

JANUARY 2025

1

Curriculum Improvement Cycle

Work has now begun on the process for reviewing and evolving Scotland's Curriculum, known as the Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC). The improvement cycle will consider curricular areas in a planned and systematic way.

The most recent updates surrounding the Curriculum Improvement Cycle can be accessed via the [Education Scotland Curriculum Improvement Cycle blog](#).

2

CIC Publications

Education Scotland is publishing a series of three CIC discussion papers.



Paper one was published in November 2024:

[Background and A Case For Change: Findings from the Pilot Curriculum Reviews 2023/24.](#)

Paper two was published in December 2024: [Towards an Evolved Technical Framework](#)

Paper 3 is expected to be published in March 2025.

Language Matters: A glossary of key terms will be regularly updated to reflect the shared language of the improvement cycle. The latest version can be accessed at [Language Matters](#)

3

Science and the Curriculum Improvement Cycle

The sciences component of the Curriculum Improvement Cycle has begun, marked by the first meeting of the Science CIC Collaboration Group on November 28th 2024 in Glasgow.

The event was attended by 118 participants, representing 31 out of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Of those in attendance, 77% were practitioners, with the remaining 23% representing partner organisations. Key discussions, highlights, and outputs from the day have been documented on a [Padlet](#).



The next stage of the Science CIC process involves the Core Group, a subset of the Collaboration Group, reviewing the outputs from the initial collaboration event. This group will begin working within the framework of the CIC objectives to advance the curricular review. Between January and March, the Core Group will convene through a combination of online and in-person meetings to further develop the thinking of the wider Collaboration Group. The outcomes of their work will be shared with the larger Collaboration Group for further consideration and input.

4 Assessment and Moderation

Assessment and moderation remains a key priority for the Science team, as well as playing a vital role in the improvement cycle. In collaboration with local authorities, the team has been gathering exemplars of evidence from early to fourth levels. Four national events have been scheduled, as outlined below, along with the corresponding registration links.

- 26.02.25 Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh [Registration link](#)
- 06.03.25 Marriott Hotel, Glasgow [Registration link](#) **EVENT FULL**
- 20.03.25 Copthorne Hotel, Aberdeen [Registration link](#)
- 25.03.25 Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness [Registration link](#)



These events will support teacher judgment, foster professional dialogue on assessment standards, and provide materials for schools and authorities as part of broader assessment and moderation programs. The goal is to develop a bank of nationally moderated science assessment materials, spanning early to fourth levels, to support a shared understanding of how to judge levels of attainment.

5 Staying connected

The Education Scotland National Sciences Network will serve as the primary platform for sharing updates and information.



This network also enables practitioners to share resources and is open to all those delivering science from early to fourth levels. Joining details are shown opposite. We encourage you to share this information within your school, setting, and authority to encourage as many colleagues as possible to join.

**Join the ES
National
Science
network**

Joining link
<https://bit.ly/3WfFnBI>

Join code:
uh9sf32

Coming up...



Stay informed about a wide range of events, webinars, and workshops via the [ES and STEM Events calendar](#). This includes sessions from our many STEM partner organisations nationally.

Explore the [STEM Nation](#) and [STEM Nation Award](#) sites for news, events, professional learning opportunities, and details about the STEM Nation Award program. Please consider signing up for the STEM Nation Award as part of improvement planning.

PISA 2025 - With Science as the main domain for the 2025 PISA testing, Education Scotland will release guidance and support materials for practitioners, learners, and parents/carers throughout the year.