

Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)



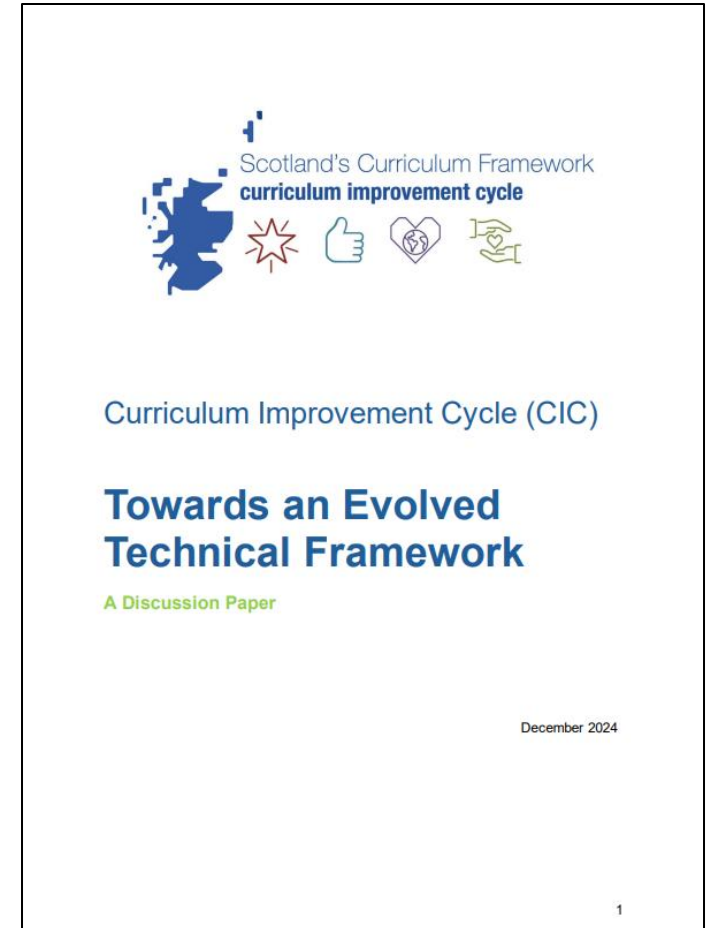
Towards an Evolved Technical Framework

13th February 2025



Today

- Introduction & re-cap of Webinar #1 & #2
 - Ollie Bray
- Towards an Evolved Technical Framework
 - Andy Creamer
- 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

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 Webinar Series

5th February, 4pm

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



scotlandscurriculum.scot



Scotland's curriculum framework



Why



What

Opportunities for personal achievement

Interdisciplinary learning

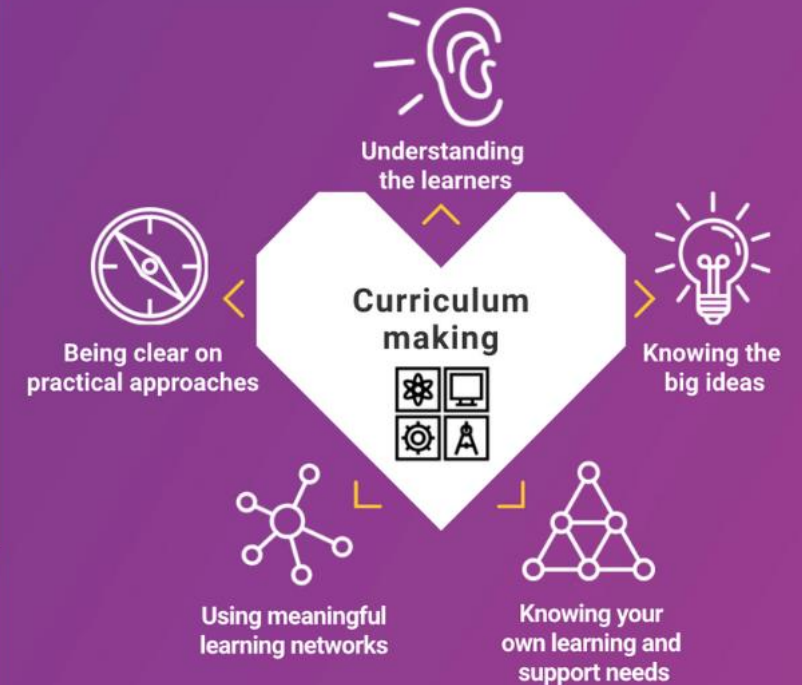
The Curriculum
'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education'

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

+ entitlements

How





Scotland's Curriculum Framework curriculum improvement cycle



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

1

Review evidence and feedback from practice;
on how the curriculum is working, including research to
identify areas for closer focus.

Analyse findings from the National Discussion
report along with other key education reports.



analysing

2

**Planning, consultation
and processing of feedback;**
inclusive engagement with co-design partners
to test draft workstreams.



engaging and
co-creating

4

Mobilising the system around the new workstream
approach and implementation.

Once the new adopted approach is mainstream, the
cycle **begins again in terms of monitoring and
evaluating delivery through inspectorate report
evidence, research and feedback.**



mobilising, monitoring
and evaluating

3



**Local capacity building and
professional development;**

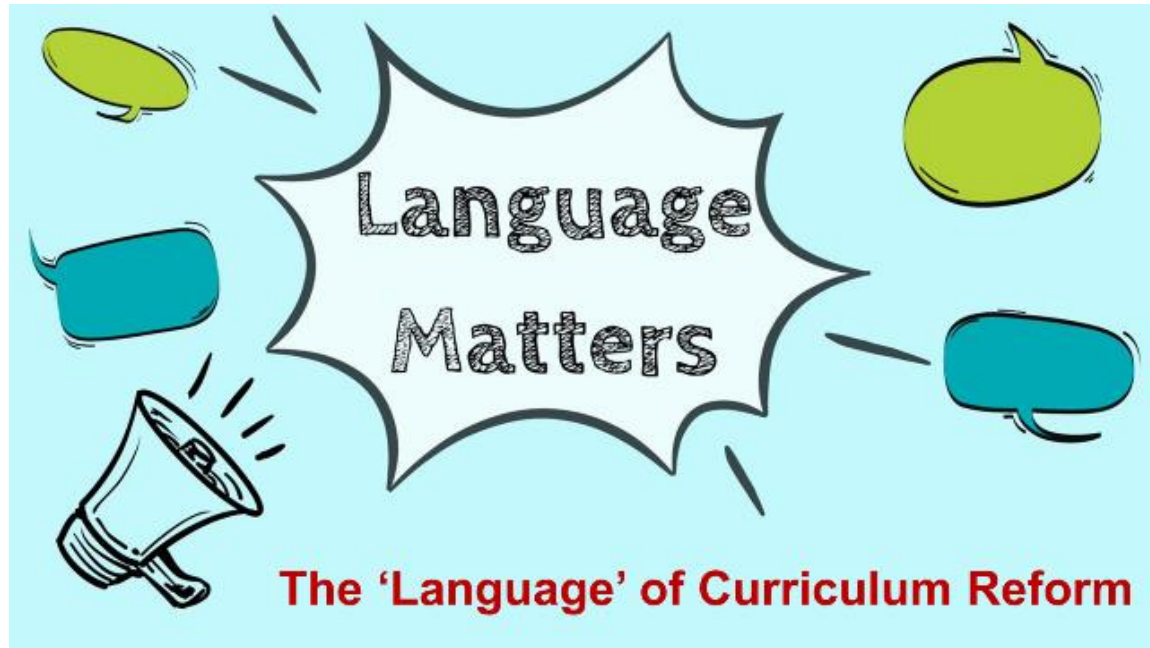
piloting, development of **support
material**, sharing of **best practice**,
learning from the experiences of learners,
practitioners and teachers.

sharing, learning
and adopting



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





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, 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).



Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

Towards an Evolved Technical Framework

A Discussion Paper

December 2024



Reflective Questions

- Which of the key issues such as clarity on knowledge or disconnect between BGE and senior phase should be our key priorities to address in an evolving technical framework ?
- In what ways can teacher and practitioner agency and autonomy be promoted in an evolving technical framework ?
- What opportunities may arise from having a consistent framework from 3-18?
- What are the key aspects that need to be considered for successful implementation of a new technical framework?
- Any other thoughts?



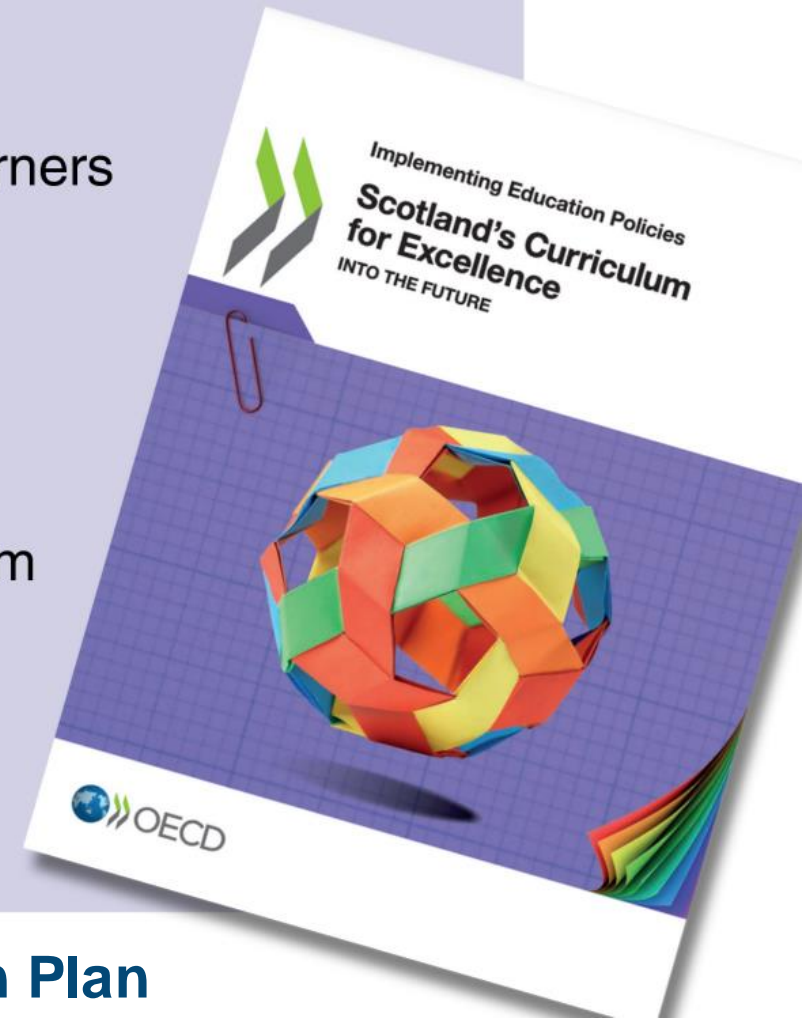


Re-assess CfE's aspirational vision against emerging trends in education to take account of evolutions in education and society (1.1)

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)

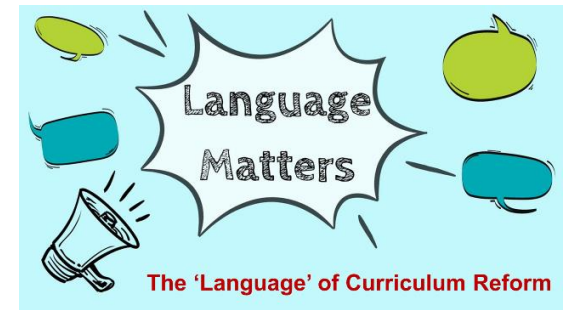
Adapt the Senior Phase to match the vision of CfE (1.3)

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



A hand in a light blue shirt sleeve points to a blue location pin on a green map. The map features several other blue pins and one prominent red pin. The names 'Glasgow' and 'Edinburgh' are visible on the map. The background is a light green wall.

Towards an Evolved Technical Framework



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Evolving the Technical Framework



Views of teachers from pilot curriculum reviews and CIC groups



OECD and other SG commissioned independent review recommendations



Analysis of international approaches to curriculum review



Engagement with international educators and education systems



Education Research and international evidence



Key features of high performing systems

"provide parameters for the selection of content and a process for prioritising and deprioritising"

"GREATER CLARITY ON THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS LEARNERS SHOULD HAVE AT KEY POINTS IN THEIR LEARNING"

"clarity on progression from Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)"

"clarity on the role and purposes of knowledge and skills"

Criteria for an evolved technical framework emerging from the **pilot curriculum reviews**



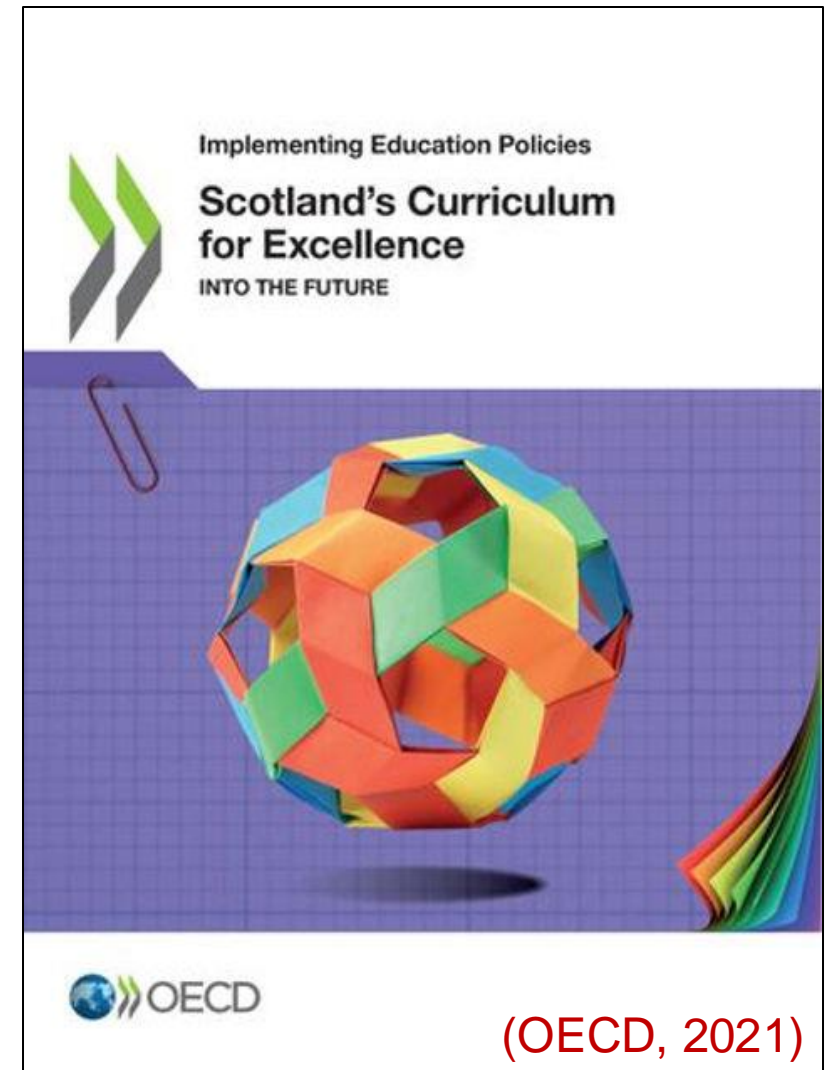
"adaptable to realities of the differing nature of sectors and curriculum areas"

