

Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)



Introduction to the Curriculum Improvement Cycle

27th January 2025



Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle



Frèam-obrach Curraicealam na h-Alba
cearcall leasachadh a' churraicealaim

Today

- Introduction
- Background to the Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)
- The Language of Curriculum Reform
- CIC: Early Activity
- Next Steps and Communication

CIC – Information Webinar Series



SESSION 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT CYCLE

Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle

SESSION 1
An introduction to the Curriculum Improvement Cycle
27th January, 4pm

Information
Webinar Series

27th January, 4pm

SESSION 2: THE BACKGROUND AND CASE FOR CHANGE

Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle

SESSION 2
The background and a case for change
5th February, 4pm

Information
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SESSION 3: TOWARDS AN EVOLVED TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK

Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle

SESSION 3
Towards an evolved technical framework
13th February, 4pm

Information
Webinar Series

13th February, 4pm



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Implementing Education Policies

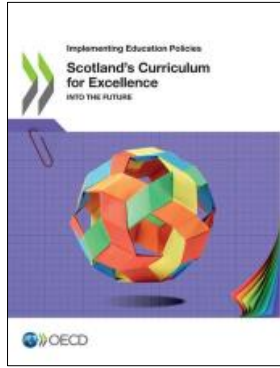
Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence

INTO THE FUTURE



June 2021

Background

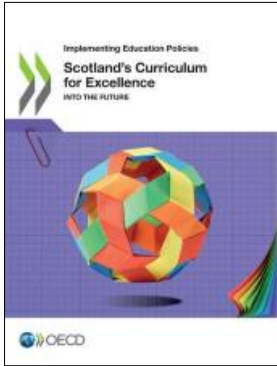


**OECD
Review**



M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
2021								2022												2023			

Background



OECD
Review

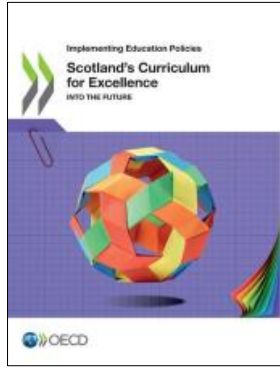


3.4 Develop a systematic approach to curriculum review:

Scotland could consider establishing a systematic curriculum review cycle with a planned timeframe and specific review agenda, led by the specialist stand-alone agency.

M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
2021								2022												2023			

Background



OECD
Review



M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
2021								2022												2023			

Background

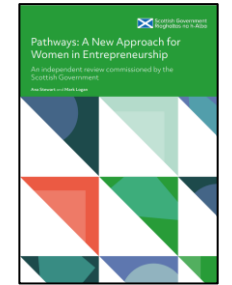
Let's Talk Scottish Education



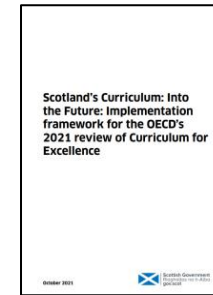
Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



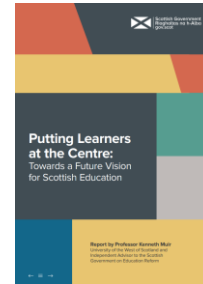
National Discussion



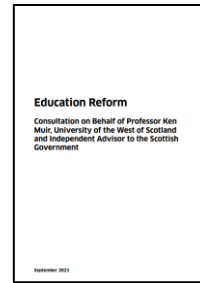
Pathways:
A new approach
for women in
entrepreneurship



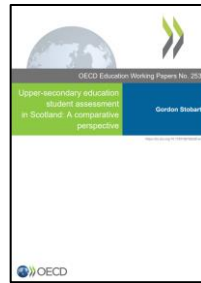
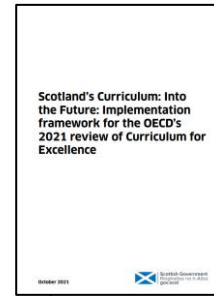
New
School
Year



