

Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)



The Case for Change: findings from the pilot curriculum reviews 23/24

27th January 2025



Today

- Introduction & re-cap of Webinar #1
 - Ollie Bray
- The Case for Change: findings from the pilot curriculum reviews 23/24
 - Andy Creamer
 - Kirsty Ferns
- Next Steps and Communication
 - Ollie Bray

CIC – Information Webinar Series



SESSION 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT CYCLE

Scotland's Curriculum Framework
curriculum improvement cycle

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

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SESSION 2: THE BACKGROUND AND CASE FOR CHANGE

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The background and a
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5th February, 4pm

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SESSION 3: TOWARDS AN EVOLVED TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK

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Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

Background and a Case for Change

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

November 2024



Reflective Questions

- Which of the key issues highlighted in the pilot curriculum reviews do you feel should be key priorities to address in the evolving technical framework
- Can you identify specific areas where simplification and decluttering could improve outcomes for learners?
- Considering the rapid changes in society, what skills and knowledge do you believe are essential for preparing students for the future?
- How can we better integrate cross-curricular knowledge and skills
- How can we further involve educators and stakeholders in the co-design of curriculum updates?
- Any other thoughts.

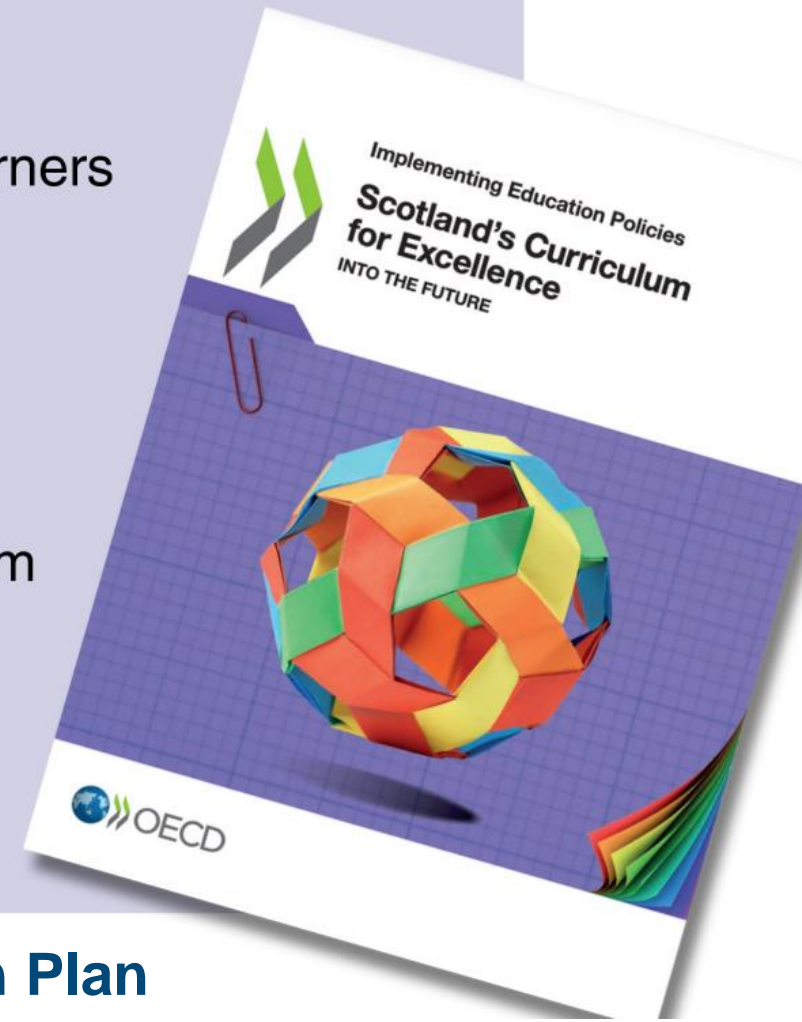


Re-assess CfE's aspirational vision against emerging trends in education to take account of evolutions in education and society (1.1)

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 (1.2)

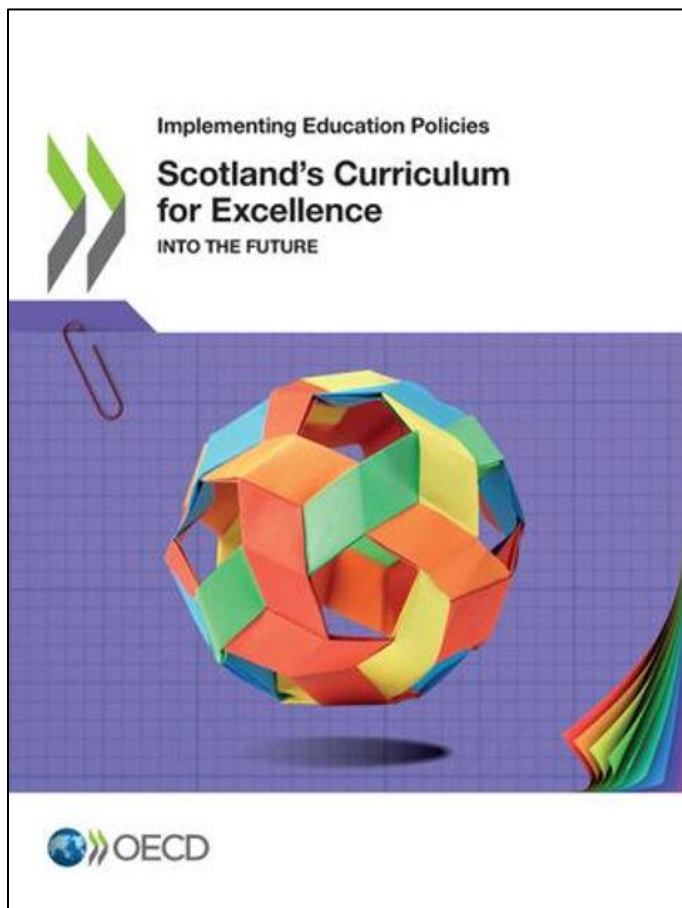
Adapt the Senior Phase to match the vision of CfE (1.3)

