

Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence

IN A NUTSHELL



This Nutshell:

- Gives the basics of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- Explains how parents contribute to it
- Suggests where you can find more information about CfE and about supporting your child

These different settings are all linked, and staff in each all work for the same result: confident and happy children.

Whatever their age and stage, all children in Scotland follow the same general programme of learning. This is called Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

This aims to help children develop, at their own pace, so they can learn what they need to know and be able to do, as adults. Although the word 'curriculum' suggests something very rigid, CfE is actually pretty wide and very flexible, with the idea that it will fit around each child.

So, it's not so much about what age and stage and level your child is at, but how these all fit together and how, in their own way, your child can become a:

Successful learner

Confident individual

Effective contributor

Responsible citizen

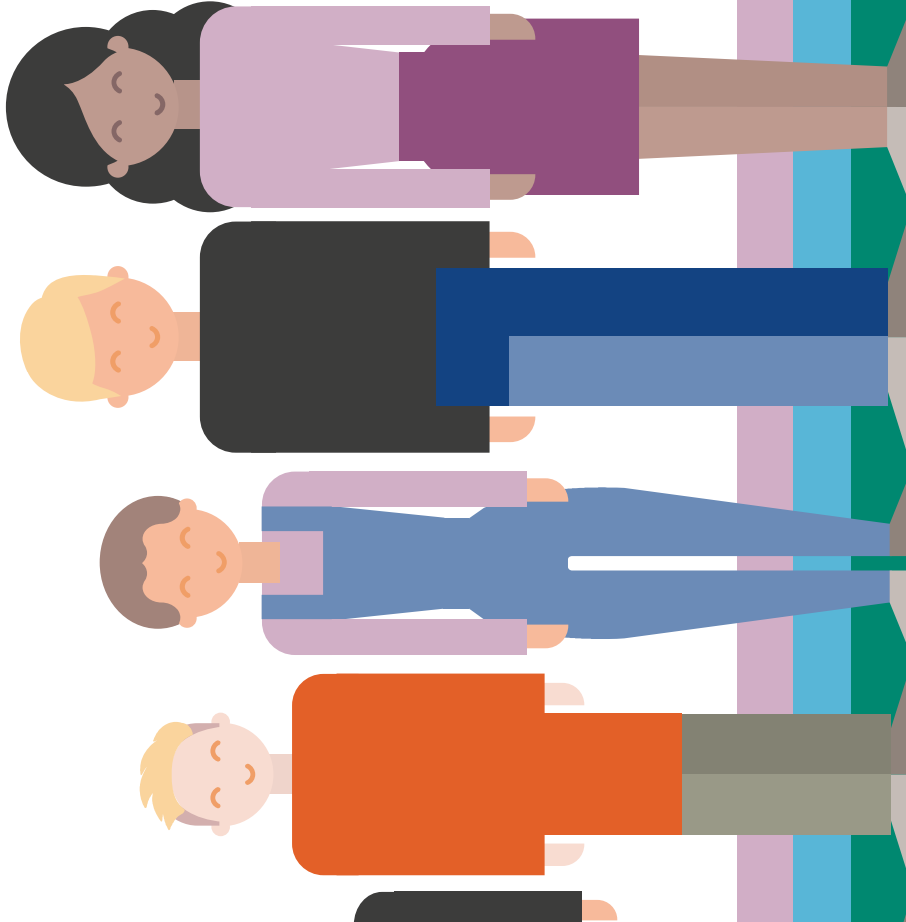
About Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence

Children are in school education for around 15 years: from age three to 18. They move from early learning and childcare at nursery, then on to primary school, and then through to the end of secondary school.

These are known as the four capacities.

All through CfE children and young people develop these four capacities, exploring their talents and gaining the skills that will be useful for the world of work and everyday life.

Learning can happen in classrooms and outdoors. Towards the end of secondary school, young people can learn in other places such as college/university, often while still at school.



Learning all the time

Children learn wherever they are, and all the time. All through the curriculum, they'll get the chance to learn in the classroom, outdoors, online, in workplaces and in the community.

Although children spend a lot of time in school, they spend much more time at home. So, CFE also stresses that parents are an important part of the picture. Nurseries and schools work closely with parents, carers, families and the community and welcome your involvement.

Your child should also have the chance to influence decisions about their learning and what happens in their school.

That's why, it's good for you to know what CFE is all about, and why schools go about things the way they do.

When parents and teachers and children cooperate and work together, it brings out the best in children.

