



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
Houses of the
Oireachtas

Coiste um Oideachas agus Óige

Clár Oibre

2025

Committee on Education and Youth

Work Programme

2025

34/EY/01

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Related information

Publications

All publications for this committee are available on the Oireachtas website [here](#).

Committee debates

Transcripts of Committee debates can be found on the Committee debates page [here](#).

Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the Committee videos page [here](#).

Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the Committee page [here](#).

Orders of reference

Read the Orders of Reference and Establishment of Committees [here](#).

Committee Membership

Cathaoirleach

[Cathal Crowe TD](#), Fianna Fáil

Leas-Cathaoirleach

[Senator Gareth Scahill](#), Fine Gael

Members

[Ruth Coppinger TD](#), People Before Profit-Solidarity

[Jen Cummins TD](#), Social Democrats

[Emer Currie TD](#), Fine Gael

[Aisling Dempsey TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Ryan O'Meara TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Darren O'Rourke TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Peter Roche TD](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Joe Conway](#), Independent

[Senator Shane Curley](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Linda Nelson-Murray](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Pauline Tully](#), Sinn Féin

Introduction

The Joint Committee on Education and Youth was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann on 30 April 2025 and 13 May 2025, respectively. Standing Orders 109(4) Dáil Éireann and 86(4) Seanad Éireann require that “as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann”.

Select Committee

The function of the Select Committee is to consider Bills, Estimates and other business referred to it by Dáil Éireann which relate to the Department of Education and Youth.

A. Legislation (Bills)

Legislation included in the Summer 2025 Government Legislative Programme is available to view [here](#).

There are no Bills, relating to the Department of Education and Youth, which are listed as *Legislation for Priority Publication* in the Summer 2025 Government Legislative Programme.

There is one Bill, relating to the Department of Education and Youth, which is listed as *Legislation for Priority Drafting* in the Summer 2025 Government Legislative Programme, as follows:

- Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill - Legislation to make some necessary technical amendments to education legislation.

There is one Bill, relating to the Department of Education and Youth, which is listed under *All Other Legislation* in the Summer 2025 Government Legislative Programme, as follows:

- Education (Amendment) Bill - To amend the 1998 Education Act in relation to examinations.

See also, [section 3C](#) of this Programme.

B. Estimates and other Financial Matters

There are four budgetary milestone engagements through the year providing for year-round scrutiny by sectoral (Select) Committees.

1. Consideration¹ of Revised Estimates Volume (REV) in January/February,
2. Examination of the Public Service Performance Report (PSPR) in June/July or September,
3. Examination of the Mid-Year Expenditure Report in July or September, and
4. Consideration of Supplementary Estimates in October/November.

Estimates are Ministers' spending plans for the coming financial year. When referred to Select Committees for consideration, this Committee has a valuable opportunity to question the Minister for Education and Youth on financial allocations and associated output targets for the coming year.

C. Referrals of Motions and Other Matters

From time to time, matters may arise and may be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil. It is not possible to say in advance what those matters might be or when they might arise. However, there are no items currently referred to the Select Committee.

¹ A Select Committee is required to only consider the Estimates but is not empowered to approve or amend them.

Joint Committee

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two ways

- (i) there will be items of business referred to it by one or both Houses and
- (ii) it can select business for consideration itself, from the areas within its terms of reference.

In practice, the Joint Committee's core work has comprised EU business and key policy and governance priorities –

A. EU Business

Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals

The scrutiny of draft EU legislative proposals will continue to be a standing agenda item of the Joint Committee. Draft proposals will be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee by setting out priority: either High, Medium, or Low.

Engagement with Ministers

Ministers of the Government attend EU Council meetings in their relevant policy areas and it is intended that the Joint Committee will invite the Minister for Education and Youth from time to time to give oral briefings in advance of their attendance at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meetings or in the case of their attendance following such meetings.

Engagement on the Statutory Departmental Scrutiny Report

There is a requirement under S.2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 for Ministers to report twice yearly to both Houses on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Communities and the European Union in relation to which he/she performs functions. The Joint Committee can consider these reports with the Secretary-General of the Department.

