



# Curriculum Improvement Cycle Numeracy & Mathematics Update

25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025



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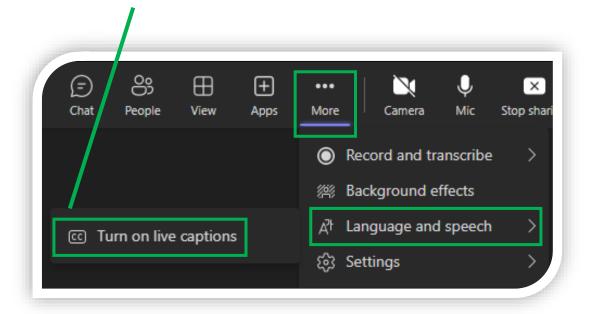
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# Curriculum Improvement Cycle Numeracy & Mathematics Update

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# Agenda

Input	Person	Organisation
Welcome and Plan for the Session	Andy Brown	Scottish Government
CIC Background and Scene Setting	Andy Creamer	Education Scotland
Process Overview	Maria Docherty	Education Scotland
Overview of the Illustrative Materials (including draft Layer 1, Layer 2 and Layer 3 material)	Maria Docherty Nanette Brotherwood Peter Valentine	Education Scotland
Cross-Curricular Learning	Jaclyn Andrews	Education Scotland
Partnership working - Academic Research	Dr Sinem Hizli-Alkan	Anglia Ruskin University
Next Steps, 'Takeaways' and Close	Andy Brown	Scottish Government

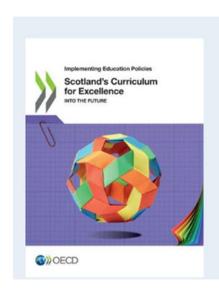


## Aims

- 1. To raise your **awareness** of the overall **CIC process** and the place of Mathematics within this, by outlining the approach that has been taken so far.
- 2. To **familiarise** you with the new, evolving, curriculum and **technical framework** for Mathematics by presenting the different sections of the publication.
- 3. To consider next steps for attendees and how you might **support** this ongoing work.



# Curriculum Improvement Cycle



#### Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence

Into the Future

Students in Scotland (United Kingdom) engage in learning through Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), which aims to provide them with a holistic, coherent, and future-oriented approach to learning between the ages of 3 and 18. CfE offers an inspiring and widely supported philosophy of education. Schools design their own curriculum based on a common framework which allows for effective curricular practices. In 2020, Scotland invited the OECD to assess the implementation of CfE in primary and secondary schools to understand how school curricula have been designed and implemented in recent your More

Published on June 21, 2021

In series: Implementing Education Policies (view more titles)



## Context

- Declutter the curriculum prioritise and deprioritise
- Prioritise deeper learning focusing on conceptual understanding
- Transnational direction of travel
- Risks: prescriptive content focused model
- International advice
- High performing systems



# **Pilot Curriculum Reviews**





# 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



## Key principles for evolving the Technical Framework

Provide parameters for the selection of content as part of decluttering the curriculum

Clarify the knowledge (and skills) learners should have at key points in their learning

Outline what progression looks like within and between levels

Clearer, less and more coherent guidance

Ensure an evolved framework is adaptable to realities of the differing nature of subjects

Allows for flexibility and autonomy at the level below the key ideas

A 3-18 'framework':
alignment and
consistency between the
BGE and Senior Phase

A clearer and coherent position for cross curricular expectations (cross-curricular learning)



# 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** 



# Outline Technical Framework



#### **UNDERSTANDING:**

The Big Ideas and Concepts



#### **SEQUENCING OF THE CONCEPTS:**

Broad overview of what we what learners to know and be able to do at each level to develop understanding of concepts



#### **NATIONAL PROGRESSION FRAMEWORK:**

The knowledge and skills that will deepen understanding of concepts at each level.