"flexibility and autonomy at the level below the key ideas"

"a 3-18 'framework' alignment and consistency with Senior Phase"

"a clear position in terms of cross curricular themes and expectations"

“To provide more detail without drifting towards strict specification in learning areas, **it may be a helpful first step to formulate big ideas**, as a growing number of education systems have been developing. Systems such as British Columbia (Canada), Korea, Norway and Singapore have been selecting broad overarching themes that relate to a number of subjects within curriculum areas of learning.”



Insights from high-performing school systems:

A Comparative Study- Korea, Hong Kong, Finland, Estonia, British Columbia: Master 2023

The position of knowledge in high performing systems:

Frameworks are organised around traditional disciplinary knowledge such as national language and literature, mathematics, science, and the social sciences

High priority to developing students' deep understandings of essential disciplinary concepts, principles, and methods which may be relatively few in number.

Opportunities for students to develop deeper conceptual understandings and apply their learning to a variety of meaningful, often real-world, contexts.

Developing Conceptual Understanding

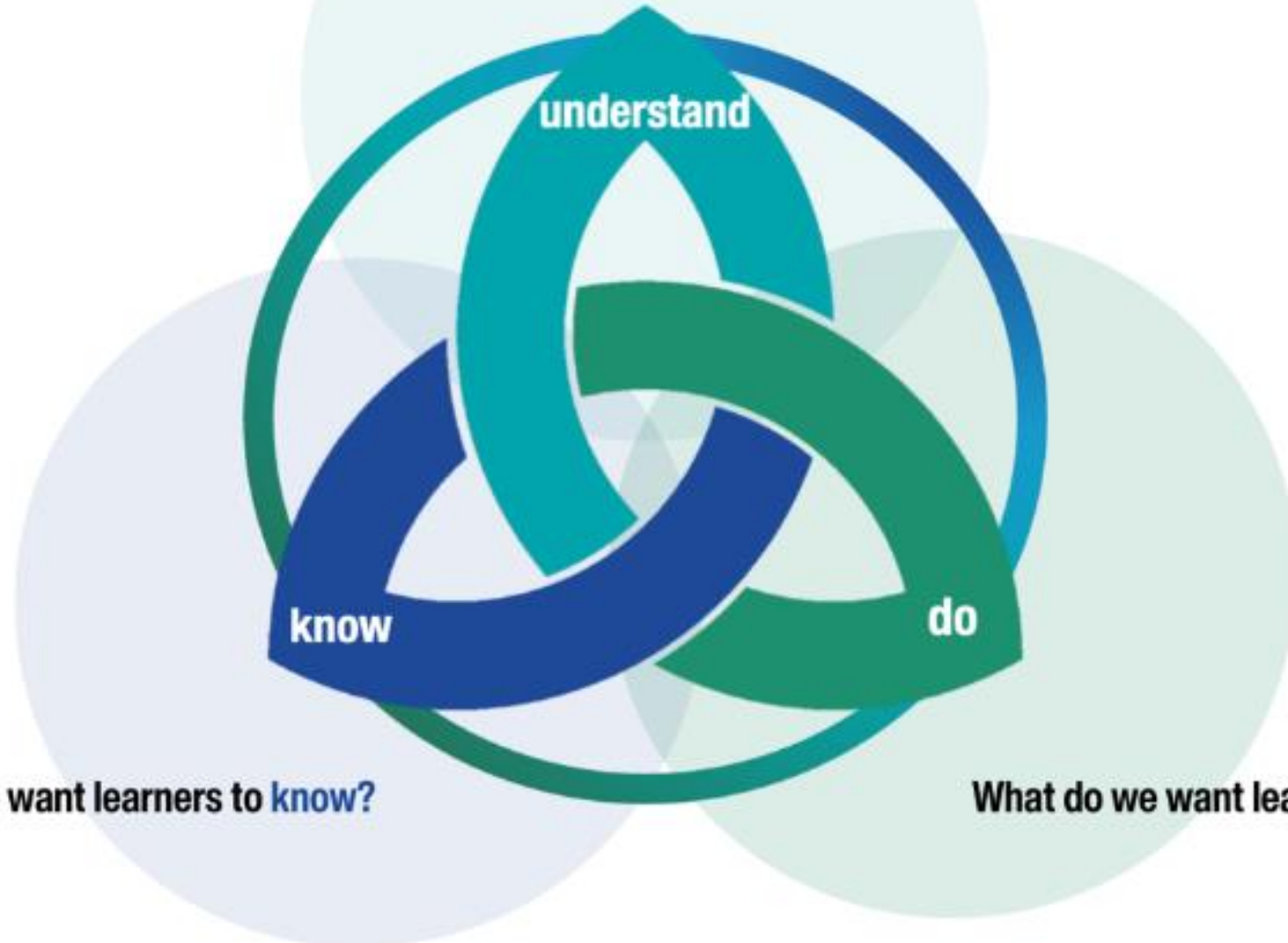


Know-Do-Understand

‘Curriculum statements need to make clear what children should know factually, understand conceptually and be able to do in [and across] different disciplines’

(Erickson 2012)

What do we want learners to **understand**?



What do we want learners to **know**?

What do we want learners to **do**?

Outline – Technical Framework



What do we want learners to UNDERSTAND-



What do we want learners to KNOW and be able to DO-



What do we want learners to know and be able to do at different stages in their learning journey –

Outline – Technical Framework



What do we want learners to UNDERSTAND-
The Big Ideas



What do we want learners to KNOW and be able to DO-
Conceptual Knowledge and Skills



What do we want learners to know and be able to do at
different stages in their learning journey –
PROGRESSION across the learning journey