How you can support your child's learning

By listening, talking and encouraging you can do a lot to support your child as they go through ELC, primary and secondary school

There are all sorts of things you can do with your child to support what they are doing at school, at whatever stage they are at, and which don't cost anything: for example, reading with your child, playing games, taking them out and about

You are an important part of your child's education

YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ALL THE WAY ALONG

How the curriculum fits together

HOME

WORKPLACES

COMMUNITY

CLASSROOM

OUTDOORS

ONLINE

SKILLS

At all stages of CFE, across all subjects, children and young people learn skills such as literacy, numeracy and expressive arts, as well as how to think creatively, assess risks, make decisions, respect others and work in teams.

Hobbies and achievements

Children develop their own interests too. These interests and their hobbies and achievements out of school

are all part of who your child is and what they can do.

Community

All children are an important part of their school community and so they learn how to be a member of the community, and why this matters for life beyond school.

Curriculum for Excellence and your child

Interdisciplinary learning

Children learn to use their knowledge and skills, and to make connections, across different disciplines and subjects. For example, P6 pupils might create a website for school pupils in a twin town in France, using what they've learned from studying local history, geography, art and design and French language. It helps children apply and deepen their learning.

Learning areas

All children learn across eight areas:

- Expressive arts
- Health and wellbeing
- Languages including English, Gaelic, Gaelic learners and modern languages
- Mathematics
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

LEARNING AREA EXAMPLES

Numeracy

From early on, numbers, patterns and shapes intrigue children and often form part of their play. As they develop, they learn to count, measure and calculate, and to apply these skills for working out and solving problems in different contexts. Numeracy-related skills (such as problem solving) contribute to learning in other areas of the curriculum.

All teachers are responsible for promoting numeracy and encouraging children and young people to:

- Understand numbers and mathematical processes and concepts
- Apply these processes and concepts
- Problem solve and use analytical skills

Health and wellbeing

This helps children and young people gain confidence, learn to think for themselves and develop positive attitudes. It includes aspects such as PE and food and diet. It helps young people develop 'life' skills, such as taking responsibility for their own health and fitness, decision making, working with other people, and communicating with others.

All teachers are responsible for promoting learning in this area including:

- Developing young people's skills, knowledge and understanding about health and wellbeing
- Encouraging young people to promote their own health and wellbeing throughout their lives

Literacy

At all stages, from age three to 18, children and young people learn grammar, spelling and speaking. This helps them to think critically and creatively, listen and talk, read and write. In doing so, they learn the skills which are so important in life and for future work.

Every teacher in each area of the curriculum encourages all children and young people to:

- Explain their thinking
- Debate their ideas
- Read and write at a level which will help them to develop their language skills further

Being involved

Schools are keen to see parents: you are an important part of the school community. It's also important for you to have the chance to link in with your child's learning.

Schools have changed a lot in recent years. If you'd like to know more about what happens in your child's school, or if there's anything you are not sure about, it's OK to ask. Lots of parents feel a bit out of touch – and your child may not give you the full picture.

You can speak to your child's teachers/headteacher any time about anything to do with your child or CFE. Parents often want to know more about what their child is learning and why, or about the level their child is at, or what they can do at home to support their child's learning. Feel free to ask your school for advice.

You can get involved directly in what the school does. By law, all schools have to support parents to take part.

The right to education

CFE is a whole approach to help children do their best at school, at home and, in time, in the adult world. It develops children's skills for learning, life and work and gives them the chance to develop in their own way. Results and qualifications (attainment) and life and work skills that come from all kinds of activities (achievement) are equally important.

CFE gives every child and young person the right to:

- A consistent education from age three to 18
- A broad general education from age three (early years) to S3
- A senior phase after S3
- Opportunities to develop skills for learning, life and work
- Personal support so they can fulfil their potential
- Support to move into further learning, training and work after they leave school. CFE links directly into work-based, college and university courses and qualifications

children • parents • teachers • families • individuality • community • school • nursery • learn • play • choice • confidence • happy • fun • home • inside • outdoors

PARENTS CAN ALSO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO DO THESE THINGS

This leaflet is part of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence series which also includes:

Wider achievement in a Nutshell

npfs.org.uk/2019/06/wider-achievement-in-a-nutshell

Senior phase in a Nutshell

npfs.org.uk/2019/06/senior-phase-in-a-nutshell

Find out more about Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence and how you can support your child at:

National Parent Forum of Scotland

npfs.org.uk

Curriculum for Excellence fact file

www2.gov.scot/resource/doc/920/0121215.pdf

Parents as partners in their children's learning

education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parents-as-partners-toolkit.pdf



the National Parent
Forum of Scotland

www.parentforumscotland.org

enquiries@parentforumscotland.org

 [parentforumscotland](https://www.facebook.com/parentforumscotland)

 [parentforumscot](https://twitter.com/parentforumscot)

