

Curriculum Improvement Cycle Newsletter

September 2026

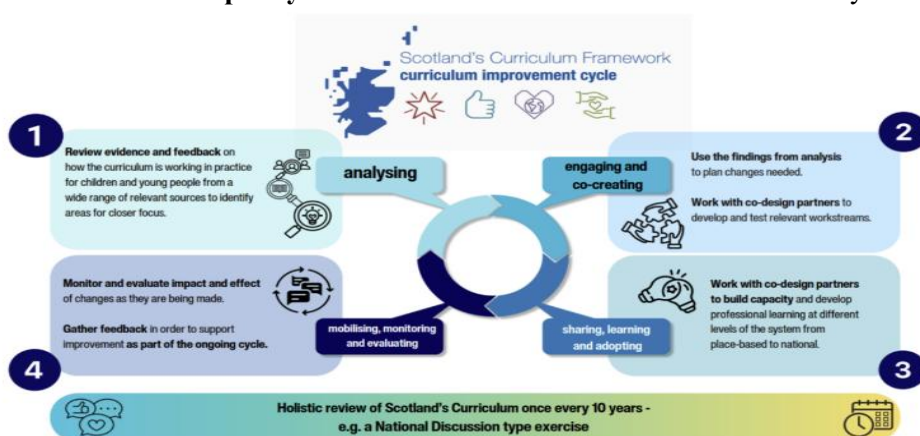
Welcome to the first CIC newsletter!

Hello and welcome to the first Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC) newsletter. I'll be sharing these with you each month with updates, information and useful resources relating to CIC that you can use to support with your ongoing curriculum development and understanding of the improvement cycle. My role this year is to support establishments to engage with the national Curriculum Improvement Cycle and to connect the national picture with the excellent curriculum development already taking place across Inverclyde.

What is the Curriculum Improvement Cycle?

The Curriculum Improvement Cycle is a national approach to ensuring that Scotland's curriculum remains relevant, coherent, responsive and fit for the needs of learners now and in the future. The CIC was established following recommendations from the 2021 OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence and the 2023 National Discussion on Scottish Education. The CIC aims to ensure that the curriculum:

- Remains **fit for purpose** and aligned with contemporary learner needs.
- Provides **high-quality, coherent learning experiences** from early years through secondary education.
- Integrates knowledge, skills, and understanding in a clear and connected way.
- Builds **internal capacity for curriculum review** within the education system.



Further information on the Curriculum Improvement Cycle can be accessed via the CIC weblog.



PASE

Monthly newsletters, CIC updates and relevant resources will be shared through PASE, creating a central place for practitioners to access the latest information and support materials. To access these materials, visit the PASE weblog and select the CIC tab.



Access the CIC weblog here:

[Curriculum Improvement Cycle – Education Scotland](#)

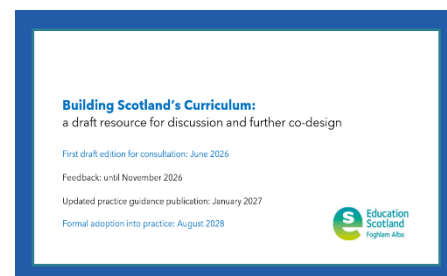


Access PASE here:

[CIC | Inverclyde PASE](#)

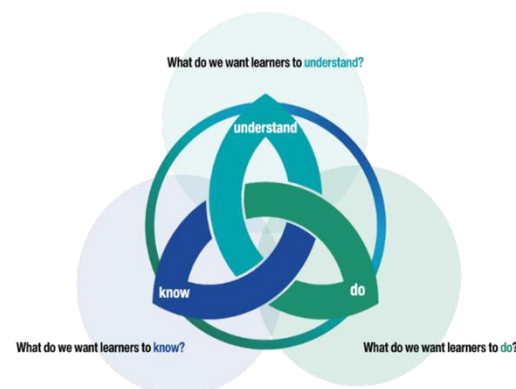
National CIC update

Building Scotland's Curriculum is a new resource being developed to support curriculum design and improvement across Scotland's schools and settings. It will bring curriculum policy together in one place and replace the current *Building the Curriculum* series. The current version has been published as a **draft** document for discussion and feedback. The resource will continue to evolve throughout the ten-year Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC), supporting ongoing curriculum improvement across Scotland. While the draft is available now and practitioners are encouraged to engage with it, it is not intended to be formally implemented until **August 2028**.



Full draft frameworks for each curriculum area are expected to be available by the end of **September**. Feedback will then be gathered between **September and November 2026**, with the final materials anticipated for release in **January 2027**.

Draft samples from each curriculum area within the new *Know-Do-Understand* (KDU) model have also been published. Each sample includes an illustrative *Big Idea* and a KDU progression strand from early to fourth level. The KDU model will replace the existing Experiences and Outcomes and Benchmarks which will begin to be phased out from **August 2028**. The draft materials aim to give practitioners and stakeholders a clear sense of how the evolved guidance and KDU model differ from the current Es&Os and Benchmarks, rather than to present a complete or finalised framework at this stage.



Network Groups

Local authority and national networks play an important role in supporting engagement with the Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC). Practitioners are encouraged to use these networks to discuss key developments, share reflections, and explore the emerging curriculum guidance. Many networks have already begun engaging with the draft materials. Further information on a dedicated Curriculum Improvement Cycle Network, which practitioners may have the opportunity to join, will be shared in future newsletters.



CIC in Inverclyde

Introduction to the CIC CLPL sessions is now available to book via Gateway. If you have not already attended a CIC briefing within your establishment, please register for one of the available sessions. Alternatively, establishments may wish to arrange a face-to-face session for their whole staff team. These can be organised by contacting me using the details below. Please speak with your SLT to confirm whether you should register for one of the online sessions.

22nd Sept, 29th Sept, 7th Oct, 21st Oct, 5th Nov, 12th Nov (4 - 5.30pm online via teams)

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