SPTC 4 star members can access this through SPTC. (see PVG)
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.