Scotland's curriculum framework



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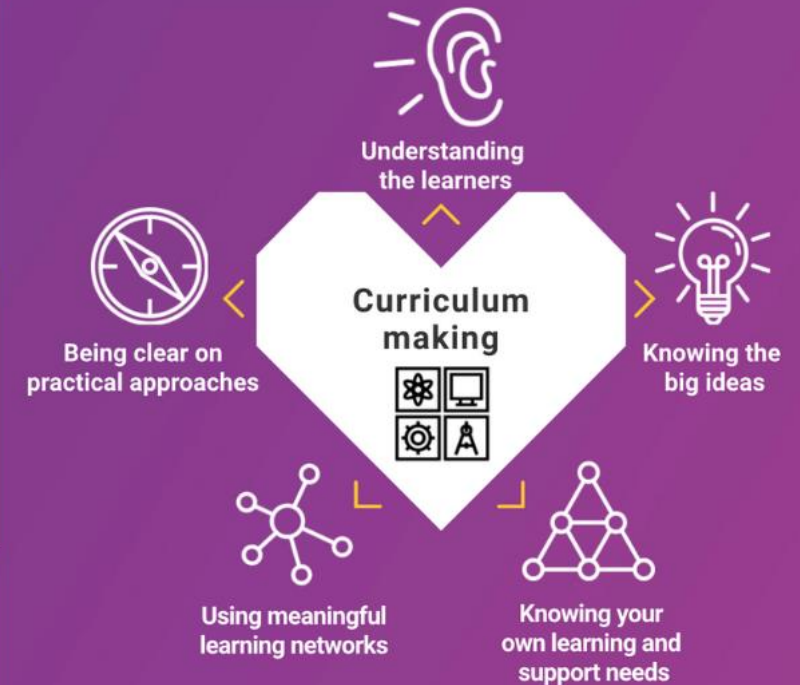
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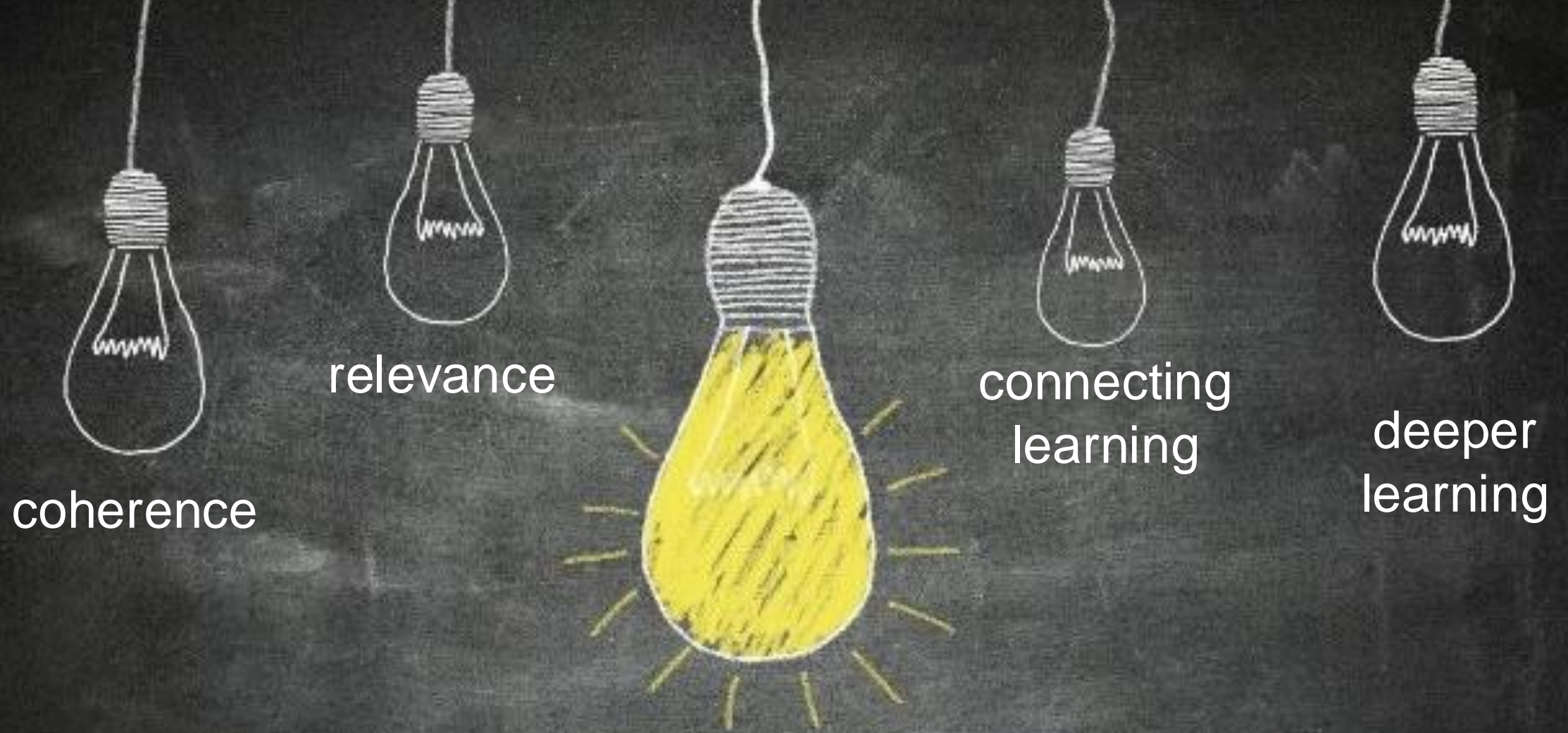
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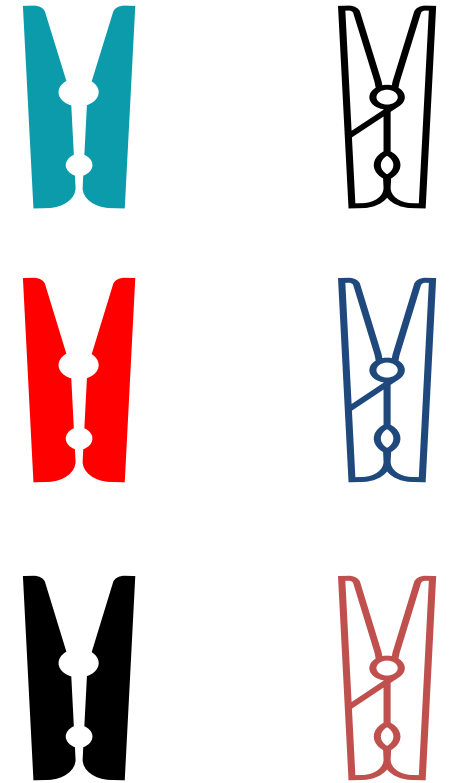
The Case for a 'Big Ideas' Approach

“Big Ideas are generalised summaries of what we want students to understand by the end of their journey through the curriculum (or cross curricular area) in school. They are common destinations, which can be reached by many alternative routes. Because Big Ideas describe what we want students to understand, they frame the questions that lead to that understanding. They are unable to do this without contexts provided by content”.

“The development of big ideas provide a rationale and a framework for inclusion of particular topics and types of study within the school curriculum”.

“Big Ideas perform a similar role in students’ learning as concepts in that they are ‘pegs’ on which students can hang the myriad pieces of knowledge they acquire over the years of study in order to make sense of them”.

“It is therefore unlikely that students will ever encounter a unit of work with the name of a Big Idea as its title, but in every unit of work the learning outcomes will be defined in relation to them”.

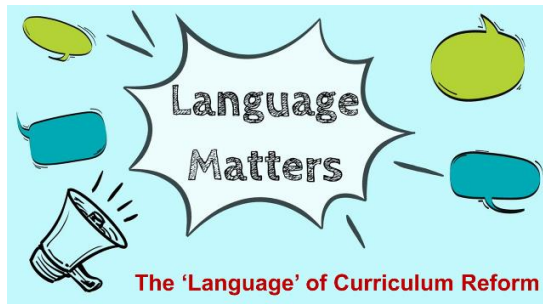




‘Big Ideas’ mean different things in different parts of the world

A **'Big Idea'** captures the core understanding children and young people will develop throughout their curricular journey from early years onward.