Continue building curricular capacity at various levels of the system (1.4)



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 across the middle of the image.

Findings from the Pilot Curriculum Reviews 23/24



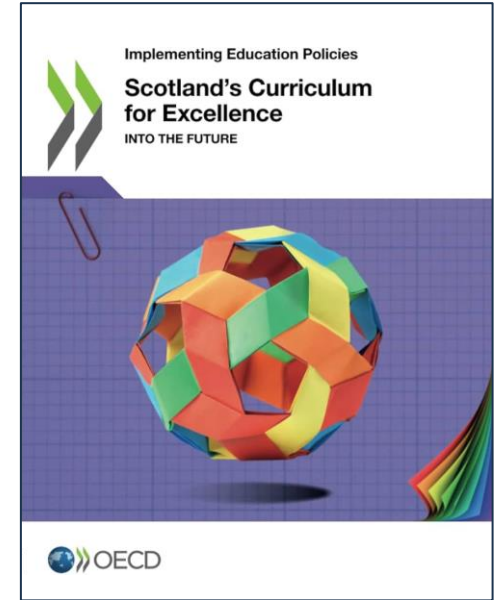
1.2 Find a better balance between breadth and depth of learning throughout CfE to deliver Scotland's commitment to providing all learners with a rich learning experience throughout school education: Scotland could consider **how the design of CfE can better help learners consolidate a common base of 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.



Pilot Curriculum Reviews

Purpose:

- Develop a **process** for reviewing the curriculum.
- Identify any early **observations, themes** and **tensions**.



Maths



Health &
Wellbeing



Social
Studies



Modern
Languages



Expressive
Arts



English

Cross Cutting Themes

- Political Literacy
- Social Justice, Rights & Equalities

Learning: Reviewing the curriculum

- Very high levels of teacher engagement and enthusiasm
- Open recruitment topped up for representation
- Stakeholder involvement & optimal teacher : stakeholder ratio (3:1)
- National steering group, core group and collaboration group model
- In person engagement essential but opportunities required to contribute outside the main groups (online & networks)
- Service design and evidence-based approaches
- Practical challenges
- Wider communication and consultation opportunities – public website / transparency, etc...

The knowledge and skills learners should have, and its purposes, needs to be clarified. This can support attainment and progression.

There are structural issues with that are linked to the current technical framework

The curriculum needs to be decluttered to promote depth of learning. Although there are challenges around how this can be achieved

A future orientated curriculum needs to address core cross curricular issues (core competencies)

**Observations,
Themes and
Tensions**

There is a willingness from teachers and practitioners to change the technical framework for CfE

Teachers and practitioners want clarity and flexibility not prescription and more guidance

We need to consider the natural differences between sectors, disciplines and subjects

We need to have parameters for prioritisation and deprioritisation

Key 'structural' barriers

- Attainment barriers
- Transition from Primary to Secondary
- Disconnect between BGE and Senior Phase
- Progression
- Tracking and Monitoring & Moderation processes

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Clarity with Flexibility

Agency

Prescription



Clarity with
Flexibility



Clarity and simplification ?

- Align Experience & Outcomes, Benchmarks and Progression Frameworks.
- Knowledge and Skills Frameworks
- Alternative Technical Frameworks.

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Issues: Technical Curriculum Framework

Specific issue:

- Vagueness of language use in the Es & Os (and benchmarks)
- Ineffective and overly complex position of cross-curricular expectations (core competencies)
- Linking of experience to outcomes pre-determines pedagogical approaches
- One size fits all model does not take into account differences between sectors, disciplines and subjects
- Equity issues

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, Benchmark and approaches to moderation.

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).



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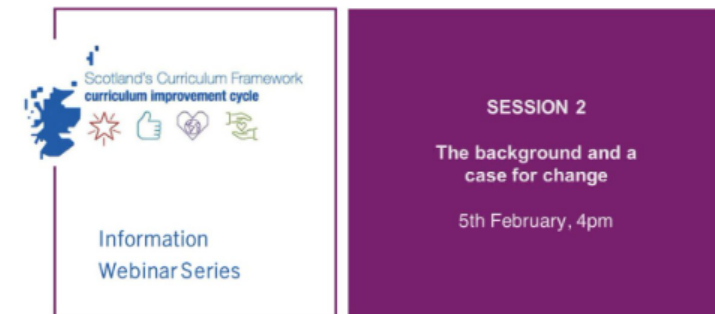
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Published November 2024




SESSION 2: THE BACKGROUND AND CASE FOR CHANGE



5th February, 4pm

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Next Steps and Communication

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Glasgow

Edinburgh

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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

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

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**Leave feedback on this
session**



Thank You

Next Time:

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