

TOFIS – Teachers of French in Scotland

First meeting: Monday 23rd February 2026 @ 4.15 - 5.15

Rationale

The French language has always been part of the curriculum in Scotland and is still an important language taught across the curriculum.

It is still the most taught/learned language in primary schools and at S1 and S2 levels.

However, French does not fare so well when it comes to the Senior phase.

As French uptake has been declining in Senior phase in the last ten years there is a growing sense of urgency to reverse the trend so that French can still feel an attractive, enjoyable and useful subject to choose for students when it comes to make choices for S2 onwards.

In this contrasted context, setting up an association for Teachers of French in Scotland makes complete sense if French is to regain the vigour and place it once had in the curriculum.

This association will provide needed support to practitioners by offering a platform for further training, sharing resources, meeting with opportunities for language and cultural exchanges within Scotland and between Scotland and French-speaking countries, enriching the teaching experience for teachers, which ultimately would inform/ impact the learning of their learners.

Background

In 2024, Sheena Bell from Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT) and Cédric Moreau from University of Strathclyde initiated a first gathering under the title of *The Future of French en Écosse*, with the aim of providing a platform for all stakeholders, a place and time for honest assessment and for building a positive future for French in Scotland.

The first forum took place on Monday 24th June at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

This initial meeting was decisive in “shaping the future of French in Scotland” (see programme at the bottom of [this](#) page) as it set the first stone on the journey to an annual professional rendez-vous.

In June 2025, the University of Edinburgh hosted the second forum entitled *The Future of French en Écosse – The Way Ahead*; read the full report of this forum [here](#).

The University of Aberdeen will host the third forum on Monday 22nd June 2026.

In this context, the establishment of a Teachers of French in Scotland association appears an obvious next step to consolidate the initiatives undertaken so far. It is furthermore supported by many of you who voiced a desire to see such an association established, as the aforementioned report shows.

What will the objectives of the Teachers of French in Scotland association be?

In response to French teachers' needs across the curriculum, the association will aim to focus on:

- Building a community of practice in Scotland
- Making connections across primary, secondary and higher education sectors
- Providing a platform for professional development
- Sharing resources and best practices
- Having an advocacy role when possible

Who will run the association?

The association can only succeed with the contribution and commitment of French teachers themselves, supported by the Institut français d'Écosse and Scotland's national Centre for Languages (SCILT).

Suggestions of events/activities

- **Occasional online meetings** – focus groups (i.e. primary teachers /secondary teachers / projects for LWS)
- **Presence on SCILT website, with use of Modern Languages Resource Share Team and Facebook group for sharing resources**
- **Annual in-person meetings**

These will be discussed in more detail at Monday's meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!