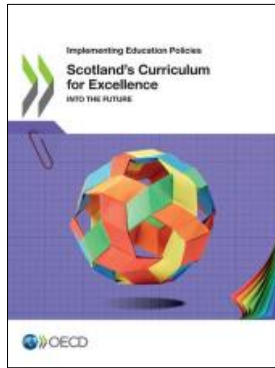
Muir
Review



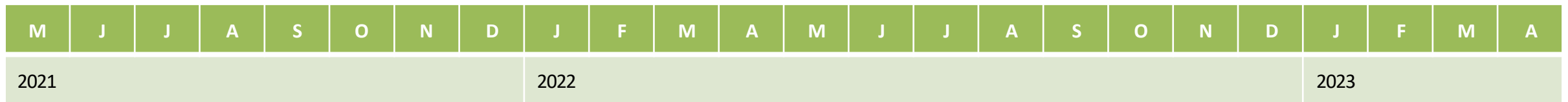
Education Reform
Consultation
Launch



Stobart
Review



OECD
Review



Background



Skills Delivery Review

Review of Assessment & Qualifications

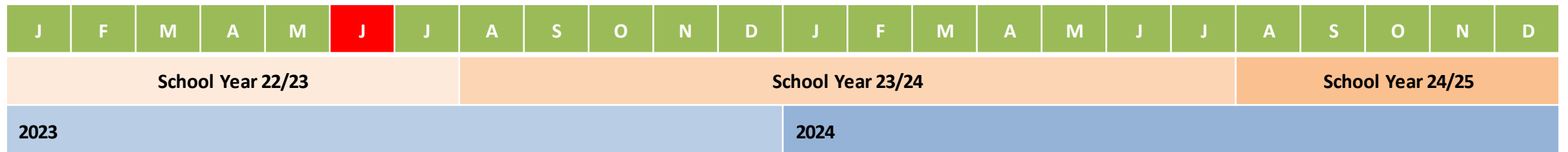
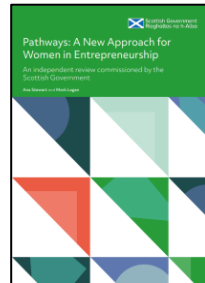


National Discussion Report



LfS Strategy Purposes & Principles

Pathways:
A new approach for women in entrepreneurship



Background

Skills Delivery Review



Review of Assessment & Qualifications

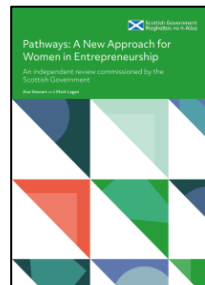


LfS Strategy Purposes & Principles



National Discussion Report

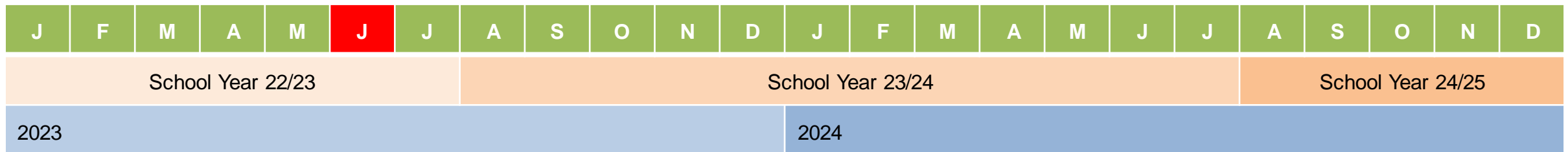
Pathways:
A new approach for women in entrepreneurship



Curriculum – Call to Action:

A **regular curriculum review process** should be established to ensure that the curriculum remains fit for purpose, reflects contemporary learner needs, and can be effectively delivered in ways to ensure that all learners in Scotland have high quality curricular linked learning experiences.

As part of the review of the curriculum **the technical framework of the BGE (including the Experiences and Outcomes) needs to be re-visited** to ensure it is still fit for purpose and aligns with emerging recommendations about the Senior Phase from the 'Hayward Review'.