It will set out **overarching ideas /concepts**, have relevance for learners, support progression and the selection of content



Early prototyping

- These are illustrations and **not the final 'product'**
- The examples you have focus on knowledge , there would be similar information re skills
- They have been developed at pace – and it is challenging
- They are **based on the current Es&Os** – the CIC groups will determine the future
- We are trying to **illustrate opportunities** – ie clarity, flexibility, progression etc
- The **process will be iterative**
- This is **not the curriculum** it is one part and aims to clarify and simplify something that there are currently issues with

Big Idea 1: Planet Earth

The *Planet Earth* curriculum area focuses on the **interconnected** systems and processes of **Earth**, our **solar system**, and the broader universe. Learners explore how Earth's four subsystems (land, water, air and life) are **interdependent** and essential for **sustaining** life. They develop an understanding of the relationships between **living things and their environment**, recognising the **diversity** of life and the **processes** that support it. Learners also examine the **impact** of human activities on all forms of life and acknowledge that Earth provides the **resources** necessary to **sustain** life, except for energy from the Sun. As stewards of these **finite** resources, learners are encouraged to understand the vital interactions between **Earth's systems and the solar system**. This understanding equips them to address the challenges facing our planet and make informed decisions to protect and responsibly use **Earth's resources**.

Big Idea 2: Forces, electricity and waves

The *Forces, Electricity and Waves* curriculum area encourages learners to investigate a range of physical phenomena, including **light, sound, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, forces, and motion**, all connected by the unifying concept of energy, which changes form without being lost. Through the study of physics, learners develop a deeper understanding of how different aspects of the physical world **interact** and how these interactions can be modelled and represented. This understanding supports learners in exploring current issues and challenges, while also considering **innovative technological** solutions grounded in physical principles.

Big Idea 3: Biological systems

Biological systems provide explanations about the **organ systems** of the human body and how the physiological processes and interactions of these systems enable survival and interaction within their environment. Learners develop an understanding of biology at a **cellular** level and that all the basic functions of life are the result of what happens inside the **cells** which make up an organism. Learners will also explore the processes by which **genetic information** is passed on from one generation to the next, identifying patterns of **inheritance** and progress to be able to make more informed judgement about social, ethical and biological implications of the use of data derived from **genetic** information.

Big idea 4: Materials

The *Materials* curriculum area helps learners to explore **materials**, focusing on developing an understanding of **matter** and the **chemical changes** it undergoes. Learners explore the **composition** and **properties** of **materials**, the **changes** they experience, and the **energy** involved in these processes. They apply their understanding of the fundamental **properties** of **materials** to interpret the world around them, considering the behaviour of **elements, mixtures, and compounds**. Learners communicate their findings using the **symbols** and conventions of **chemistry**. This knowledge helps them address science-related challenges, such as **environmental sustainability**, and the development of **new materials**, medicines, and **energy** sources.

Big Idea 5: Topical science

The **Topical Science** curriculum area helps learners explore and understand what **science is** and how **scientists work**. They develop the **skills, attitudes, and values** needed to build a foundation for **understanding** the world. Learners appreciate that **scientific knowledge** is both reliable and constantly evolving in response to new evidence. They gain insight into how **scientific investigations** are conducted and recognise the **social value of scientific knowledge**. By exploring **current science issues**, learners understand how scientific ideas are **communicated** and learn to **link** scientific knowledge to **everyday decisions and actions**. These outcomes are explored through key contexts where **scientific knowledge** has developed and continues to evolve.

Sciences Concepts

Big Idea 1: Planet earth	Big Idea 2: Forces, Electricity and Waves	Big Idea 3: Biological systems	Big Idea 4: Materials	Big Idea 5: Topical science
Biodiversity & interdependence	Forces	Body systems & cells	Properties & uses of substances	Topical science
Energy source & sustainability	Electricity	Inheritance	Earth's materials	
Processes of the planet	Vibrations & waves		Chemical changes	
Space				

Science – Second level

Planet Earth

Biodiversity and interdependence: Biodiversity and human impact.

Energy sources and sustainability: Energy conservation and transfer.

Processes of the planet: Water cycle.

Space: Solar system features.

Forces, electricity and waves

Forces: Force of gravity and friction and measuring forces.

Electricity: Circuits displayed in circuit diagrams and understanding how electrical components work.

Waves: Properties of light.

Biological systems

Body systems and cells: Body systems, health and microbiology.

Inheritance: Life cycles and inherited vs non-inherited characteristics.

Materials

Properties of substances: States of matter.

Earth's materials: Rocks.

Chemical changes: Physical and chemical changes.

Inquiry and investigative skills

- Formulate questions and predictions, with assistance
- Identify dependent, independent and control variables, with assistance
- Design investigations
- Select appropriate methods of recording data/observations
- Draw basic conclusions
- Report collaboratively and individually, using a range of methods
- Collate, organise and summarise findings, with assistance
- Use appropriate scientific vocabulary and acknowledge sources, with assistance
- Evaluate investigations and suggest one improvement

Scientific analytical thinking skills

- Apply scientific analytical thinking skills to less familiar contexts
- Apply understanding, and a combination of more than one science concept, to solve problems

Scientific literacy

- Present a reasoned argument based on evidence, and engage with the views of others
- Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of science to their future lives
- Relate scientific skills to a wide variety of STEM careers

Second Level	<p>Biodiversity and interdependence The diversity shown amongst living things with regards survival and extinction.</p> <p>Processes of the planet necessity of water water conservation the water cycle</p>	<p>Forces An object's shape and the density of the material affect buoyancy</p>	<p>Body systems and cells Body systems structure and function. Potential health problems associated with different organ systems. Growth and action of different microorganisms.</p>	<p>Properties and uses of substances Phases of matter & changes of state. Physical and chemical ways of changing materials. Mixtures – separate using a difference in component properties.</p>	<p>Topical science Science impact on everyday lives.</p>
	<p>Biodiversity and interdependence Interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in food chains and food webs. Beneficial uses of plants to society. Risks and benefits of fertiliser use.</p> <p>Energy sources and sustainability Conservation of energy transforming energy from one form to another.</p>	<p>Electricity Components in a circuit transfer energy. Simple circuits as circuit diagrams using component symbols.</p>	<p>Inheritance Differences in the stages of development in the lifecycles of plants and animals.</p>	<p>Chemical changes Conservation of water uses of water.</p>	<p>Topical science The links between scientific skills and STEM careers.</p>
	<p>Energy sources and sustainability Renewable and non-renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Space Key features of the solar system.</p>	<p>Forces Gravity. Measuring forces. Force of friction.</p> <p>Vibrations and waves Properties of light.</p>	<p>Inheritance The role of genes in determining inherited characteristics and be able to categorise characteristics as inherited and non-inherited. The uniqueness of a person's DNA fingerprint.</p>	<p>Chemical changes Chemical reactions. Making new products.</p> <p>Earth's materials Types of rocks that make up Earth's surface.</p>	<p>Topical science Items of current scientific interest at school, community, national and global level. Ethical, moral, economic etc factors around topical science issues.</p>

Second Level

Risk taking

Substances can have both a positive and negative impact on the human body

Substance misuse has consequences for mental and emotional wellbeing

Substance misuse can effect decision making and life choices

Rights and Responsibility

There are actions that can help others in trouble who have misused substances

Choice and Decision- making

Attitudes to the use of substances can be influenced by culture, peers and the media

Relationships

The body undergoes changes during puberty, and this helps to understand what happens as the body grows

Sexuality is a part of life and should be respected

Parenthood requires caring for others and involves patience, responsibility, and empathy.