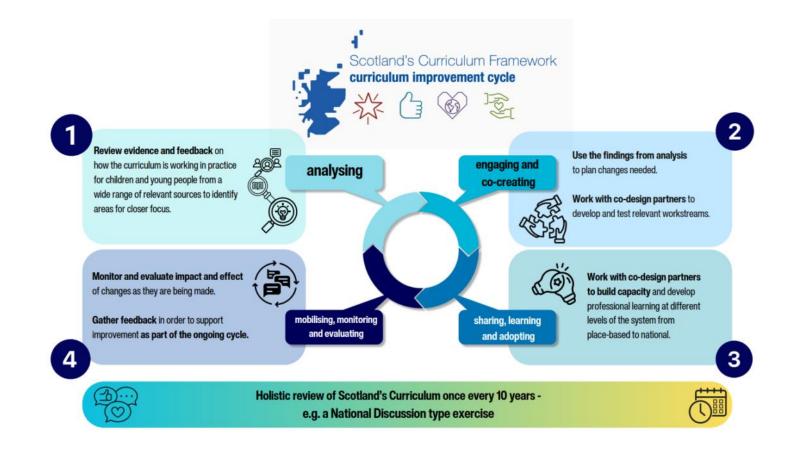
# How did we get here?

- OECD
- Pilot Reviews
- Cab Sec agreement
- International evidence
- International Educators
- Academics and Literature
- Development
- CAB Sub-Group
- Maths Core group
- Prototyping

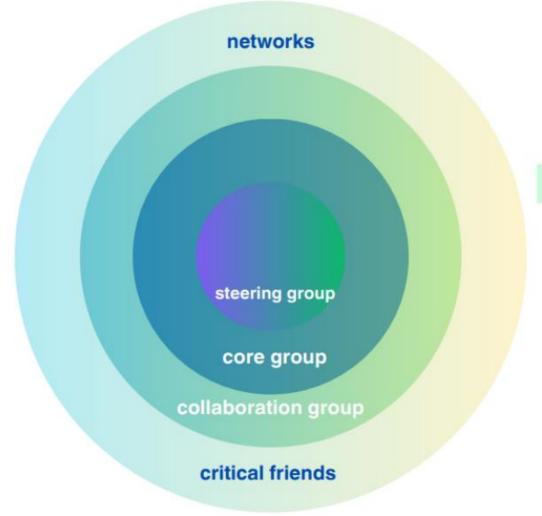
- Testing curriculum areas, sectors
- Curriculum & Assessment Board
- Ades CAQ
- Professional Associations
- Scot Gov
- Cabinet Secretary
- Ministerial Decision



# Model for Curriculum Review







co-created outputs







#### **Purpose Statement**

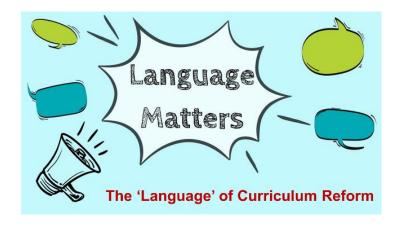
'In Scotland we strive for **all** children and young people to develop as fluent mathematical thinkers and learners who can work both independently and collaboratively to reason, investigate, and build connections. This will enable children and young people to make informed decisions, solve problems, and appreciate the mathematical relationships that shape our world.'



# Big Idea

A 'Big Idea' captures the **core understanding** children and young people will develop in a particular area of the curriculum **from early years onwards**. It will set out **overarching ideas and concepts** and have **relevance and meaning** for learners. It will **support progression** and **guide the selection of content.** 













**Quantity, Number, and the Algebraic Properties**of Number



**Shape and Space** 



**Information, Data and Uncertainty** 



Mathematics is a Language



**Mathematics is Interconnected** 



**Mathematics is Meaning** 





Interconnected

'Mathematics is a network of interconnected ideas that help us deepen our understanding, solve problems, and make links within and beyond the subject'





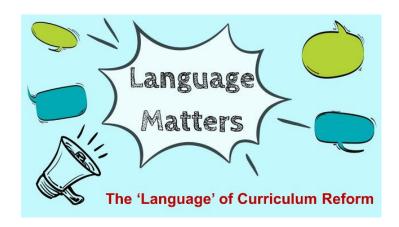
# Mathematics is Interconnected

Mathematics is a web of connected ideas, relationships and concepts. Among these concepts is 'Patterns and Sequences', which helps us to notice and understand mathematical relationships, whilst 'Proportional Reasoning' involves understanding multiplicative relationships in a variety of contexts. We use different concepts and connections to solve problems in new and unfamiliar situations. Exploring the links between concepts can deepen understanding, develop reasoning, and support decision-making. Connections also extend beyond mathematics itself, linking to a variety of areas of learning including science, technologies and expressive arts. Noticing and communicating the connections is fundamental to sense-making and enhancing an appreciation of mathematics.