Background



Skills
Delivery
Review



CLD
Review

ES commission
from SG to begin
Curriculum
Improvement
Cycle (CIC)
Programme

Government
Response to
IRQA

Review of
Qualifications &
Assessment

Curriculum
Improvement
Cycle (CIC)
Announced

Gàidhlig
HWB
Science

Maths
English

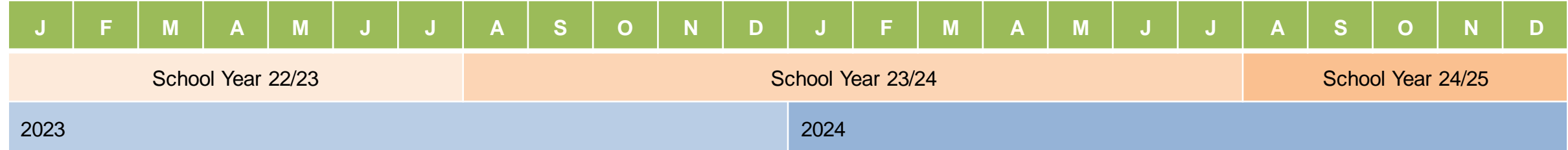
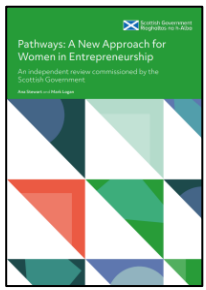


LfS Strategy
Purposes &
Principles



National
Discussion
Report

Pathways:
A new approach
for women in
entrepreneurship



Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle



1

Review evidence and feedback on how the curriculum is working in practice for children and young people from a wide range of relevant sources to identify areas for closer focus.



analysing

2

Use the findings from analysis to plan changes needed.

Work with co-design partners to develop and test relevant workstreams.



engaging and co-creating

4

Monitor and evaluate impact and effect of changes as they are being made.

Gather feedback in order to support improvement as part of the ongoing cycle.



mobilising, monitoring and evaluating

3

Work with co-design partners to **build capacity** and develop professional learning at different levels of the system from place-based to national.



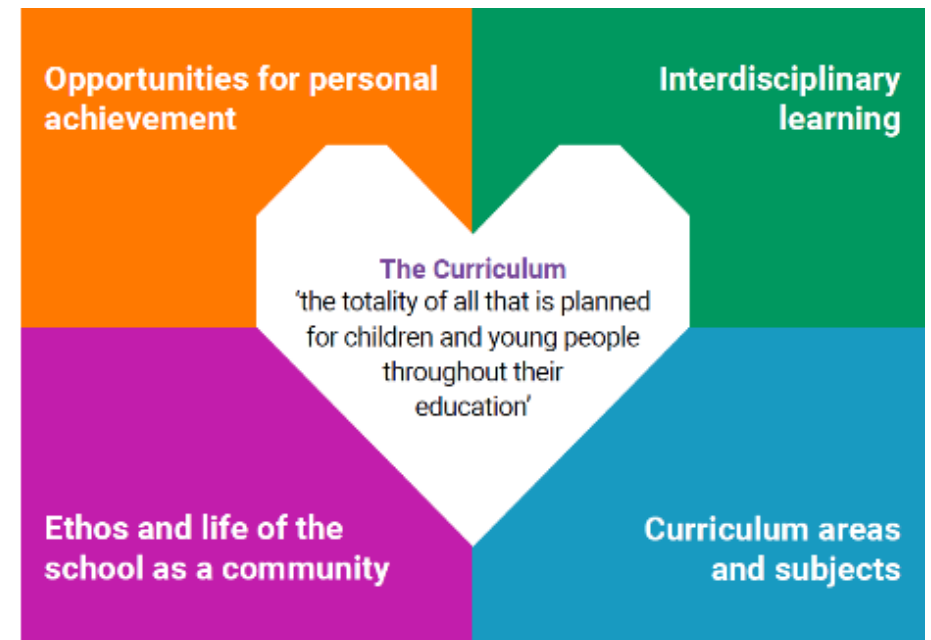
sharing, learning and adopting



Holistic review of Scotland's Curriculum once every 10 years -
e.g. a National Discussion type exercise



We are not starting from a blank piece of paper...