Respecting personal space and setting boundaries helps build healthy relationships.

Different types of abuse exist and it is important to recognise and prevent harmful situations.

Career & Pathways

Different jobs and careers have different responsibilities and require different skills.

Individuals can access training to help prepare them for different jobs and careers

Diet & Nutrition

Food has a journey from source to consumer

Nutritional needs can be met by healthy eating guidelines

Food labelling can help us make more informed and healthier choices

Life stages may affect dietary requirements and with personal preferences can result in dietary restrictions

Food allergies and cultural practices can influence food choice

Rights and Responsibility

Access to food is a basic human right

Safety & Hygiene

Food handling and preparation requires safe and clean practices

Choice and Decision-making

Consumer behaviour is influenced by advertising and media techniques.

Active & Healthy Lifestyles

Sleep is essential for growth, development, and overall health

Rest helps the body recover from physical activity and mental exertion

Healthy choices can have a positive impact on your mental, emotional, social and physical health and wellbeing

Physical activities can benefit health and wellbeing

Fitness

The body uses different energy systems for different types of activities

Stamina is the ability to sustain physical activity over time

Flexibility is the range of motions in joints and muscles

Strength is the ability of muscles to exert force

Tactics and strategies

Team tactics and formations can be used to improve performance

Tactics can respond to the strengths and weaknesses of opponents

Movement, Body and Performance

Skills and strategies impact on performance

Feedback can help plan improved performance

Position of knowledge

- Statements should provide clarity on what learners should know at different points in their learning to develop conceptual understanding
- Clarity on what is progression in knowledge and how it develops conceptual understanding
- Outlines the knowledge that would be expected at different levels
- Context free as far as possible - decisions on context to use are left to teacher
- Flexible to respond to natural differences across curriculum areas- broad levels or broken down into stages as appropriate to curriculum areas and the structure of knowledge in these areas

Outline 3-18 (Example Illustration)

Curriculum Area

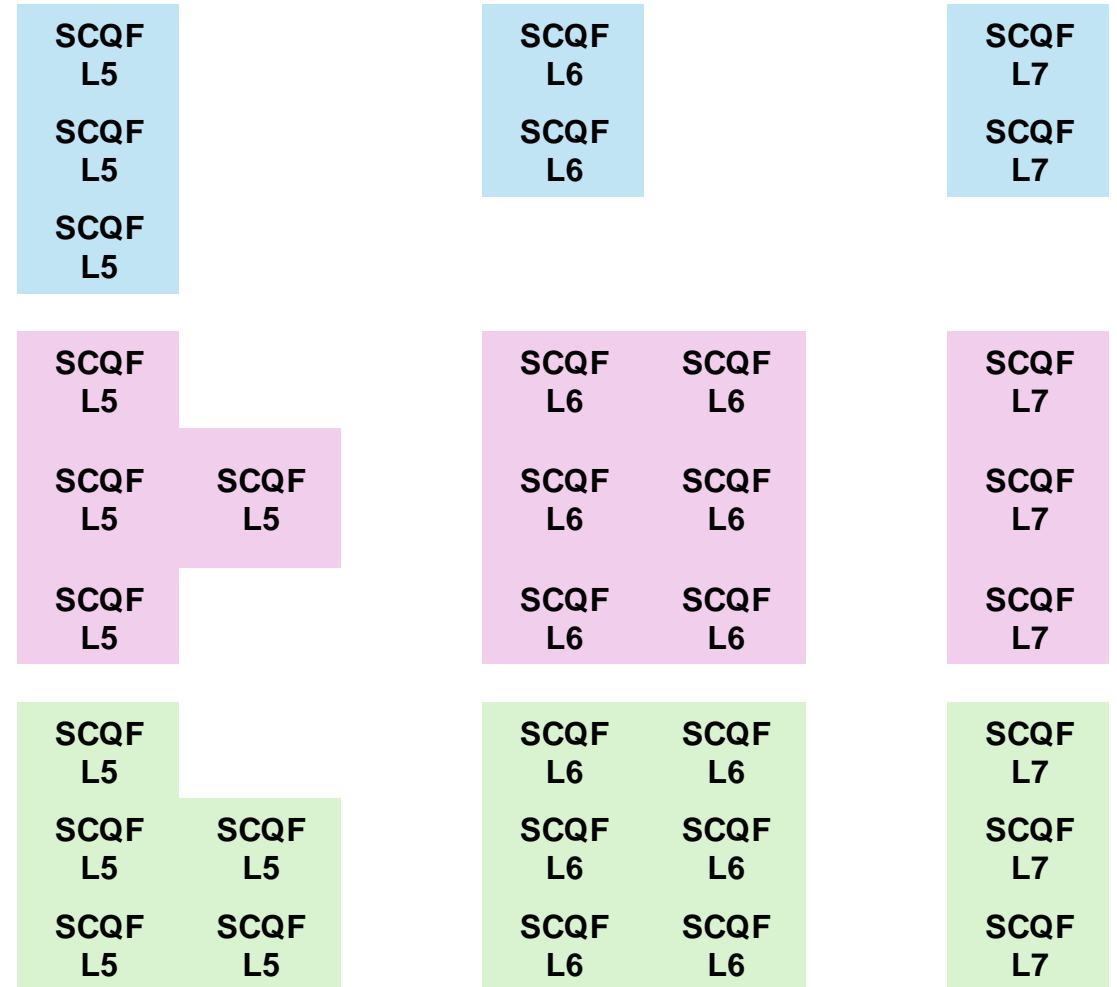
Broad General Education (CfE Levels)

Possible Senior Phase Qualification Pathways

Maths	Early Level	1 st Level	2 nd Level	3 rd Level	4 th Level
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Social Studies	Early Level	1 st Level	2 nd Level	3 rd Level	4 th Level
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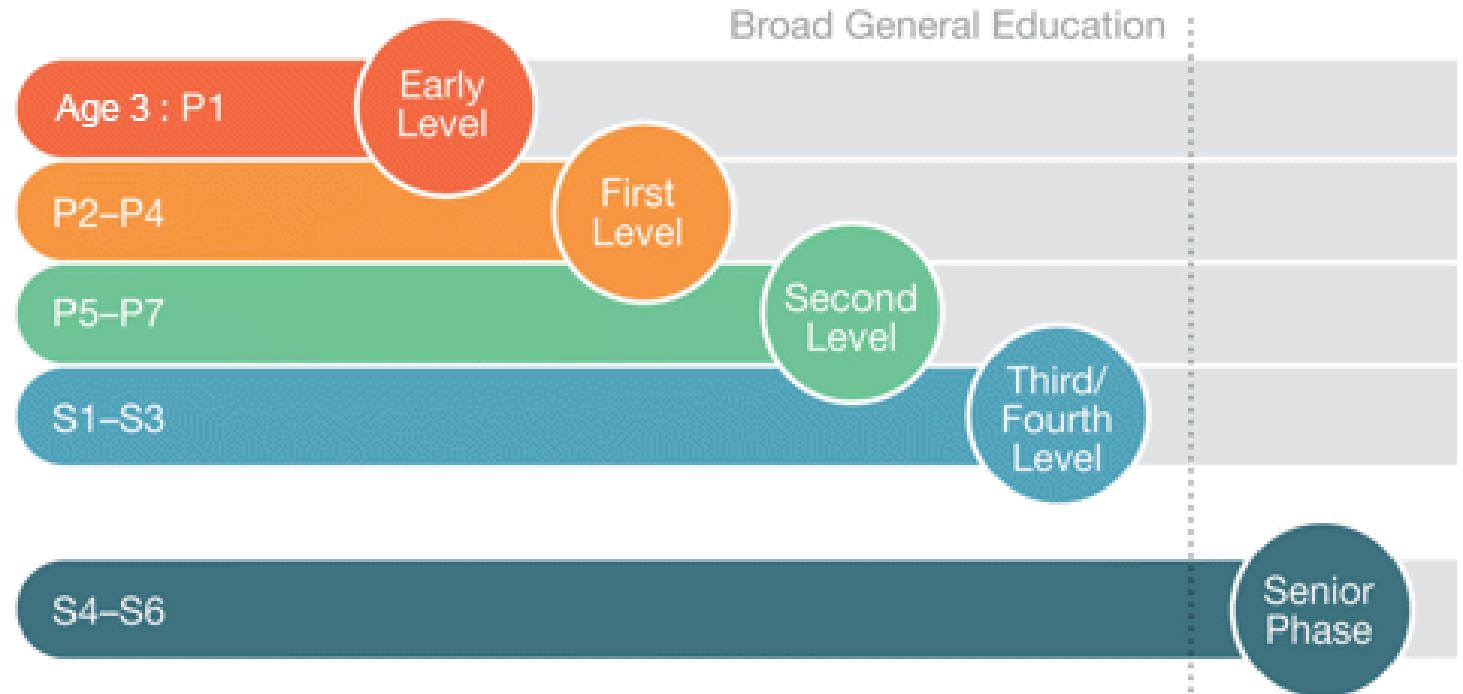
Science	Early Level	1 st Level	2 nd Level	3 rd Level	4 th Level
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Coherence & Clarity

