

Background and Overview

To mark 850 years since Glasgow's founding, Education Services led an ambitious, inclusive and innovative programme of learning across early years, primary, secondary and Additional Support Needs (ASN) sectors throughout 2025. This programme enabled children and young people to explore Glasgow's rich heritage, reflecting on its present and actively shaping its future as engaged and informed citizens.

Central to the programme was a strong commitment to pupil voice and participation, with young people engaged through the Glasgow Schools Forum in shaping themes, activities and celebrations.

The programme has demonstrated significant alignment with Glasgow's strategic priorities, particularly in delivering high-quality, inclusive learning experiences that promote wellbeing, achievement and connected learning.

1 Key Achievements and Impact

1.1 Wellbeing and Learning

The Glasgow 850 Schools Programme achieved extensive reach and impact across the city:

- **Schools' Festival:** Many establishments participated in a Glasgow 850 [Citywide Schools' Festival](#) (28 April to 2 May), enabling schools to celebrate Glasgow 850 through interdisciplinary learning, supported by digital curriculum resources on Glasgow Online (GO). Others marked the occasion later in the summer term. The Education Improvement Service (EdIS) and teachers created curriculum content on GO featuring Glasgow 850 timeline investigations, sustainability lessons and a 'Street and Playground Games' interactive Book Creator, which promoted civic pride and supported interdisciplinary learning.
- **Souvenir Badges and Coat of Arms Lunch:** Over 40,000 primary pupils received commemorative badges, with themed learning experiences bringing Glasgow's history and identity to life. During the Schools' Festival, thousands of pupils enjoyed a themed Fuel Zone lunch inspired by the bell, fish, tree and bird motifs, bringing the story of St Mungo and Glasgow's coat of arms to life. Gaelic and mainstream resources, halal options and citywide access ensured inclusion and relevance for all learners.
- **Connected Learning:** Learners engaged in bi-monthly digital lessons and live citywide sessions, deepening understanding and creating personal digital legacy resources.

- **Professional Learning** supported over 220 establishments, ensuring high-quality delivery and strong practitioner engagement.

The programme supported children and young people to develop a stronger sense of identity, belonging and pride in their city, contributing positively to wellbeing and engagement. Watch the [Glasgow 850 Montage](#) here.

1.2 Creativity, Culture and Expressive Arts (CREATE)

Glasgow 850 provided an exceptional platform for creative expression. The citywide project **It's Our Home, Glasgow** invited all schools to perform a multilingual song (English, Scots and Gaelic) with Makaton signing. Over 135 primary schools, three ASL schools, one nursery and a home-education group submitted videos showcasing creativity, inclusivity and community. Teaching videos and learning packs supported the song, while interdisciplinary arts projects, including **Built on the Clyde**, a Scottish Opera partnership, further developed cultural literacy.

- Large-scale events such as [“Built on the Clyde”](#), in partnership with Scottish Opera, involving a 300-pupil chorus, enabled children to perform alongside professional artists.
- [“It's Our Home, Glasgow”](#) project engaged over 135 primary schools in a multilingual, inclusive musical celebration. Watch [It's Our Home, Glasgow](#) here.
- Creative programmes such as **Come Act 2025** and the **Glasgow Schools' Art Exhibition** showcased young people's talents in professional cultural venues.

These opportunities strengthened creativity skills, confidence and collaboration, while providing equitable access to high-quality cultural experiences across the city.

1.3 Health, Wellbeing and Achievement (PEPASS)

The PEPASS Active Schools programme contributed significantly to Glasgow 850 through sport and physical activity:

- A wide range of **citywide events and festivals**, including athletics, dance and Scottish country dance, engaged learners in celebrating the city.
- Programmes such as **Sports Leaders, Dance Leaders and Young Ambassadors** developed leadership skills, supporting developing the young workforce.
- Schools participated in physical challenges aligned to the Glasgow 850 theme, promoting inclusion, health and collective achievement.

Children showcased sporting talent in Glasgow 850 themed PE events that promoted wellbeing, city pride and leadership. The Young Ambassadors Conference in August 2025 brought together 250 young people to learn new skills in sporting leadership, reinforcing civic engagement.

PEPASS received additional funding to support the ASN Inclusion Holiday Camp, which enhanced the programme and delivered an even better experience and service for our ASN pupils and their families with more equipment and coaching.

1.4 Engagement, Participation and Inclusion

Glasgow 850 embedded inclusive practice across all sectors:

- Programme design ensured participation across early years, ASN and mainstream establishments.
- Resources were inclusive and accessible, including Gaelic materials, halal provision and Makaton-supported learning.
- Feedback from learners highlighted strong engagement, empowerment and a sense of being heard and valued.

This approach reflects the Council's commitment to equity, inclusion and children's rights.

