

S2 Parents' Information Evening

Wednesday 1st February

Aims

- To outline the aims of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- The subject areas
- Subjects which are the responsibility of all teachers
- The principles for planning the curriculum
- Personal Support
- Assessment
- Achievement
- New qualifications
- What this means for your child

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence is the new name for the education system in Scotland, covering nurseries, schools, colleges and community learning. It covers the whole 'learning journey' from 3 to 18, and in some cases, beyond.

About Curriculum for Excellence

- Curriculum for Excellence is about raising standards, improving knowledge and developing skills. It has been developed over time with the input of:
- Teachers
- Employers
- Academics
- The [Scottish Government](#)
- [Education Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Qualifications Authority](#) (SQA).
- It has already being implemented in schools and nurseries across Scotland. Curriculum for Excellence is about the best learning and teaching, how progress is assessed, and new qualifications. An extensive [programme of guidance and policies](#) has been produced for those who are responsible for implementing Curriculum for Excellence: teachers, nursery staff, colleges and others.
- You'll find more information on the background to the changes in [Understanding the Curriculum](#) on the Education Scotland website.

Subjects and Knowledge

Curriculum for Excellence is all about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it. Learning and teaching will still focus on subjects and knowledge.

Subjects are split into 8 areas:

Subject Areas

- Expressive Arts – includes Art and Music
- Health and Wellbeing – PE, PSE and HE
- Technologies – HE, ICT, Technical
- Languages – English and MFL
- Mathematics
- Religious and Moral Education
- Social Studies – Geography, History, Modern Studies and Business
- Sciences – Chemistry, Biology and Physics

And in addition...

All teachers are required to teach pupils, in their own subject areas:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing

And to link up learning in different curricular areas by providing opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.

We also have to make sure that...

we include the 7 Principles for planning:

Challenge

Enjoyment

Breadth

Progression

Depth

Personalisation and choice

Coherence

Relevance

Personal Support

All pupils also have the entitlement to Personal Support.

This means: **“Every child and young person is entitled to personal support to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities that Curriculum for Excellence can provide”**

Assessment

Assessment covers:

- The ways teachers monitor progress and identify next steps in learning.
- Reporting to parents/carers
- Formal recognition of a child or young person's achievements through profiles and qualifications.

Assessment in Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence has improved Assessment in the following ways:

- A better connected assessment system with smoother links through pre-school, primary, secondary school and college.
- More ways of assessing progress eg. What pupils can write, say, make or do.
- By introducing a profile of our childrens' achievements. To give a clear statement of the achievements they have made and the skills they have developed at these crucial times in their lives.

What will be assessed?

- Each curriculum area is broken down into a set of experiences and outcomes (often referred to as Es and Os.)
- The **Experience** describes the learning
- The **Outcome** represents what the learning will achieve. This is often explained, from the pupil's perspective as an 'I can....', 'I am able to....'

Teachers will assess each learner's progress and achievements in:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills
- Attributes and capabilities

When will we assess?

- As part of ongoing learning
- Time to time, as appropriate
- At transition points