Levels:

- Position of Fourth Level
- Purpose of Fourth Level
- Relationship between Fourth Level and SCQF Level 4 (inc: National 4) as part of a 3-18 framework





Cross Curricular Expectations



CIC: addressing existing inconsistencies and incoherences

curriculum for excellence:
responsibility of all practitioners

Health and wellbeing across learning
Literacy across learning
Numeracy across learning

6



curriculum for excellence:
health and wellbeing
experiences and outcomes

www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk



Numeracy is the knowledge, skills and attributes needed in order to apply and use mathematics in everyday life, at home, work or in a learning environment.

Number Sense

Having an understanding and sense of number is crucial for everyday life, study and work. The concepts of counting, types of numbers and their structure, arithmetic operations, proportional reasoning, estimation and comparison remain consistent when applied across a range of contexts. A robust understanding of and mathematical language, and an ability to reason algebraically are all needed to develop and choose valid strategies to solve previously unseen problems, and to communicate clearly decisions and solutions.

Spatial Understanding

Spatial understanding allows us to negotiate the physical space in which we live. The concept of position and movement provides a language to describe the location of objects and allows for the development of a sense of direction. Measurements of length, area, volume, angle, mass, time and temperature can be described and made using appropriate language, scales and units of measurement. The shape and properties of everyday items impact on how they are designed and used. Through exploring these ideas, we can move beyond what we can see in front of us and begin to visualise what could be.

Making Sense of Data

Data can be gathered, presented and analysed to help understand the world, solve problems and make informed decisions. Data can be quantitative or qualitative and presented in different forms to help interpret and understand it. Representations of data may be misleading, either intentionally or accidentally so care must be taken in interpreting what they do or do not show.

Probability helps us predict the behaviour of events where the outcome is uncertain. Appropriate language can be used to describe the likelihood of an event happening to make informed decisions, calculate risk and think critically about future plans.



"provide parameters for the selection of content and a process for prioritising and deprioritising"

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Criteria for an evolved technical framework emerging from the **pilot curriculum reviews**



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Scotland's curriculum framework



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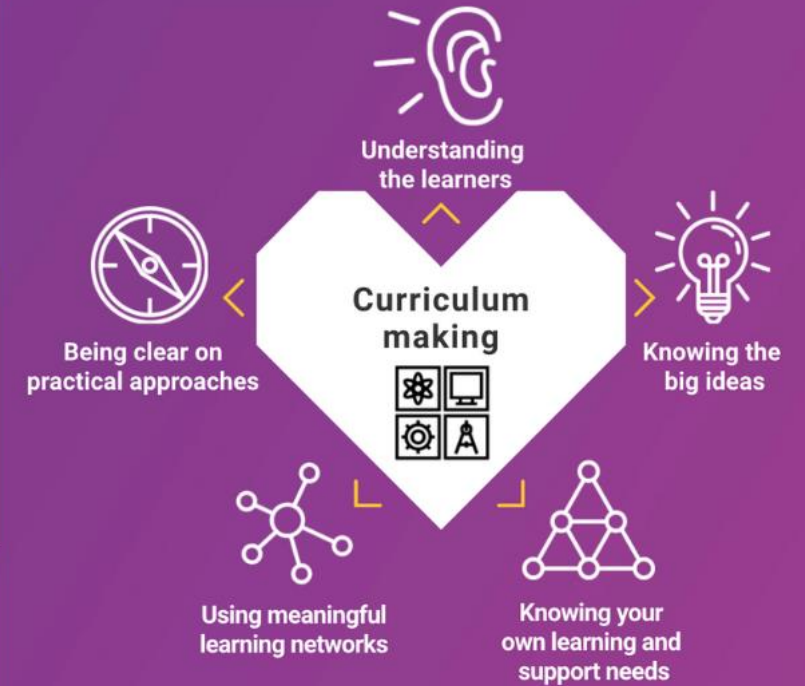
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The interconnected layers of Scotland's Curriculum Framework

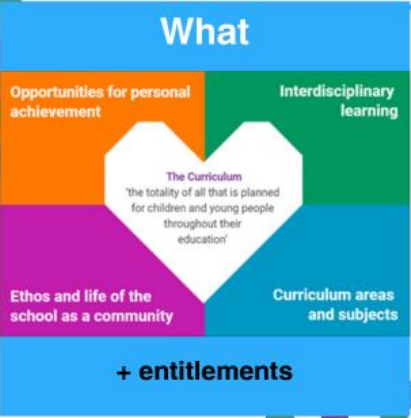


Why

The purpose of Scotland's Curriculum is to enable all children and young people to be **individuals, contributors, citizens and learners.**



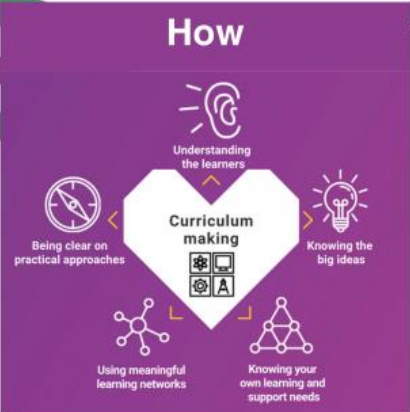
To realise the **why...**



What do all children and young people need to **understand** across the curriculum to help them be individuals, contributors, citizens, learners?

What key conceptual **knowledge** and **skills** do all children and young people need to help their understanding?

What is the expected **knowledge** and **skills** required to help all children and young people make **progress** at each stage?



How should the **interactions, experiences, spaces** and **time** of learning environments be best organised and approached - alongside the consideration of the four contexts for learning - to allow all children and young people to flourish and develop their expected knowledge and skills?