Glasgow 850 and the Glasgow Schools Forum

The Glasgow Schools Forum is open to all schools across the city to send representatives. The Forum meets in two separate groups: a Primary session, allowing up to 70 schools to meet and then the Broad General Education (BGE) group which is open to all Secondary schools and has representation from young people across S1-S3. The Forum meets monthly.

Glasgow 850 was involved in 3 dialogue sessions at the forum since June 2024. Young people met with the team to discuss how they would like to celebrate Glasgow's 850th birthday. In December 2024 they met to discuss Wallace the Fire Dog, one of the curriculum themes linked to Glasgow 850. In February 2025 the team met to feedback to the Young People about the best parts about living in Glasgow and how to celebrate Glasgow 850 with a festival.

Here is what some of our young people said during the sessions:

"It was informative. It educated us and let us voice our opinion".

"Representing our school the chance to give feedback and advice".

"Hearing different ideas. Getting a voice"

"We gave our own opinion on various matters throughout the pupil forum".

1.5 Connected and Networked Learning

The programme strengthened collaboration and professional learning across the city:

- Strong partnership working with cultural organisations, national bodies and local stakeholders enhanced the quality and reach of delivery.
- Professional learning opportunities and shared resources supported consistent, high-quality curriculum delivery.
- The programme aligned with Scotland's Curriculum Improvement Cycle, supporting innovation and learner-centred practice.

This has contributed to a more connected and collaborative education system across Glasgow.

Glasgow 850 Digital Learning

Monthly Digital Lessons and Live Learning: From April to December 2025, Regional Training Centre (RTC) Glasgow delivered bi-monthly interactive digital lessons and two citywide live sessions to deepen pupils' connection to Glasgow's history and future. Children captured their reflections in digital keepsake books, creating personal and lasting legacy. Here is the link to the [Glasgow 850 Book Creator](#) accompaniment resource that contains the work that was delivered by the RTC during the course of the year. This resulted in:

- 2,348 YouTube views of the 6 How-To videos for teachers.
- 8 facilitators delivered 6 How-To videos and 2 Live Lessons directly into classrooms.
- 25 schools attended each of the (2) Live Lessons delivered via Microsoft Teams. 50 schools in total as it was different schools each time.

1.6 Visibility and Recognition

The Glasgow 850 Education Programme achieved significant national recognition:

- Extensive media coverage from major outlets highlighted the scale and impact of the programme.
- Social media engagement across schools amplified pupil achievements and strengthened community pride.

Media coverage from The Times, ITV News and Whats on Glasgow raised the programme's profile and highlights the citywide scale and significance of the school celebrations. The visibility of the programme has reinforced Glasgow's reputation as a leading, innovative education authority.

1.7 Legacy and Future Impact

The Glasgow 850 programme has created a strong and sustainable legacy:

- Learners have developed a deeper understanding of their city and their role in shaping its future.
- Schools have embedded high-quality interdisciplinary learning approaches aligned with Curriculum for Excellence.
- Stronger partnerships and collaborative networks will continue to support ongoing improvement and innovation.

The programme continued with planned activities throughout and to the end of the 2025 calendar year, ensuring sustained engagement and lasting impact.

Overall, the Glasgow 850 Education Programme has been an impactful, inclusive and memorable initiative that empowered children to explore the city's story and imagine its future. Through creativity, collaboration and pupil voice, the programme helped young people feel connected to their city and its history, creating a meaningful legacy for Glasgow's young citizens.

2. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications

Financial: Delivered within existing and targeted programme funding, including PEPASS and partnership contributions

Legal: No specific legal implications

Personnel: Delivered through existing staffing and partnership collaboration.

Procurement:

Council Strategic Plan: The proposal supports the following Grand Challenges and Missions:

Grand Challenge 1

Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities.

Missions

- Meet the learning and care needs of children and their families before and through school.

- Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities. Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens.

- Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant.

Grand Challenge 2

Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities

Missions

- Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's children and young people.

The programme supports Education Services' key priorities within **All Learners, All Achieving**, particularly:

- Improved wellbeing and engagement
- Raising achievement and attainment
- Strengthening partnerships and networked learning

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

- Strong **positive equality impact**, with inclusive access across all sectors, including ASN learners supporting the Council's Equality Outcomes.

- The programme contributed to addressing socio-economic disadvantage through universal access and targeted inclusion.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

- Learning activities included sustainability themes, contributing to climate awareness.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

No negative climate implications identified

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

- No data protection implications identified.

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

3 Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the scale, quality and impact of the Glasgow 850 Education Programme across all sectors.
- Acknowledge the contribution of children, young people, staff and partners in delivering a highly successful, inclusive and citywide celebration.
- Recognise the lasting legacy created through curriculum innovation, pupil voice and partnership working.