

'LfS Connect':

Scotland's online Community of
Practice in Learning for Sustainability

Starts September 2026

What is 'LfS Connect'?

We're delighted to announce the re-launch of LfS Connect.

This is a monthly online national Community of Practice which has, since 2022, engaged over 400 educators, senior educational leaders, and policy makers across Scotland in discussion on and examination of key aspects of educational policy and practice relating to Learning for Sustainability.

Originally co-delivered by Learning for Sustainability Scotland [in partnership with GTC Scotland](#), and featuring expert input from a range of speakers from across education, this free-of-charge opportunity was designed to meet an identified need for a dynamic and flexible platform which provides educators, senior leaders, and policy-makers with a space to:

- Connect and network in real time with invited experts and one another.
- Engage with, share and discuss specific aspects of Learning for Sustainability policy and practice.

How does it work?

The content and focus are shaped by two key concepts:

1. Coverage of themes and ideas suggested by Community of Practice members themselves
2. Raising awareness of key national and international policy, and teaching and learning developments and opportunities that are core to or enhance delivery of Learning for Sustainability.

How are the meetings structured?

Each session includes:

- input from invited experts
- small-group or whole-group discussion
- feedback plenaries
- signposting to further resources and professional learning opportunities
- gathering of participant ideas to inform and enhance future sessions.

Where can I find out more?

Scroll down to see an overview of previous LfS Connect sessions and the themes and speakers involved:

2022		
Date	Theme	Guest Speakers
March	'Learning for Sustainability: what it means to me'	Lynn McNair, Cowgate Under-Fives Centre, Edinburgh; Debbie Matthewson, Stow Primary School, Scottish Borders; Tom Bird, Boroughmuir High School, City of Edinburgh.
April	'Learning for Sustainability and Professional Learning'	Fiona Savage, Initial Teacher Education Lecturer, Edinburgh Napier University; and PGDE students
May	'Learning for Sustainability and whole-setting self-evaluation'	Denise MacColl, Head Teacher, and Arthur Clarence, Principal Teacher, Logan Primary School, East Ayrshire
September	'Learning for Sustainability and the GTCS Professional Standards'	Jacqueline Morley, Senior Officer, General Teaching Council for Scotland
October	'Learning for Sustainability: a focus on professional learning'	Christine Calder, Dundee & Angus College; Keri Reid, Muthill Primary School, Perth & Kinross; Isla Lumsden, Kilmaron School, Fife; Tina Stones, Highland Council

2023		
Date	Theme	Guest Speakers
January	'Creating a whole-setting approach to Learning for Sustainability'	Jennifer Hutton, Principal Teacher, Dunblane Primary School, Stirling
March	'Learning for Sustainability and the National Improvement Framework'	David Maxwell, Quality Improvement Officer, Dumfries & Galloway Council
April	'Learning for Sustainability: the role of the practitioner in supporting learner voice'	Andrew McLaughlin, ITE Lecturer, University of Aberdeen
May	'Learning for Sustainability: celebrating teaching and learning approaches'	Alison Henderson, STEM and LfS Officer, North Ayrshire Council
September	'Learning for Sustainability and the national Learning for Sustainability Call to Action'	Ian Menzies, Senior Officer for STEM, LfS and Outdoor Learning, Education Scotland
November	'Learning for Sustainability; reviewing the Memorandum on Entry Requirements for Teaching'	Suzanne Aldous, General Teaching Council for Scotland
December	Learning for Sustainability: towards a whole-setting approach'	Yvonne Templeton, Head Teacher Ballantrae PS and Colmonell PS, South Ayrshire

2024		
Date	Theme	Guest Speakers
January	'Learning for Sustainability and the General Teaching Council for Scotland LfS Hub'	Suzanne Aldous, General Teaching Council for Scotland
February	'Learning for Sustainability: sharing our LfS Journeys'	Suzanne Aldous, General Teaching Council for Scotland and Douglas Academy, East Dunbartonshire
March	Learning for Sustainability: Sharing and celebrating LfS journeys	Carolyn McFarlane, PT, Curriculum Outdoors Attainment Challenge in the East Ayrshire Council Learning Outdoors Support Team
April	Learning for Sustainability: Responding to the LfS Call to Action in Secondary settings	Keith Turner, PT of Geography, Speyside High School, Moray.
May	Learning for Sustainability: Coaching and Mentoring for LfS	Mairi Thomson, Education Officer, Education Scotland; Sarah Girasoli, PT, St Luke's High School, East Renfrewshire
June	Learning for Sustainability and The LfS Book Club	Suzy Aldous, Education Officer, GTC Scotland
September	Learning for Sustainability and whole-setting approaches to LfS	Rachel Foy, HT at Cockburnspath and Coldingham Partner PS and NS Schools, Scottish Borders; and Emma Turnbull, Principal Teacher at Duns PS, Scottish Borders
November	Learning for Sustainability and Initial Teacher Education	Will Quirke, Teaching Fellow at the University of Strathclyde's Institute of Education
December	Learning for Sustainability and GTCS Professional Standards: LfS and the role of local authorities	Gillian Eaves, Education Support Officer for STEM and LfS in Fife Council,

2025		
Date	Theme	Guest Speakers
January	'A Golden Thread': LfS and the Scottish Curriculum Improvement Cycle.	Sheona Goodall, associate tutor and lecturer at the University of Dundee
February	'LfS and the Voices of Learners'	Young people from secondary schools in the City of Edinburgh and West Lothian.
March	'LfS and the Role of Senior Leadership Teams'	John Rutter, a Depute Head Teacher from Highland Council
April	'LfS and a Rights-Based Approach'	Kate Vickers, Professional Advisor, Rights Respecting Schools, UNICEF
May	'A Focus on the new National Framework for LfS in Initial Teacher Education'	Professor Lizzie Rushton, University of Stirling and Scottish Council of Deans of Education; Dr Beth Christie, University of Edinburgh; Dr Claire Ramjan, University of Glasgow.
June	'Creating a culture of LfS in your setting'	Lorraine Budge; Quality Improvement Officer, City of Edinburgh Council

What happens now - and how can I sign up?

Details of all LfS Connect sessions for the remainder of 2026 will be uploaded to our website in mid-June. [Please visit our Events section for full details.](#)

We'll also be sending out a Mailchimp to our members in mid-June with more details of LfS Connect sessions for the remainder of 2026 - watch this space.

You don't have to be a member to take part in LfS Connect, but please do consider joining us – it's free. [Find out more and sign up here.](#)