# Concept

A 'concept' is a main idea or sequence of ideas that help to shape understanding. It clarifies meaning and is underpinned by knowledge. Concepts can be grouped or sequenced to develop schema that, for example, allow for the building of relationships.









# (Draft) Mathematics Concepts

Counting and Unitising

Types of Number

Structure of Number

Operations on Number

Estimation, Error and Accuracy

Comparison

Proportional Reasoning

Patterns and Sequences

Functions and Relationships

Position and Movement

Measures

Properties of Shapes and Solids

Symmetry

Equations and Expressions Justification and Proof Types of Data

Data Collection and Organisation

Data Analysis and Interpretation Data Representation

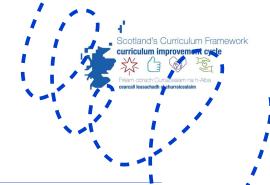
Probability

Money and Finance

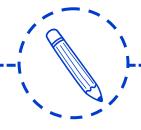
Mathematical Modelling



# Evolving from Es and Os to Understand, Know, Do







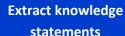






#### **Current Framework**

Starting with the current framework we identified the strands which fitted into the Number and Algebra organiser



We started by pulling out the knowledge statements that were already there

#### Implied knowledge

We then started to write statements that were implied by the Es and Os and benchmarks and to fill in the gaps



#### Identifying the concepts

We grouped the statements into our concepts again filling in gaps as we identified them

#### Draft knowledge statements

Finally we arranged the statements to provide progression within the levels and checked for progression across levels again filling in knowledge gap as we identified them



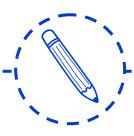
# Evolving from Es and Os to Understand, Know, Do





## Draft knowlwdge statements

Starting with the draft knowledge statements we started to think about what we wanted learners to be able to do



#### Begin writing Do statements

We started to write statements which reflected what we wanted learners to **do** to develop and demonstrate their **knowledge**.



## Refine knowledge statements

As we wrote the Do statements refinements continued to be made.



#### Draft evolved framework -Layer 3

Draft Know and Do to share with you today



#### Development of the Patterns and Sequences Concept

#### Concept description:

Patterns, which occur in both nature and everyday life, are situations where actions, objects, colours, shapes or numbers repeat in a certain order. A sequence is a list or arrangement of elements that follow a particular pattern or rule. Known elements can be used to establish the rule which describes the sequence, to copy and continue the sequence and to predict other elements within it.

Layer 2 -	– Overview of development of Patterns and Sequences
Early	Patterns and Sequences:
,	The sequence of whole numbers can be seen, copied and continued.
	Numbers can be arranged in order of size.
	Whole numbers are either even, where they can be shared into two equal groups, or odd, where they cannot be shared into two equal groups.
First	Patterns and Sequences:
	A number sequence is an ordered list that follows a pattern or rule.
	Numbers in a sequence can be in ascending or descending order.
	The patterns used to generate number sequences can be based on any type of operation on number.
Second	Patterns and Sequences:
	A square number of items can be arranged in the shape of a square. The sequence of square numbers can be found by multiplying whole numbers by themselves.
	A triangular number of items can be arranged in the shape of a triangle. The sequence of triangular numbers (1, 3, 6,) increases by one more each time.
	The next number in a Fibonacci sequence is found by adding together the two previous numbers in that sequence.
Third	Patterne and Sequences:
	An arithmetic sequence is one where the difference between two consecutive terms is always the same.
	An n <sup>ft</sup> term formula describes a sequence and is used to find any number in that sequence using its position.
Fourth	Patterns and Sequences:
	A geometric sequence is one where the ratio of two consecutive terms is always the same.
	Arithmetic sequences can be used to model real-life situations.

Summary of essential vocabulary for learners						
Early	First	Second	Third	Fourth		
Sequence Ascend Descend Odd numbers Even numbers	Pattern Ordered list Multiplicative number patterns Multiples	Decimal fractions Integers Square numbers Arrays Triangular numbers Cube numbers	Term Arithmetic sequence n° term formula Consecutive terms Common difference	Geometric sequence Common ratio Gradient		



# Development of concept as we progress through the levels

#### Patterns and Sequences concept

descend in ones. For example, 5,

ascending or descending number

sequence in ones. For example, 4, 5, 6, '8', 9...

