

Curriculum Areas and Contexts for Learning

There are 8 Curriculum Areas:

- Literacy and English
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Health and Wellbeing
- Technologies
- Sciences
- Expressive Arts
- Social Studies and
- Religious and Moral Education.

Literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are recognised as being particularly important – these areas are seen as being the ‘responsibility of all’.

The curriculum is delivered through 4 contexts:

- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Ethos and life of the school and
- Opportunities for personal achievement.



Outdoor learning is an important feature of Curriculum for Excellence.

Cookery and life skills help to develop young people's confidence and independence.



Willowbank School

Be the best you can be!

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East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Curriculum for Excellence at



What is Curriculum for Excellence?

Curriculum for Excellence is Scotland's curriculum for children and young people aged 3-18.

It's an approach designed to provide young people with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need for learning, life and work in the 21st century.

It aims to enable every child or young person to be a:

Successful learner



Confident individual



Responsible citizen



Effective contributor.



Curriculum for Excellence takes a fresh approach to what, how and where young people learn. It aims to raise standards, improve knowledge and develop skills, closing the gap between the lowest and highest performers.

Stages and Levels

The Curriculum is made up of two broad stages:

- The **Broad General Education**, which provides a rounded education from the early years until the end of S3 and
- The **Senior Phase**, which will include studying for qualifications from S4-S6.

In Willowbank School, our children and young people experience an extended transition between the Broad General Education and Senior Phase. There is much overlap, and we avoid sweeping changes to the curriculum a young person experiences.

Curriculum for Excellence has five levels:

- Early
- First
- Second
- Third and
- Fourth.

Many pupils at Willowbank School will work at a Pre-Early level. Skills and abilities will be developed at this stage to build foundations to allow a child or young person to move onto Early Level.

Levels are fluid and pupils will experience learning experiences that are appropriate to their age, stage of development, personal interests and abilities.

Broad General Education

An age-appropriate curriculum for pupils is based around individual education, care and medical needs. It encompasses the four capacities, the principles and experiences and outcomes of **Curriculum for Excellence**.

The curriculum is based on a pupil-centered active model of learning within an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) drawn up for each child. Staff recognise, however, that many group sessions are invaluable to pupils' learning where independence, self-esteem and confidence develop.

Pupils are involved in activities that provide active, real life and meaningful learning experiences both in and out of school.

Senior Phase

The emphasis on the Senior Phase is placed on allowing the young adults to become as self-reliant and as independent as possible. The curriculum is wide and varied and based on National Qualifications and wider achievements such as ASDAN units and Duke of Edinburgh Awards to name a few.

Secondary pupils develop relationships with pupils from partner schools, such as Kilmarnock Academy, and have the opportunity to attend Ayrshire College. They are involved in both school-based work experience and those that have been arranged outwith school in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.