

# **AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF CLASS CONTACT TIME**

## **Between the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Teachers' Side**

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### **Introduction**

The Scottish Government, COSLA and the Teachers' Side ("the Parties") reaffirm their shared commitment to a high quality, empowered teaching profession and to improving outcomes for Scotland's children and young people.

Recognising the increasing complexity of teachers' professional duties and the importance of protected time for core pedagogical and professional activities, the Parties agree to introduce a national reduction of class contact time (RCCT) of 90 minutes per week.

This Agreement is framed within the spirit and principles of A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century, embodying partnership, professionalism and long-term sustainability.

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### **Purpose of the Reduction in Class Contact Time**

The Parties agree that the additional 90 minutes of reduced class contact time will be allocated entirely as undirected Professional Time.

The tasks undertaken during Professional Time set out in the SNCT Handbook, would include but are not limited to:

- Planning and preparing teaching and learning (including appropriate differentiation for learners with additional support needs).
- Preparation for the implementation of inclusive pedagogy and support strategies.
- Sourcing and preparing learning resources.
- Planning and preparing assessment of learning.
- Assessing and evaluating learners' progress on a continuous basis.
- Reflecting on and providing individualised feedback to learners.
- Professional reflection.

Collaboration with colleagues on all of the above, as appropriate.

A review of relevant definitions within the SNCT Handbook will be undertaken to ensure clarity and consistency of Professional Time.

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### **Implementation Timetable**

The following phased implementation model supports stability, sustainability and effective workforce planning across all sectors – taking into account workforce, timetabling and local delivery considerations.

### Implementation in Primary Sector and Special Schools

All primary teachers and teachers in special schools will have a maximum weekly class contact time of 21 hours from the commencement of the academic year in August 2027.

### Implementation in Secondary Sector

All secondary teachers will have a maximum weekly class contact time of 21 hours from the commencement of the academic year in August 2029.

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### **Funding**

The Parties agree that the Scottish Government will provide full funding for the implementation of the reduction in class contact time, including all necessary workforce expansion and associated costs.

The Parties recognise that fully funded national implementation is essential to securing equity, maintaining stability across the system.

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### **Conclusion**

The reduction in class contact time represents a significant, system wide commitment to strengthening the status, capacity and professionalism of Scotland's teachers.

The Parties reaffirm the central role of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) in overseeing the implementation of this Agreement and developing detailed implementation plans, with engagement continuing through LNCTs to ensure that implementation is responsive to local contexts while aligned to national principles.

Through this Agreement, the Parties affirm their joint commitment to a modern, confident and well supported teaching profession, enabling the highest possible standards of learning, teaching and support for Scotland's learners.

Signed

Scottish Government

COSLA

Teachers' Side