Identify an error made in an

6, 7, 8.

and descending oral and written number sequences. For example,

Recognise and explain an error

ascending or descending numbe sequence in ones. For example,

concrete materials and visual

approaches. For example, pair-

Identify the next odd/ever number to 10 using mathematica tools to keep track. For example, a number track or number line. dentify and sort odd and even

number to 10 is odd or even using of 0, 2, 4, 5 or 8.

made in an oral or written

14, 15, 16, '18', 19...

14, 15, 7, 17

If a number is even, the total can | Identify and demonstrate if a

be shared into two equal groups.

If a number is odd number, it

cannot be shared equally into

two groups.

		1	5-4-15-1-1I	81118'111			
Know	I Do	Know	Do End of Early Level	Start of First Level Know	Do	Know	l Do
Sequences of numbers can be	Explore and identify number						
een in the world around us.	sequence in everyday situations						
	and real-life experiences. For						_
	example, house numbers, page						
	numbers, clocks and catendars.						
	Within the number range 1 to 5	r	Within the number range 0 to		Within the range 0 to 100:		Gradually increase t
	and then 0 to 10:		20:				1000.
lumber sequences can be	Copy and continue number	Number sequences can be	When counting in ones, identify		Identify next number(s), missing		Identify next number
opied and continued.	sequences through a range of	copied, continued and extended.	which number(s) comes next in		numbers and errors in number		numbers and errors i
	songs, stories, rhymes and		ascending and descending oral		sequences that ascend and		sequences that asce
	counting games.		and written sequences. For		descend in ones.		descend in ones.
			example, 13, 14, 15,?				
	Notice and identify missing			A sequence is an ordered list of	When choral counting, using		
	numerals when shown		When counting in ones, identify	numbers that follow a specific	concrete materials or looking at	Skip counting is based on a	Recognise and exten
	sequences which ascend or	ll .	missing numbers from ascending	m to	ordered lists of numerals, notice,		sequence of number

umbers follow which can be

used to create a number

sequence. For example,

creasing by 5 each time.

discuss and identify the patter

example, the sequence of 8, 6, 4, 2 has the rule of decreasing by 2

made in an oral or written

ased on the ones digit.

10 20 30 141 50

An even number has a ones digit | Identify odd and even numbers

umber sequence. For example,

and explain the rule. For

# Detailed Know and Do Statements

#### erns and Sequences concept

ork, specifically the concept of Patterns and Sequences. A detailed glossary will also be produced to support the understanding of key words and phrases.