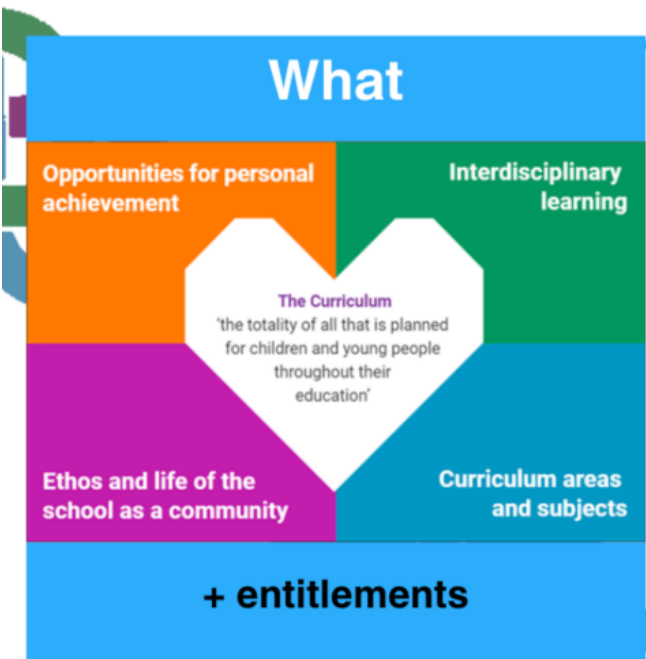
How best can **capacity building, professional learning** and **support materials** for educators across all sectors be developed to support effective organisation and informed pedagogical teaching and learning approaches?

Why



..... **The purpose** of Scotland's Curriculum is to enable **all** children and young people to be **individuals**, **contributors**, **citizens** and **learners**.

To realise the **why...**



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How



Understanding the learners



Being clear on practical approaches



Knowing the big ideas

Curriculum making



Using meaningful learning networks



Knowing your own learning and support needs

..... **How** should the **interactions, experiences, spaces** and **time** of learning environments be best organised and approached - alongside the consideration of the four contexts for learning - to allow **all** children and young people to flourish and develop their expected knowledge and skills?

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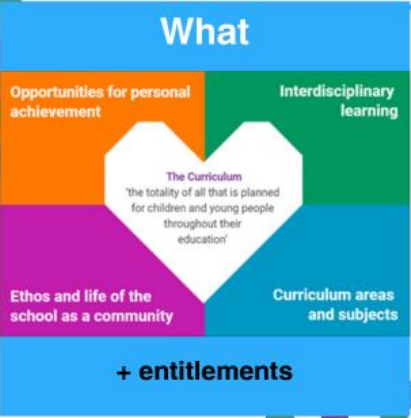
The interconnected layers of Scotland's Curriculum Framework



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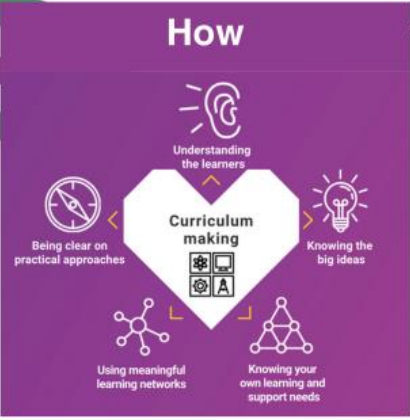
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How should the **interactions, experiences, spaces** and **time** of learning environments be best organised and approached - alongside the consideration of the four contexts for learning - to allow all children and young people to flourish and develop their expected knowledge and skills?

How best can **capacity building, professional learning** and **support materials** for educators across all sectors be developed to support effective organisation and informed pedagogical teaching and learning approaches?

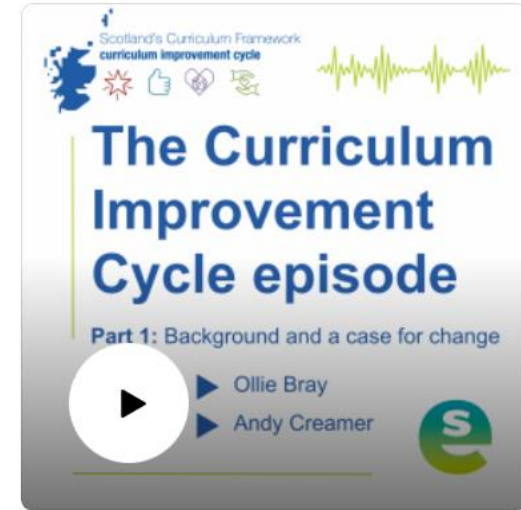


Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

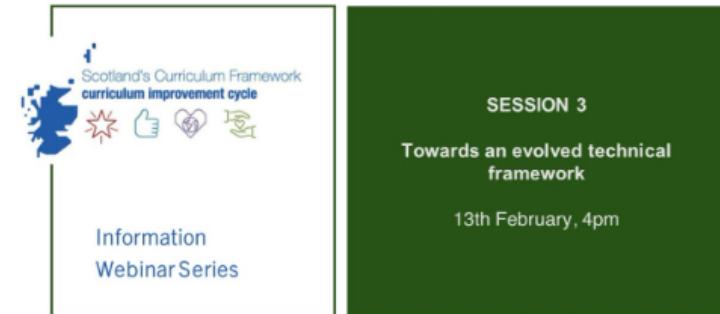
Towards an Evolved Technical Framework

A Discussion Paper

December 2024




SESSION 3: TOWARDS AN EVOLVED TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK



13th February, 4pm

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 word 'Aberdeen' is visible on the right side of the map. The background is a light grey wall.

Next Steps and Communication

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. The background is a light grey wall.

Glasgow

Edinburgh

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 Webinar Series

5th February, 4pm

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

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



Scotland's Curriculum Framework Curriculum Improvement Cycle

Education Scotland

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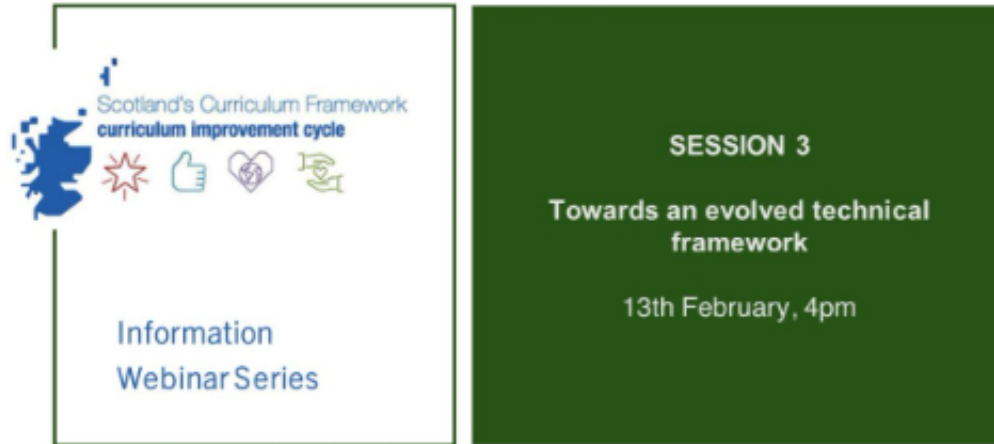
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Terminology

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SESSION 3: TOWARDS AN EVOLVED TECHNICAL FRAMEWORK



13th February, 4pm

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Thank You

