



Learning for Sustainability Guidance for Schools



Our vision is of a flourishing Scotland where sustainable and socially-just practices are the norm.... and our roles and responsibilities within a globally-interdependent world are recognised...learners are educated through their landscape and understand their environment, culture and heritage; and develop a sense of place and belonging to their local, national and global community, with a deep connection to the natural world. Here, learners will understand the significance of their choices, now and in the future.

Learning for Sustainability Guidance for Schools

The purpose of this support documentation is to assist schools in developing and embedding Learning for Sustainability within the professional competency of teachers, the ethos of schools and the curricular experiences of all pupils –pulling together important documentation in relation to LfS.

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1 -Introduction – Learning For Sustainability as an Ethos

According to UNESCO (2013) Learning for Sustainability is learning to live within the environmental limits of our planet and to build a just, equitable and peaceful society. It is essential for the well-being of all and is an international priority.

It is an approach to life and learning which enables learners, educators, schools and their wider communities to build a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society. An effective whole school and community approach to LfS weaves together global citizenship, sustainable development education and outdoor learning to create coherent, rewarding and transformative learning experiences. (Education Scotland). In other words it is an umbrella term for sustainable development education, outdoor learning, global citizenship and social justice. It encompasses a wide range of themes and approaches across education in order to create coherent, rewarding and transformative learning experiences.



Source GTCS

LfS is an entitlement for all learners within Curriculum for Excellence and the Professional actions, values, skills and knowledge of LfS are embedded within the General Teaching Council of Scotland Professional Standards for practitioners and permeates How good is our school? [Fourth edition]. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are central to Scotland's national vision and are at the heart of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

2 -Vision 2030

The Vision 2030+ report sets out Scotland's vision for LfS in educational settings through to 2030, building upon five strategic recommendations in the Learning for Sustainability report.

1. All learners should have an entitlement to learning for sustainability.
2. In line with the new GTCS Professional Standards, every practitioner, school and education leader should demonstrate learning for sustainability in their practice.
3. Every school should have a whole-school approach to learning for sustainability that is robust, demonstrable, evaluated and supported by leadership at all levels.
4. All school buildings, grounds and policies should support learning for sustainability.
5. A strategic national approach to supporting learning for sustainability should be established.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/documents/res1-vision-2030.pdf>

Vision 2030+

Concluding report of the Learning for Sustainability National Implementation Group

March 2016



3- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



<https://www.globalgoals.org/>

The Sustainable Development Goals are now at the heart of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>)



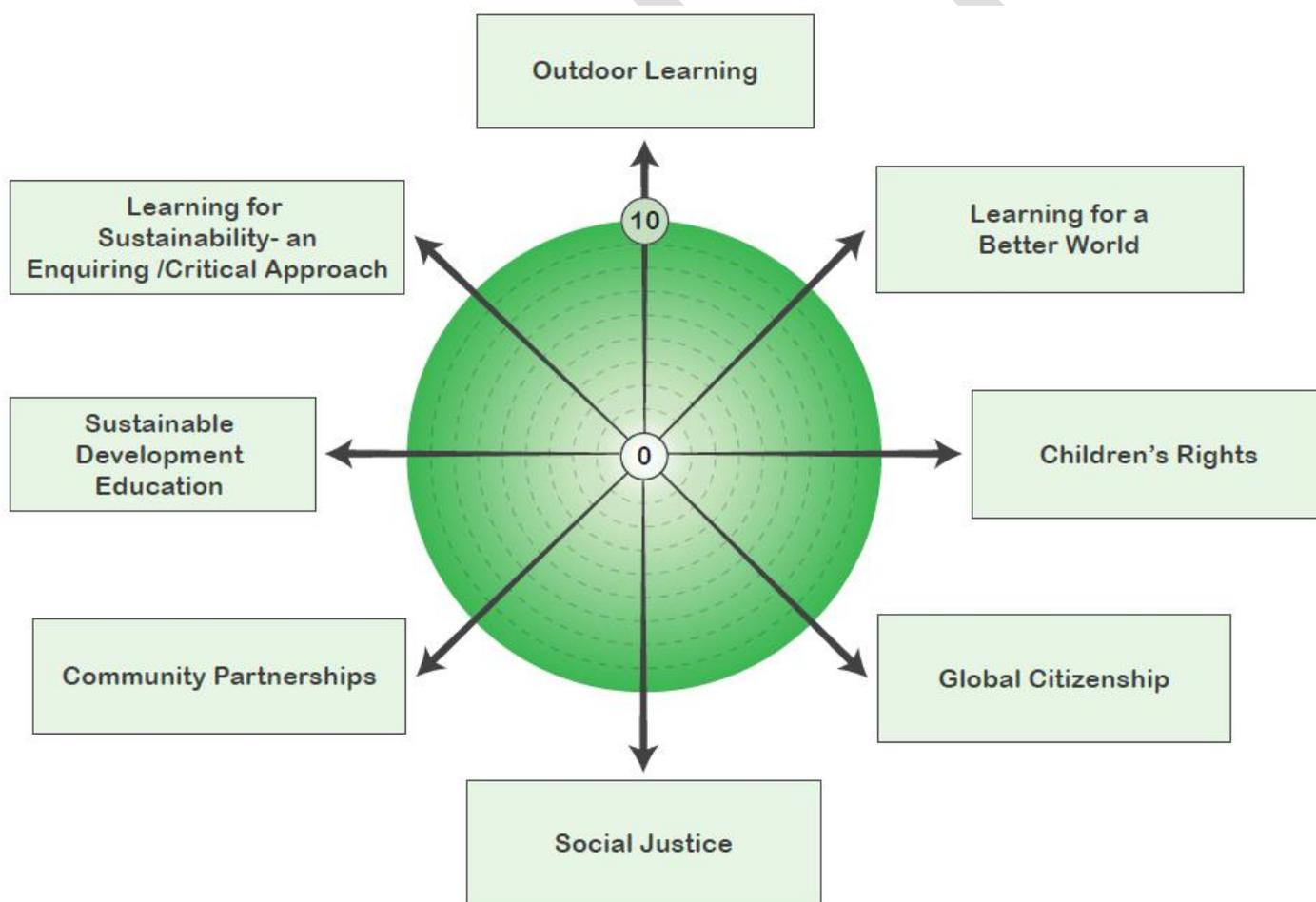
https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/sites/default/files/documents/NPF_A2_Poster.pdf