Scotland's curriculum framework



Why



What

Opportunities for personal achievement

Interdisciplinary learning

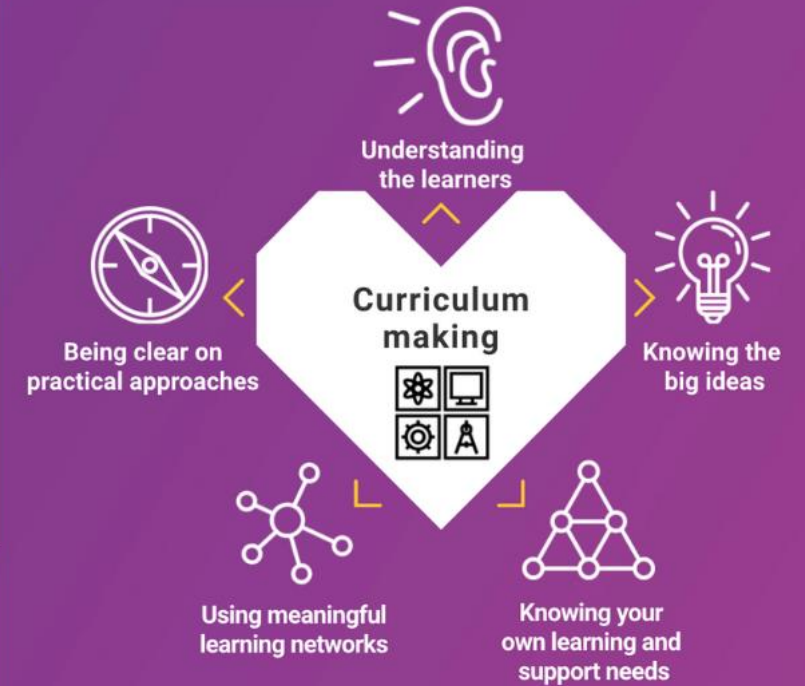
The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