	End of First Level	Beginning of Second Level					End of Second Lev
Know	Do	Know	Do				
umber sequences can be restated based on addition or bitraction number patterns.  umber sequences can be necessated based on utiplicative number patterns.	Within the range 0 to 1000: Identify next number(s), missing numbers and errors in ascending and descending number scottering and descending number scottering for example, 7.14, 7, 7, 35,  Notice, discuss and scending the pattern within an ordered list and explain the rule. For example, the sequence of 22, 65, 46, 46 has the fulle of subtracting 9 each time.  When choral counting in multiples, record the count and explain the site of subtracting 9 each time.  Recognise and society the full society of and 5. Recognise and extend a sequence of 71 and 5. Recognise and extend a sequence of numbers by sopolarity as multiplicative rule.		Within the range to 0 to 10 000:  Continue to mobica, discuss and identify the pattern within an orisered list and explain the rule. For example, the sequence of 800, 1700, 2500, 3500 has the rule of adding 900 each time. Identify the next number(s), missing numbers and errors in according and descending and descending and discontinued and multiplicative rules additive and multiplicative rules.		Within the range 0 to 100 000:  Continue to mode, classus and identify the pattern within an ordered list and explain the rule. For example, the sequence of 525, 2100, 84000 has the rule of multiplying the 4each time.  Continue to identify the next number(s), missing rumbers and errors in according and desconding number sequences based on additive and multiplicative rules		Within the range -29 to 1 000 000:  Notice, esschab and terriffy the pattern within an ordered list integers and explain the rule. I have been accomplicate the equipment of 23, -1, -13 has the rule of subtract 12.  Identify the next number(s), missing numbers and errors in excerning and descending and des
A detailed glossary w	ill also be produced to su	A square rumber of items can be arranged in an array with on equal number of rows and columns:  A square number is found by multiplying a number by itself. This can be represented using a superscript 2 and is read as	Explain and demonstrate visually or with concrete materials what a square number is.  Determine square numbers using arrays and shrown addition/multiplication facts.  Explain and demonstrate visually or with concrete materials in a number is square or number.  Calcilulate and record a range of of key words and phrase	Triangular numbers describe the number of items that can be arranged in a triangle. The first two contains I flem, the second row 2 items, the third row 3 items and so on:	Explore and spot where triangular number potterns appear in real contents. For example, in real contents, For example, another ball and bowling bir formations. Form tisingular number patterns using physical objects.  Explori and demonstrate visually or with counciler materials in a number is triangular or not.  Explore strategies for calculating timingular numbers. Investigate classic mathematical problems involving triangular numbers. For example, Pascal's Triangle, the handshake problem.	A cube number of fems can be arranged as a cube.  A cubic number is found by multiplying an integer by their twoice. This can be engreened using a superscript 3 and is reample, 4 x 4 x 4 = 4 * 18 is read as *four cubed.* The rest number is a Florescript for their two cubed for their two cubed for their two cubed for their two cubed for their two cubed. The rest number is a Florescript and their two cubed for their two cubed. The rest number is a Florescript and their two cubed for their two cubed for their two cubed for their two cubes. The rest number is their two cubes in the sequence.	Determine cubic numbers using physical objects and addition/multiplication facts.  Explain and demonstrate visuo evalut concrete materials in a number is cubic or not.  Calcifulde and record a range is cubic numbers.  Explore the history and application of Fibonacci sequences in the cortext of the natural world.

#### **Patterns and Sequences concept**

1, 3, 5, 7 or 9,

This is an illustration of part of the Mathematics technical framework, specifically the concept of Patterns and Sequence

sequence of number skip counting, by ap

rute. For example, 3

Notice discussion

pattern within an o

the sequence of 10

250 (has the rule of

even numbers bas

in 50s).

explain the rule. For

enerated by skip counting.

			End of Third Level	End of Fourth Lev		
now	Do	Know	Do	Know	Do	
he numbers in a sequence are called	Find the first few terms in a number sequence			A geometric sequence is one where the	Identify whether or not a sequence is	
rms. A sequence can be described by its	given its first term and the rule for finding the next			ratio of two consecutive terms is always the	geometric by looking for a common ratio	
rst term and the rule for finding the next	term. For example, starting with a first term 10,			same.		
rm.	use the rule add 6 to find the next 4 terms in this				Explore contexts where geometric	
	sequence.			The next term of a geometric sequence is	sequences occur. For example, the rice	
				found by multiplying the previous term by	chessboard legend, compound interest,	
				this common ratio.	inflation. Continue these sequences to	
					solve related problems.	
arithmetic sequence is one where the	Identify whether or not a sequence is arithmetic	A rule can be described to find a number in	Generate parts of a sequence using its nth	The common difference in an arithmetic	Establish an arithmetic sequence that a	
fference between two consecutive terms	by looking for a common difference.	a sequence by using its position in the	term formula, arithmetic sequences only.	sequence appears in its n <sup>f1</sup> term formula.	physical or pictorial pattern, or real-life	
always the same.		sequence. This is called an n <sup>th</sup> term	For example, T = 4p + 6.		situation follows. Determine its nº term	
	In context, identify patterns that follow an	formula.	•	When terms in an arithmetic sequence are	formula and use it algebraically or	
	arithmetic sequence. For example, the number of		Explore the relationship between the nf1	plotted against their position in that	graphically to solve related problems.	
	people that can be seated around an increasing		term formula of an arithmetic sequence and	sequence, a straight line is formed with a		
	number of tables:		its common difference. For example, for T =	gradient equal to the common difference.		
			60 + 6, the sequence has a common	(Link with Patterns and Sequences in		
			difference of 4.	Geometry and Measure).		
				· ·		
	0 0 0 0 0		Explore the relationship between the nf1			
	Continue these sequences to solve related		term formula of an arithmetic sequence and			
			the sequence of multiples of its common			
	problems.		difference. For example, for T = 60 + 6, all			
			the terms in the sequence are 6 greater than			
			a multiple of 4.			