Engagement with European Bodies

The Committee will continue to further its engagement with European bodies such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament and its committees during 2025, including delegation visits where appropriate.

B. Key policy priorities

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider such other policy issues as it may select within its terms of reference. In the period May to December 2025, in addition to core business such as legislation, issues concerning estimates, motions, etc., it should be possible to focus on one or two major topics within the remit of the Department of Education and Youth, with the aim of producing a well-researched report to the Houses by end of 2025.

The following are key policy issues for examination:

- Multi-denominational and secular education access,
 - Curriculum reform, at early years, primary, and Junior Cycle,
 - Curriculum reform at Senior Cycle,
 - Recruitment and retention of teachers,
 - Recruitment and retention of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs),
 - Building works for the construction, extension and refurbishment of schools,
 - Youth facilities in communities,
 - School grants and funding,
 - Tackling educational inequality,
 - The School Meals Scheme,
 - Multi-disciplinary therapies in schools,
 - The School Transport Scheme,
 - Redress for victims of historical sexual abuse in schools run by religious orders,
 - The School Completion Programme,
 - Trauma-informed schools,
 - The Additional Accommodation Scheme,
 - Support for young carers in schools,
 - Implementation of the Youth Work Strategy,
 - Gaeiloideachas
 - Review of the Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations (RACE) scheme,
 - Digital literacy/online safety for children,
 - The physical education curriculum,
 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education,
 - Education for Children with Special Educational Needs,
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- Funding of school libraries,
- Irish Sign Language (ISL) as a Leaving Certificate subject examination,
- A study of how the Irish language is taught at primary and post-primary level in comparison with the teaching of Welsh and Scots Gaelic languages in their respective education systems,
- An examination of how modern foreign languages are taught at primary and post-primary level,
- The welfare of teachers at both primary and post-primary level, with reference to their personal safety,
- The use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom as an education tool and to assist Principals and Teachers with administrative duties.

The Joint Committee will prioritise the following issues for the remainder of this year.

- The School Meals Scheme,
- Recruitment and retention of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs),
- Review of the Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations (RACE) scheme, and
- Leaving Certificate reform.

Issues not considered by end of 2025 can form part of the Work Programme for 2026.

C. Scrutiny of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Each Sectoral Committee shall consider such aspects of progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as set out in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in both the Committee's Work Programme and Annual Report.

Of particular relevance to the Joint Committee on Education and Youth, in this regard, are the following SDGs:

- Goal 1: No Poverty,
 - Goal 2: Zero Hunger,
 - Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being,
 - Goal 4: Quality Education, and
 - Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.
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D. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny/Post-enactment

In addition to this core work, the Joint Committee is also empowered to consider the examination of the general scheme or draft heads of Bills and to consider any post-enactment report on any Bill enacted in the previous 12 months by the Houses of the Oireachtas in respect of the Department.

E. Engagement with Chairperson designates

The Joint Committee is also empowered to engage with the Chairpersons designate of a body or agency under the aegis of the Department of Education and Youth, prior to their nomination for appointment, to discuss their strategic priorities for the role.

This Work Programme of the Joint Committee on Education and Youth was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 18 September 2025. In accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.



Cathal Crowe, T.D.
Cathaoirleach
18 September 2025

Appendix 1: Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Education and Youth

According to the [website](#) of the Department of Education and Youth, the following bodies are under its aegis:

- [An Chomhairle um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta \(COGG\)](#)
 - The [Educational Research Centre \(ERC\)](#)
 - The [National Council for Curriculum and Assessment \(NCCA\)](#)
 - The [State Examinations Commission \(SEC\)](#)
 - The [Teaching Council](#)
 - The [National Council for Special Education \(NCSE\)](#)
 - [CARANUA - Residential Institutions Statutory Fund](#)
 - The [Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse](#)
 - The [Residential Institutions Redress Board \(RIRB\)](#)
 - The [Residential Institutions Review Committee \(RIRC\)](#)
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