



What is Curriculum for Excellence?

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) was introduced in Scottish schools in 2010, updating the way our children are taught and assessed. You will probably have heard of the “four capacities” that it aims to develop – *Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Effective Contributors* and *Responsible Citizens*. These reflect the purpose of CfE, to provide pupils with learning/teaching that is more relevant to the changing world. CfE consists of a number of separate but related elements:

1. Teaching which is more interactive and aims to both motivate children and help them understand how they learn;
2. A slimming down and updating of what is taught to focus on what is relevant to the world today and what youngsters need to know;
3. More cross-subject teaching i.e. using a project to combine different elements from different subjects;
4. A new focus on literacy and numeracy by all teachers in all subjects to help ensure that youngsters become competent in these skills;
5. A modernised qualification (examination) system in secondary schools which takes account of both the new style of teaching and learning and the new content;
6. A recognition that not all learning happens in the classroom: youngsters will be credited for other activities they do whether playing sport/music or taking part in activities like the Scouts.

What does CfE mean in Primary Schools?

What stays the same?

- Most primary schools are well established in delivering CfE. The interactive teaching suits their normal approach as does using projects that draw on different subjects.
- With a single class teacher, it is quite natural for him/her to teach literacy and numeracy through all areas of learning.

What will be different?

- Reports to parents used to talk about children's academic attainment (what they have learned) at levels of A to E. The learning of primary school children is now grouped into three stages – early years, 1 and 2. The early years stage starts in nursery and goes to the end of P1, Stage 1 covers P2 – P4 and Stage 2 P5 – P7.
- There are no formal national tests, although teachers will continue to assess pupils' progress and report back to parents. Teachers will report on children's progress in a variety of ways and are likely to talk about it in terms of Developing, Consolidating and Secure. Think about it as the stages of learning to drive: Developing = your first few lessons, Consolidating = when you're confident to sit your test, Secure = after the first few years of driving, when you have become really confident of your ability and might go for the Advanced Driving Test!
- All P7 pupils will have a Profile which they prepare with their teacher to help their move to secondary school, demonstrating the work they have done, their abilities and strengths. The Profile is owned by the child and is intended to reflect their achievements both in and out of school.
- Some local authorities are using standardised tests to see how children across the authority compare and are progressing, but that is not reported to parents.

The primary school will remain what it has always been for children – a good place to learn with the focus on the individual child.

What does CfE mean in Secondary Schools?

CfE is a bit more challenging for secondary schools. With different teachers for different subjects, the programme has not fallen quite so naturally into their approach. However, many schools are making great strides and developing cross-curricular topics, involving different subject departments. Individual schools have a lot of flexibility on how they implement CfE and schools are developing different programmes of learning that they feel suit their pupils best.

- Under CfE, secondary schools are being organised differently. Although there has always been a little variation, with some schools presenting pupils at different times for SQA exams, most schools are organised into three, two-year blocks; S1/2 – a general course, S3/4 – Standard Grade/equivalent course, S5/6 – the qualification years for Higher and Intermediate exams. Secondary schools are moving to a different structure: two, three-year blocks; S1 to S3 – called the Broad General Education and S4 – S6 – the Senior Phase when pupils work towards qualifications.
- S1 to S3 will build on the work done in primary schools and will cover levels 3 and 4 of the CfE. There will be a strong focus on interactive learning, literacy and numeracy, cross-curricular working and the child's learning outside the classroom.
- In S4 to S6 many of these same elements will continue but as youngsters move forward to qualifications.
- Most children will work on National 4 & 5 qualifications, taught in a common course covering both levels but with different assessments for each level.
- The National 4 course will be assessed internally and will be ungraded. The National 5 course will have an external assessment that will be graded.

- The new National 4 & 5 courses will be offered in specific subjects in the same way as the qualifications they are replacing.
- The National 4 & 5 courses will have the same value and will be just as rigorous as the existing qualifications so they will be equally regarded by employers, colleges and universities. There will be no advantage or disadvantage in sitting the old or new qualifications.
- The popular Skills for Work courses will continue to be offered from S3 onwards as they are at present; Higher and Advanced Higher courses will remain but will be updated. Access 1, 2 and 3 are being revised and renamed National 1, 2 and 3, to bring them into line with the new qualifications.

For more information go to the CfE website at:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/understandingthecurriculumasawhole/index.asp>

We would like to know

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About SPTC

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- Public Liability
- Personal Accident
- Fidelity Guarantee
- Employer's Liability
- Extended Public Liability for hired-in entertainers
- All-Risks (for equipment purchased by the Parent Council/PTA)
- Short-term all-risks insurance for special events.

You are welcome to use information from this leaflet however, if you do we ask that you acknowledge SPTC.

January 2014

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