# Mathematics is a Language

From Big Idea to Classroom Practice



#### Mathematics provides a shared, precise language to communicate about the world



Encompasses all mathematical concepts and supports the deepening of conceptual understanding across all areas of mathematics



Allows us to model and communicate solutions to real-world problems effectively across disciplines and cultures



Essential for conveying abstract concepts through using precise notation, symbols, and diagrams



About discourse and collaboration, communicating ideas and posing purposeful questions that promote curiosity and creativity



Underpins clear and visible thinking, informed decision-making, and the justification of mathematical reasoning



# Curriculum design must intentionally build linguistic fluency alongside conceptual understanding

#### **Learning Progressions**

Explicitly plan for vocabulary development, mathematical syntax, and symbolic notation from early years onwards. Build language skills progressively from everyday words to formal mathematical terms.

**Cross-Curricular Links** 

Mathematics as a language connects across the curriculum. Make these links explicit to help learners appreciate the power and utility of mathematical communication.

#### Scope and Sequence

Shift emphasis from 'what' to 'why' and 'how'. Include opportunities for students to explain reasoning, justify solutions, and critique the reasoning of others throughout the curriculum.

#### Assessment

Move beyond correct answers to evaluate ability to communicate mathematically. Use explanatory writing, oral presentations, and peer assessment to capture the full range of mathematical proficiency.



# The classroom must become a place of mathematical discourse where learners actively make meaning together



#### **Classroom Talk**

Create language-rich environments to encourage elaboration, active listening, and building on each other's mathematical ideas.

#### Modelling

Teachers think aloud, making reasoning visible and modelling what it means to be a curious, persistent mathematician who uses precise language.

#### **Task Design**

Use open-ended problems, investigations, and collaborative tasks that provide genuine purposes for mathematical communication and discourse.

#### Representations

Provide multiple representations (objects, pictures, diagrams, symbols) and explicitly teach notation conventions to support understanding.



# Effective Professional Learning Models

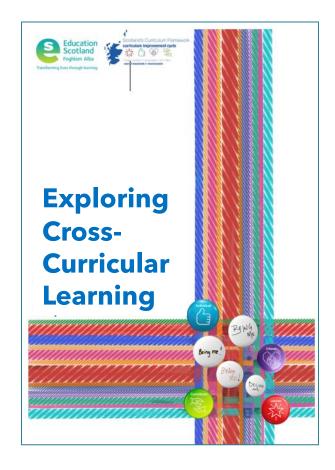
Informational:
Builds foundational
awareness

Formational: Aligns beliefs and pedagogy

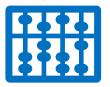
Transformational: Supports lasting classroom change Holistic approach ensures meaningful professional growth



# **Exploring Cross-Curricular Learning**







Numeracy















Careers and Pathways



Democratic Values



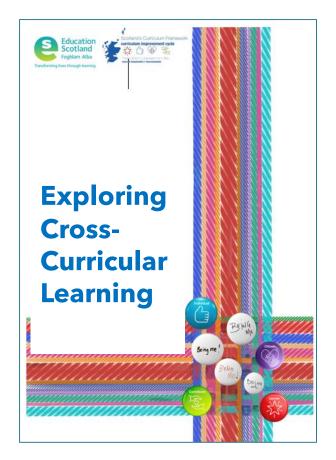
Social Justice, Rights & Equalities



Entrepreneurship

"Our main focus now is to ensure that these are embedded in the new technical framework and national guidance in a way that supports practitioners with planning and ensures universal access to this learning. This will support with de-cluttering the curriculum, a key aim of the CIC identified by teachers."





Exploring Cross-Curricular Learning (Education Scotland, forthcoming)



# Opportunities for Alignment

#### Information, Data and Uncertainty

Mathematics equips us to sort and interpret information, manage uncertainty, and make informed decisions.

