

Curriculum for Excellence in a nutshell



Raising Standards Improving Knowledge Developing Skills

Curriculum for Excellence is about bringing life to learning and learning to life.

It has been introduced as part of our continuing task of raising standards of learning and teaching and ensuring college learners are well prepared to meet their current and future challenges.

It focuses on the importance of knowledge and skills throughout the educational system.

This is a familiar agenda for colleges who are well prepared to take Curriculum for Excellence forward.

There will be more significant changes elsewhere. For example, Curriculum for Excellence offers a broad and deep general education in the first three years of secondary school with options in the senior phase. Curriculum for Excellence promotes the ability to learn – a skill for life that will help young people go on to further study, to secure work and to navigate through life.

It brings real life into learning and takes lessons beyond the classroom. It promises to support learners in every way possible so that they can fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities.

All those working with young people will be responsible for helping to deliver skills in literacy and numeracy – skills that unlock other subjects and are vital in everyday life.

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All our staff will be responsible for young people's health and wellbeing and for identifying the personal support a young person needs on a day-to-day basis.

Staff will work together to ensure learners can learn in a way that works for them, at a pace they can cope with and with enough challenge to stretch them. Staff will support young people through their learning journey.

There are new ways of assessing progress and ensuring young people achieve their best.

We are working to change our qualifications over time to ensure these continue to be fit for purpose in recognising achievement and ensuring progression. This is a challenging task with work well underway to develop new qualifications to replace Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 and 2 with National 4 and National 5. Adapting and updating Highers and Advanced Highers – highly regarded qualifications – is also part of the plan. Revised arrangements will be introduced as part of a well planned process that will engage all stakeholders. Other qualifications such as NQ and HN will be revised as part of the normal revision cycle.

As Curriculum for Excellence moves forward, support for colleges will be strengthened to encourage ideas, innovation and learning from best practice.

Ultimately, the aim is to improve our young people's achievements and life chances, to nurture successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens.

www.scotlandscolleges.ac.uk (college staff and learners)

www.engageforeducation.org (share ideas and question Government Ministers direct about any education issue)

www.ltscotland.org.uk (main source of detailed information for the profession about Curriculum for Excellence)


www.youngscot.org (young learners)

www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk (parents and carers)

www.employersandyoungpeople.co.uk (employers)

www.sqa.org.uk (information on qualifications)

www.hmie.gov.uk (standards, inspections)



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