+ entitlements

How

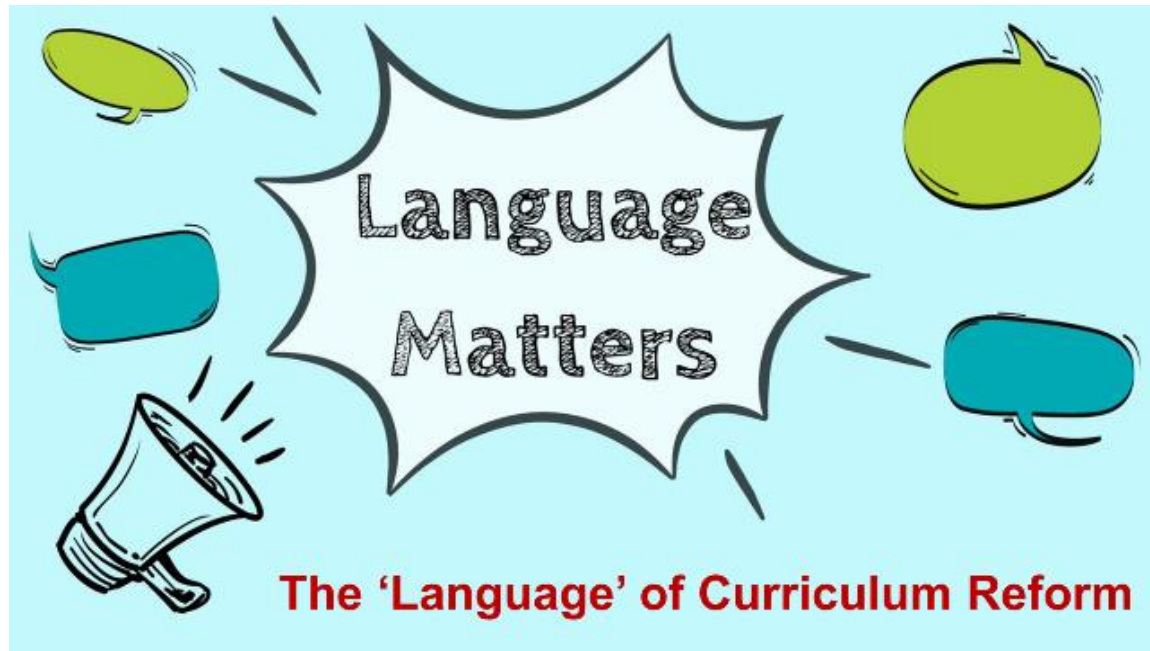




“Current National Practice Guidelines (such as Realising the Ambition: Being Me) will be adopted into the CIC as will commitments already made to UNCRC”.

- CIC High level Design Notes (November 2024)





attribute/s; Big idea/s; capacity/ies; concept; curriculum;
curriculum design; curriculum making; inter-disciplinary learning (IDL);
knowledge; pedagogy; Scotland's Curriculum Framework;
service design; skill(s) and technical framework.

The Technical Framework within a curriculum is used by teachers and practitioners to plan what children and young people will learn. In Scotland this would include guidance such as the Es&Os, Benchmarks and approaches to moderation.

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Scotland's Curriculum Framework

Overarching Framework

The Purposes: The Four Capacities

Statutory Framework

eg: Number of days a school is open, Registration, etc.

Policy Framework

eg: 1+2 Languages, 2hrs / periods of PE, etc.

Technical Framework

eg: Es & Os, Benchmarks, National Guidance, Course Specifications, Moderation, Responsibilities of All, etc.

Qualifications Framework

eg: SCQF Credit Rates Qualifications (including SQA Qualifications).



CIC Early Activity



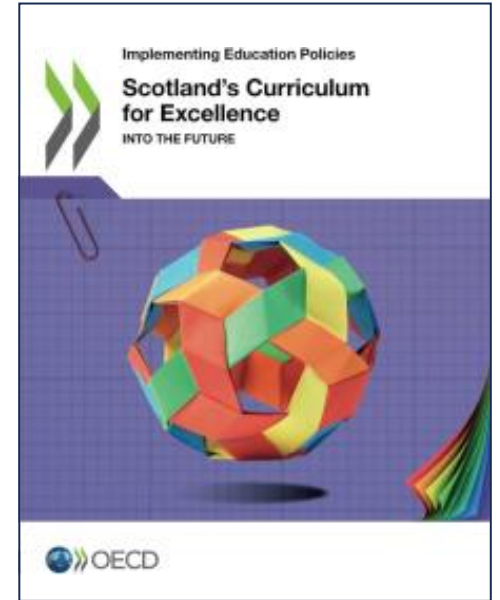
CIC Early Activity

- Pilot Curriculum Reviews (2023 – 2024)
- Exploring Cross Cutting Expectations
- Reviewing the Contexts for Learning (including Curriculum Areas)

Pilot Curriculum Reviews

Purpose:

- Develop a **process** for reviewing the curriculum.
- Surface any early **themes** and **tensions**.