4 - GTCS Professional Standards – Learning for Sustainability

Professional Values, Learning for Sustainability and Leadership underpin and permeate all three levels of the GTCS Professional Standards. Learning for Sustainability is embedded within the GTCS Professional Standards for all registered teachers within both Professional Actions in Career Long Professional Learning and Professional Values and Personal Commitment.

To simplify Learning for Sustainability, the GTCS have categorised it into 8 different sections in their self-evaluation tool.

<http://www.gtcs.org.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=4163&SID=7856>



Please visit the GTCS LfS page for more information on standards.

<https://www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-standards/learning-for-sustainability.aspx>

5 –Education Scotland Self—Evaluation Framework

Education Scotland have produced a number of important documentation and resources in relation to Learning for Sustainability including the Self-Evaluation and Improvement Framework.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/whole-school-and-community-approach-to-learning-for-sustainability-lfs-self-evaluation-and-improvement-framework/>



Whole school and community approach to learning for sustainability (LfS) Self-evaluation and improvement framework

For further information and examples of good practice please visit.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/a-summary-of-learning-for-sustainability-resources>

6– Climate Change in Scottish Education

The Scottish Government Climate Change Plan sets out how Scotland will move towards a low carbon economy that will help to deliver sustainable economic growth and create a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland by 2032. The briefing attached provides a summary of how the theme of climate change is addressed in Scottish education.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/ClimateChangeinScottishEducationBriefing140819new.pdf>

Climate change in Scotland: *Already observed*

Since the 1960's, there has been a measurable change in the climate of Scotland:



Source: Scotland's Climate Trends Handbook (Sniffer, 2014).



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7- Additional links and resources

Connecting Classrooms		http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/connectingclassrooms/
Eco-schools Scotland		https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/
Fair Trade		http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/
Global Dimensions-resources, top tips for developing global dimensions in school		https://globaldimension.org.uk/
Global Learning Partnerships – delivered by The Wood Foundation.		http://glpsscotland.org.uk/
John Muir Trust		https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/vision2030
Learning For Sustainability Scotland		https://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org/about-us/
Learning Through Landscapes		https://www.ltl.org.uk/ltlscotland/
Miniature Earth Project. This has taken world population statistics and converted then to a base of 100 people		http://www.miniature-earth.com/
Outdoor Learning		https://education.gov.scot/Documents/cfe-through-outdoor-learning.pdf
Oxfam – resources and information		www.oxfam.org.uk/education/global-citizenship
Scotdec – Global Learning Centre		http://scotdec.org.uk/
Unicef - Rights Respecting Schools		http://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/

Volunteering		https://www.volunteerscotland.net/
Young Enterprise Scotland		https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/
Youth Parliament Scotland		https://syp.org.uk/
YPI Scotland - YPI Scotland is a structured curricular programme, designed for secondary schools, centred on youth voice, youth action and youth philanthropy.		http://ypiscotland.org.uk/

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Other websites of interest include:

<http://www.signpostsglobalcitizenship.org/>

<http://www.cypcs.org.uk/education/golden-rules>

<http://think-global.org.uk/>

<https://www.actionaid.org.uk/get-involved/school-resources>

<http://practicalaction.org/schools>

For more information or support please contact:

Lesley Kettles

Education Officer

Stirling Council

Kettlesl@stirling.gov.uk

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