

Will there be any changes to the existing qualifications structure?

A national review of existing qualifications is currently being undertaken. Proposals include keeping the current Higher Grade and Access qualifications and replacing Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 & 2 courses with a new single qualification. There are also proposals to introduce new qualifications in Literacy and Numeracy for all pupils at the end of S4 in secondary schools and to increase the range of vocational courses on offer to young people.

What's happening in our school?

Our progress in taking forward Curriculum for Excellence at Newtyle:

- 1. All staff are planning learning and activities using outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence*
- 2. Most staff are trained in and implementing Co-operative Learning*
- 3. Our school grounds are used to promote life skills e.g. The Garden*
- 4. All pupils are involved in context planning. This helps to take account of previous knowledge and build on prior learning*
- 5. We reviewed Our School Vision, Values and Aims to take account of Curriculum for Excellence*
- 6. All pupils take part in vertical groups. This provides all children with the opportunity to make decisions to improve our school*
- 7. All staff have been delivering maths using a range of active learning strategies e.g. Concept Cartoons, Interactive Whiteboard, Maths Games*
- 8. All staff are utilising Education City to promote learning through ICT*

Next Steps:

We are planning to hold a curriculum evening in May to showcase developments. Information will be sent out nearer the time.

Where can parents get further information about Curriculum for Excellence?

You can learn how primary, secondary and local authorities throughout Scotland are currently taking forward Curriculum for Excellence by visiting the following areas of the Learning and Teaching Scotland website:

www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk/sharingpractice/index.asp

www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentsaspartnersinlearning/sharingpractice/earlyyears/index.asp

Further details on experiences and outcomes can be viewed at

www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk/index.asp

Parents can keep up to date with what is happening in Scottish education by signing up for free email updates on new LTS publications by logging onto:

www.ltscotland.org.uk/news/updates/index.asp

You are encouraged to discuss the information contained in this leaflet with your child's teacher during parent evening meetings.



'WORK TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE'

Curriculum for Excellence

Wisdom Justice
Values
Compassion Integrity



A guide for parents and carers

Why is Scottish education changing?

Curriculum for Excellence is a major national educational reform designed to provide a richer, more flexible 3-18 curriculum which will equip children and young people for learning, life and work in the 21st century by focusing firmly on their needs.

What are the purposes of education in Scotland?

The ambition of a Curriculum for Excellence is that all children and every young person will become:

Successful learners -
learning to learn

Confident individuals -
learning to be

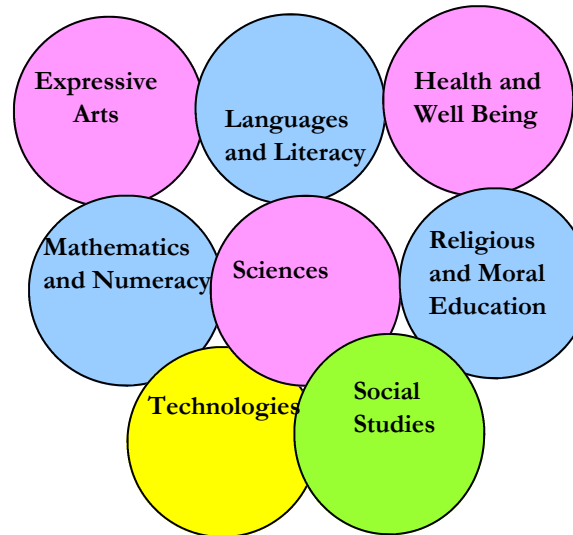
Responsible citizens -
*learning to respect
and co-operate with
others*

Effective contributors
to society and work -
learning to do

The 21st century curriculum will provide support, structure and direction to young people's learning so that they can maximise their potential in each of these four areas.

What do we mean by 'Curriculum'?

The curriculum is the complete range of experiences and activities planned for children and young people throughout their schooling. Learning in schools will take place through a wide range of planned experiences and outcomes in the following eight curriculum areas:



Sometimes the learning experiences may be linked together through themes and projects covering several areas of the curriculum. At other times learning will take place in individual subject areas. Learning will also be developed through day to day involvement in the life and work of the school community and the wider community. Such activities will include a variety of out of school projects and a range of school or community-based events.

Planned experiences will be designed to achieve specific outcomes in terms of the knowledge, skills and understanding that show how young people are progressing and developing.

What will this look like in practice?

Opportunities will be provided for young people to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

Arrangements will be made to ensure that young people are assisted to achieve their full potential through the delivery of appropriate personal support.

When planning activities and experiences for young people, teachers will take account of the following seven principles:

1. **Challenge and enjoyment** - All young people should be active in their learning and have opportunities to develop and demonstrate their creativity.
2. **Breadth** - All young people should have access to a broad range of activities so that they can learn and develop in a variety of ways.
3. **Progression** - All young people's learning should build on earlier knowledge and achievement.
4. **Depth** - All young people should have opportunities to learn and study in depth. As they progress they should be able to draw different strands of learning together and deepen their learning to the best of their ability.
5. **Personalisation and choice** - The individual needs of all young people should be recognised and particular talents and skills supported and developed. Opportunities should be provided for young people to exercise responsible personal choice as they progress through the school.
6. **Coherence** - There should be clear links between the different aspects of learning.
7. **Relevance** - Young people should understand the purpose of their activities and see the value of what they are learning for their present and future life.