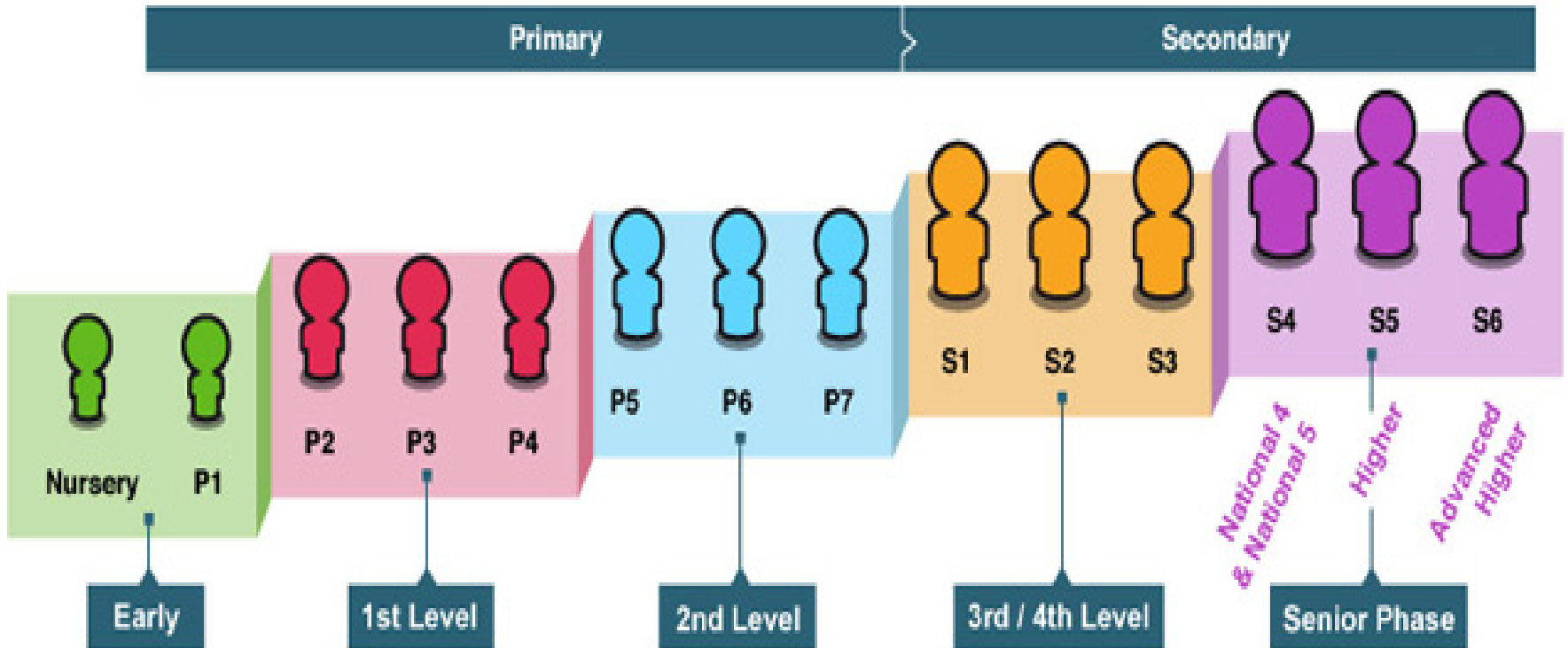
Achievement as well as attainment

- Many young people get formal qualifications at school. However learning also takes place outside the classroom, at home and in the wider community. Achievement covers learning in other areas of the life of the school and in the variety of activities children and young people are involved in, for example:
 - hobbies and interests (e.g. participation in a sport)
 - youth work
 - volunteering
 - caring for a relative
 - activities they undertake in the life of the school e.g. Eco Schools, Buddying
 - Recognized awards or programmes e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Award, John Muir Award

How is achievement being recognised?

Children's achievements are being recognized in a number of ways - for example through the use of certificates, school notice boards, online portfolios, award ceremonies

Curriculum Levels



Are there new qualifications?

Which qualifications will be available?

This table shows when the new National Qualifications will be available to pupils currently in S1 and S2. Pupils in S3 and above will continue to work towards the current National Qualifications.

Academic Year / Session	Pupil is in S1 now:	Pupil is in S2 now:
	2011/12	S1 Pupil working at secondary level
2012/13	S2 Pupil working at secondary level	S3 Pupil working at secondary level Pupil may choose subjects for S4*
2013/14	S3 Pupil working at secondary level Pupil may choose subjects for S4* New Access 1-3, National 4 and National 5 available*	S4 New Access 1-3, National 4 and National 5 available*
2014/15	S4 New Access 1-3, National 4, National 5 and Higher available*	S5 New Access 1-3, National 4, National 5, and Higher available*
2015/16	S5 New Access 1-3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher available*	S6 New Access 1-3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher available*
2016/17	S6 New Access 1-3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher available*	

*Speak to your school or college about how the new qualifications will be introduced.

So, what does all of this mean for
me?

S2 pupils will choose from the following
option form:

(See hand out)

S2 Options form

Pupils will choose the following

- A science from column D, unless general science is the best option.
- A social subject from column E
- A technology from column F
- An expressive art from column G.

These will all be for two periods per week.

S2 Options form

In addition, pupils can select a further three subjects from any of the curricular areas:

- Column H has the choice of a second science, ASDAN or art. All pupils will be allowed to do two sciences if they wish to.
- Column I has the choice of a second social subject plus RME and French. Able pupils will be directed to the additional French. Pupils are not allowed to choose any other subject twice.

What exams will my child sit?

- S4 – National 3, 4 and 5 exams will be available.
- Only National 5 exams are externally assessed.
- S5 – pupils will be able to sit the exams above plus highers
- S6 – pupils will be able to sit all of the exams above plus advanced higher.
- The highers and advanced highers are currently being re-written to articulate with the new curriculum.

Some useful Websites

- www.sqa.org.uk
- <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone/index.asp>
- www.springburnacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/curriculum_for_excellence.shtml

S2 Options form

- Column J has the choice of a second technology plus Spanish or music.

The final deadline for the return of options forms is the February weekend.