Maths



Health & Wellbeing



Social Studies



Modern Languages



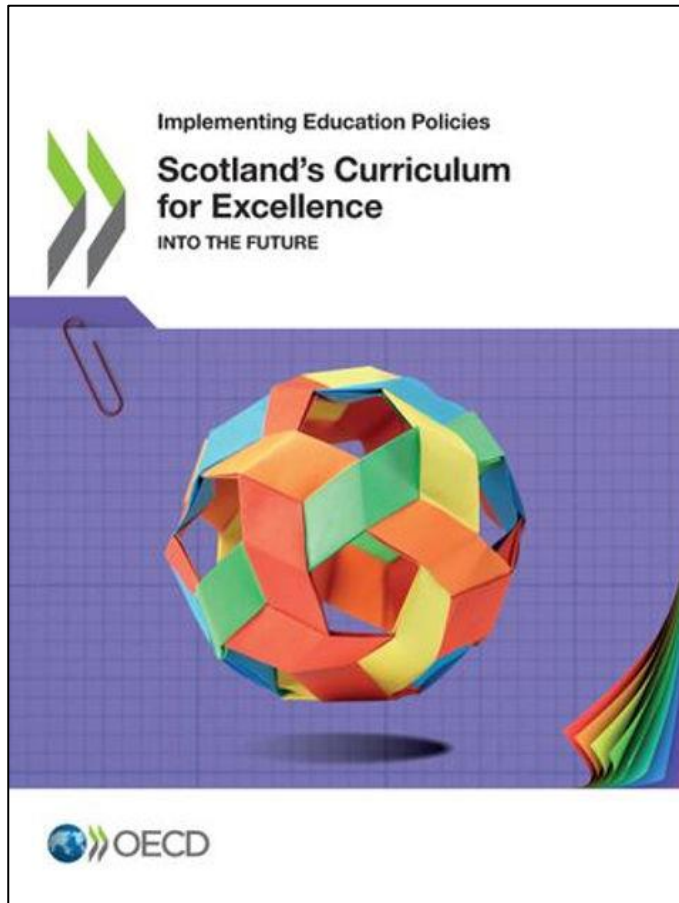
Expressive Arts



English

Cross Cutting Themes

- Political Literacy
- Social Justice, Rights & Equalities



1.2 Find a better balance between breadth and depth of learning throughout CfE to deliver Scotland's commitment to providing all learners with a rich learning experience throughout school education: Scotland could consider **how the design of CfE can better help learners consolidate a common base of knowledge, skills and attributes by the end of BGE,** and nurture and hone this base for them to progress seamlessly through Senior Phase and the choices it offers.



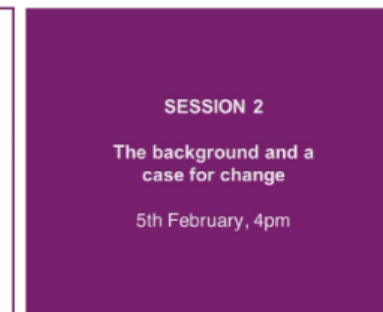
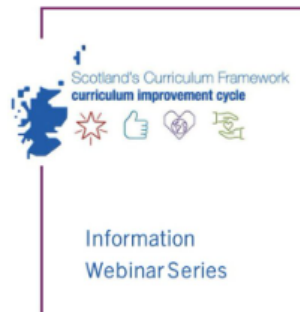
Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

Background and a Case for Change

**Findings from the Pilot Curriculum Reviews 2023/24:
A Discussion Paper**

November 2024

SESSION 2: THE BACKGROUND AND CASE FOR CHANGE



5th February, 4pm



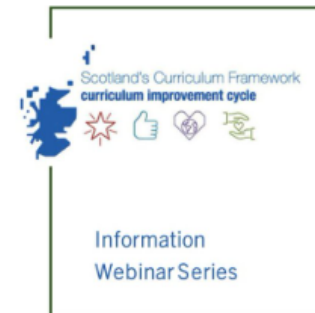
Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

Towards an Evolved Technical Framework

A Discussion Paper

December 2024

SESSION 3: TOWARDS AN EVOLVED TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK



SESSION 3
Towards an evolved technical
framework

13th February, 4pm

13th February, 4pm

Discussion
Successful
Learners

Effective
Contributors

Exploring Cross Curricular Expectations

Confident
Individuals

Responsible
Citizens

Cross Curricular Expectations

- **HWB**
- **Literacy**
- **Numeracy**

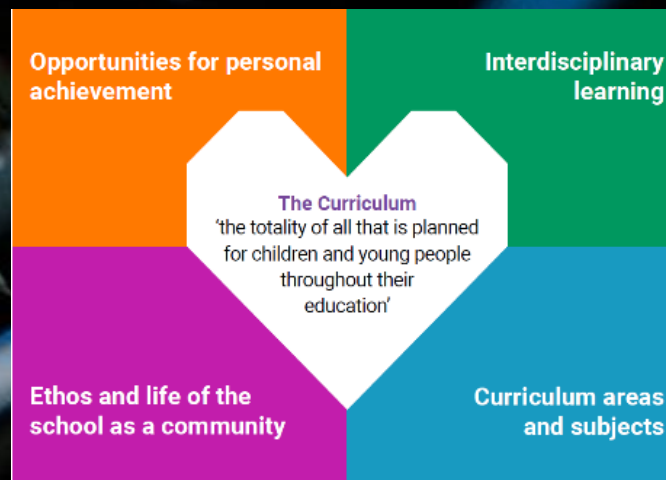
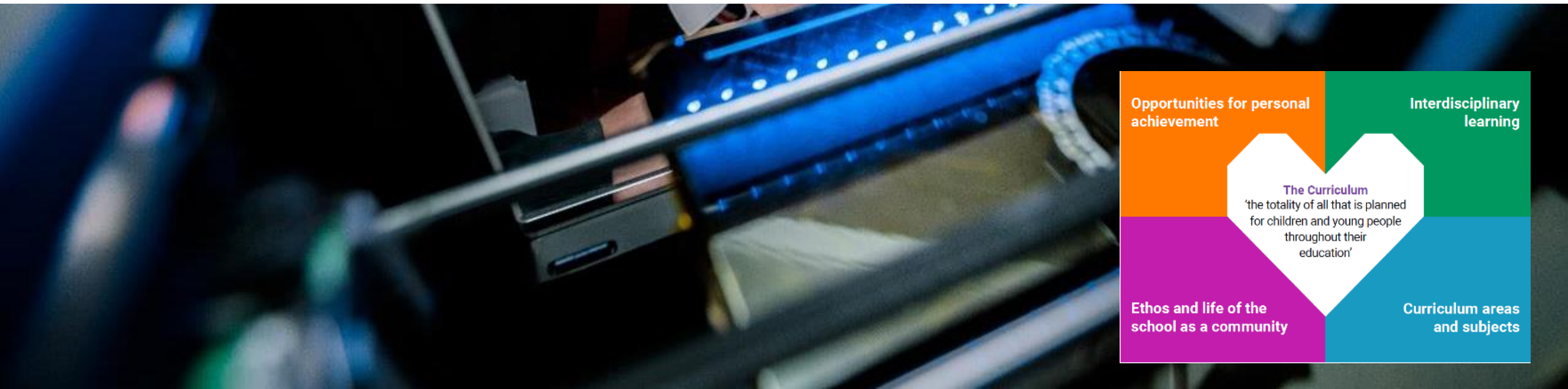
- **Learning for Sustainability (LfS)**

- **Careers Education**
- **Creativity**
- **Digital Literacy**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **Financial Education**
- **Political Literacy**
- **Social Justice**



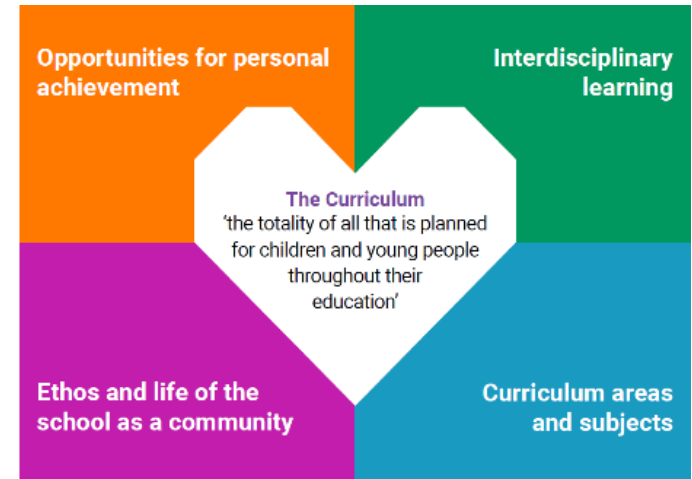


Reviewing the Contexts for Learning (Including Curriculum Areas)



Contexts for Learning

- Expressive Arts
- Ethos and Life of the School as a Community
- Health and wellbeing
- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Languages
 - Classical languages; Gaelic (Learners); Literacy and English; Literacy and Gàidhlig; Modern languages
- Mathematics
- Opportunities for Personal Achievement
- Religious and moral education/religious education
 - Religious and moral education (non-denominational); Religious education in Roman Catholic schools
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