Data is everywhere, influencing our decisions and impacting our daily lives. An awareness of different types of data helps us analyse and interpret the information in the world around us. Mathematics supports us in making informed, evidence-based decisions and predictions by critically evaluating information. Probability helps us navigate uncertainty and risk. By providing structured methods, mathematics allows us to collect, organise and represent information accurately and objectively. Statistics help us identify and make sense of patterns and trends, measure variations, and draw reliable conclusions. We can make sense of information by constructing mathematical models to tackle problems and explore solutions. In areas such as finance, making sense of information is essential for interpreting data, managing budgets, assessing risks, and making informed choices.

**Digital Skills** 



#### **Creativity and communication**

Having access to vast quantities of information, media and statistical data requires skills to navigate but also to scrutinise its reliability and veracity. Digital technology provides a wide range of media through which to express our thoughts, feelings and ideas and to engage with others' self-expression. Digital technology should be considered part of any a potential solution when problem solving or innovative thinking.

**Democratic Values** 



#### Misinformation and disinformation

Information is increasingly used to influence our views and beliefs. Misinformation is inaccurate but does not seek to intentionally mislead, whereas disinformation has malicious intent and aims to manipulate by eliciting an emotional response. This manipulation can be countered when we develop our ability to identify and critically analyse misinformation and disinformation. This can include exploring alternative views and identifying the reliability and biases of different sources. Developing an empathic understanding of other viewpoints helps us to counter extremism.



# Opportunities for Alignment

#### Mathematics is a Language

Mathematics provides us with a shared, precise language to communicate about the world around us.

The language of mathematics encompasses all mathematical concepts and supports the deepening of conceptual understanding. It allows us to model and communicate solutions to real-world problems. By using mathematical symbols, diagrams and accurate notation we can communicate effectively across disciplines and cultures. The use of precise notation and mathematical language is essential when conveying abstract concepts. As a collaborative practice, mathematics is about discourse, communicating ideas, and posing purposeful questions that promote curiosity and creativity. Precise mathematical language underpins clear and visible thinking, informed decision-making and justification.



Language and Communication

#### Using language and communication

Our language toolkit builds over time and comprises the vocabulary, skills, strategies and conventions that allow us to communicate in ways that are meaningful to ourselves and others. The nature of our toolkit will vary according to our needs and experiences. Learning to use these can support the ways in which we communicate meaning and collaborate with others.



# Educators' Sense-Making of the Evolving Mathematics Curriculum in Scotland

#### Phase 1 (Completed)

- √ 1 pilot focus group interview
- √ 13 focus group interviews
- √ 29 educators across phases
- √ 7 stakeholders

#### Phase 2 (November-December)

☐ Large scale survey

Next step – Large Scale Survey (will be advertised soon)

- Dr Sinem Hizli Alkan <u>sinem.hizli-alkan@aru.ac.uk</u>
- Corinne Angier <u>corinne.angier@aru.ac.uk</u>

#### Emerging findings:

- Positive emotions discussed more (e.g., hopeful, curious, enthusiastic) if there was involvement and familiarity with the process
- Engagement with networks play a key role to enhance sense-making and curriculum making capacity
- Differences across school phases subject knowledge, subject specific professional learning, assessment culture, previous experiences



# 'Takeaways' – What might you do?



Share





Explore



Feedback



# Next Steps

We will continue **raising awareness** of this work through different channels (please sign up to the CIC e-bulletin: News Bulletin – Curriculum Improvement Cycle).

The **writing process** for mathematics (and cross-cutting learning) will continue in its current form, adapting to feedback as we progress, with the aim of further drafts being available in June 2026.

We will publish a populated **technical framework**, together with **refreshed curriculum guidance**, for the sharing and adoption phase of the CIC by January 2027, in line with the Scottish Government's timeline for curriculum and qualifications reform (June 2025).



# Timeline

Curriculum, Qualifications and Assessment Reform - Progress to Date and Next Steps

June 202

Scottish Government

**'29** 



Draft evolved curriculum technical framework published Summer **'26** Sharing and adopting updated curriculum **January '27 – June '28** Formal adoption of changes to Early, First, Second and Third level **August '28** Formal adoption of changes to Fourth level and beyond **August** 



# Feedback

Education Scotland External Professional Learning Survey 2025-2026



<u>Education Scotland External Professional</u> <u>Learning Survey 2025-2026</u> **Question 6 – Title of Event** 

CIC Progress Update – Focus on Maths and Numeracy

**Question 7 – Name of Presenter** 

Maths Team