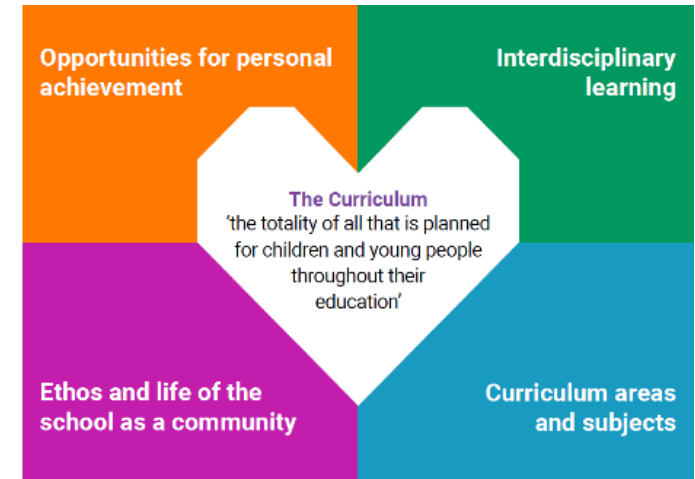


Key

- In progress
- Developing
- Beginning

Contexts for Learning

- Expressive Arts
- Ethos and Life of the School as a Community
- Health and wellbeing
- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Languages
 - Classical languages; Gaelic (Learners); Literacy and English; Literacy and Gàidhlig; Modern languages
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- Technologies



Key

- In progress
- Developing
- Beginning

A hand in a light blue shirt sleeve points to a red location pin on a map of Scotland. The map is green and white, with several blue location pins scattered across it. The words "Glasgow" and "Edinburgh" are visible on the map. A white banner with red text is overlaid on the image.

Next Steps and Communication

CIC – Information Webinar Series



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curriculum improvement cycle

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Key Background Publications

November 2024:

- A case for change: findings from the pilot curriculum reviews - live

December 2024:

- Language Matters – a glossary of terms - live
- Towards a new technical framework - live

March 2025:

- Working together to make change happen

June 2025:

- The journey to change



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Scotland's Curriculum Framework Curriculum Improvement Cycle

Education Scotland

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[Useful Reading](#)

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Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle



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cearcall leasachadh a' churraicealaim

Opportunities to be involved



Vacancies

Education Scotland is Scotland's national improvement agency for education. Our role is to provide assurance and promote improvement, from the early years to adult learning. We are committed to embedding our values of excellence, creativity, integrity and respect in everything we do.

Education Officer: National advisors for modern languages

We are seeking to recruit two national advisors for modern languages.

Education Officer: National advisors for expressive arts

We are seeking to recruit two national advisors for expressive arts.

Education Officer: National advisors for social studies

We are seeking to recruit two national advisors for social studies.

Education Officer: National advisors for technologies

We are seeking to recruit two national advisors for technologies.

Education Officer: National advisor for religious and moral education / religious education

We are seeking to recruit a national advisors for religious and moral education.

Lay member volunteer

The education inspectorate is recruiting members of the public to join our school inspection teams as lay members.

Education Scotland Associate (Additional Support Needs)

We are seeking applications for Education Scotland Associates (ESA) with a specialism in Additional Support Needs (ASN).



Information
Webinar Series

SESSION 1

An introduction to the Curriculum
Improvement Cycle

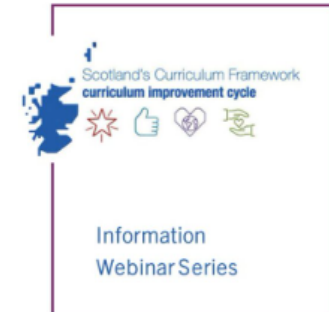
27th January, 4pm

**Leave feedback on this
session**

Thank You

Next Time:

SESSION 2: THE BACKGROUND AND CASE FOR CHANGE



SESSION 2

The background and a
case for change

5th February, 4pm

5th February, 4pm