

Building a Curriculum for Dirleton Primary School

Although we have now had our new curriculum in place in Scottish schools since August 2010 we are still often asked by parents and families 'What does Curriculum for Excellence mean for my child?' Over the past two years staff have been working on the wider question of 'How does Curriculum for Excellence help all our pupils to develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they will need to achieve in life, learning and work?'



We have been looking at different ways that we can share our work with our children and families to help them understand more about Curriculum for Excellence and what it means to our learners. We have worked in partnership with children and families to establish the needs and wants of our curriculum. We have shared information through school newsletters, the school's website and parent meetings. Recently pupils and staff have been looking at the different areas of the curriculum and discussing what these look like in our school. We have decided to share this through this Curriculum Magazine. We hope that you enjoy reading about our curriculum for Dirleton Primary School.



Where do we start?

When designing the curriculum for our school our main underlying principle is to remember that the children are the heart of Dirleton Primary School and that everything we plan must help them succeed and achieve.



What do we want for our children?

Through their learning our children will develop the skills and attributes to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors

What does this mean?

Find out more about this inside...

Skills for Learning, Life and Work?

If it's true that **65% of today's primary pupils will work in jobs that don't exist yet**, then it is really important that we develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work in all our children from an early age. Curriculum for Excellence supports children in developing skills which they will use throughout their life and in their work, including the development of communication, enterprise and employment skills, personal and social skills, thinking skills and the opportunity to use their learning in practical ways.



Did you know...?

Did you know that the four values inscribed on the mace of the Scottish Parliament- wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity, are the same values which underpin Curriculum for Excellence?



What is the curriculum?

The curriculum consists of all the different learning experiences that we plan for your child.

It includes:

- The ethos and life of the school
- The curriculum areas
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Opportunities for personal achievement

The Ethos & life of our school

The starting point for learning is a positive ethos and climate of respect and trust based upon shared values across the school community. At Dirleton PS we have worked closely with staff, children and families to develop a Vision, Values and Aims for our school.

At our school we encourage all our learners to

Dream it - Live it - Achieve it

At our school we aim to

- Support all our pupils to achieve
- Take pride in our local community and environment, using this as a key learning resource
- Work with parents and families to encourage every pupil to aim high and recognise their achievements
- Through high quality learning experiences, equip our pupils with the skills for life, learning and work
- Strive for excellence for all our learners

This is our school >>>



What is Interdisciplinary Learning?

This gives your child an opportunity to make relevant links in their learning or use their knowledge and skills differently. In planning the learning experiences we look for opportunities to include:

- **Opportunities to make links between different areas of the curriculum and pupils' own learning questions**
- Cooperative learning opportunities including joint projects between classes
- Use of the local community and environment
- The opportunity to apply literacy and numeracy skills in different situations
- Opportunities for pupils to develop knowledge and skills of ICT, enterprise, thinking skills, citizenship, sustainable development and creativity,

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Pupils need opportunities for achievement in the classroom and beyond, giving them a sense of satisfaction **and building motivation, resilience and confidence.** At West Barns we celebrate our pupils' achievements in many ways including:

- Learning Journeys
- Personal targets
- Achievement assemblies
- Stars of the Week
- Accelerated Reader / Reading awards
- School assemblies and performances
- School committees
- Golden Time
- House challenges
- Sports events
- Cooperative learning challenges
- Transition activities
- Paired Reading
- Peer Reading
- Library monitors
- House Captains
- House points
- Team Tuesday
- John Muir Award
- Riding Therapy



Parents and families can play their role too by adding to their child's Learning Journey or encouraging them to share an achievement during class news time or an Achievement Assembly.

Four Capacities

The curriculum aims for all children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We celebrate our children's achievements in relation the 4 capacities each week during our Friday praise assembly.

Successful Learners

I like to learn 	I do my best. 	I am good at listening
I can read different things 	I can use numbers. 	I am creative
I can use technology 	I can check my work 	I can learn anywhere
I can work alone 	I think about what I know 	I can work things out

Confident Individuals

I like myself 	I am happy and healthy. 	I understand right and wrong
I have ambitions. 	I like being with others 	I am active
I know what I do affects others. 	I ask for help when I need it 	I can do things for myself.
I make careful choices 	I keep myself safe 	I am good at things

Responsible Citizens

I care about others 	I know about the world. 	I know about Scotland
I know about different beliefs. 	I am learning about people from other lands 	I make good choices
I think about technology. 	I can think about difficult things 	I know how to behave
I know to work hard to improve. 	I follow the rules. 	I care for my environment.

Effective Contributors

I have good ideas 	I keep on trying 	I can communicate in different ways.
I can share my ideas 	I can be the leader 	I can solve problems.
I can answer questions 	I can work with a partner 	I believe in me!
I like to be busy 	I can work in a team 	I help others

Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing

Your child needs good skills in these subjects to give them the best opportunities in life. At Dirleton PS we have been improving the way that our children learn these skills and use them in different contexts across the curriculum.

Numeracy

Numeracy is a vital skill that is important in everyday life. It is about being confident when solving problems, making decisions and analysing situations that involve numbers. Numeracy is key to lifelong learning, e.g. it enables a young person to understand scientific concepts, interpret figures, understand cause and effect etc. Curriculum for Excellence recognises the importance of numeracy in learning and in life and promotes numeracy across all areas of the curriculum, ensuring that children develop the necessary skills and the confidence to apply numeracy skills throughout their learning. Numeracy development progresses as part of mathematics and supports much of what is taught in this area.

We are developing numeracy and maths in school through:

- Introducing pupil-friendly maths and numeracy skills progressions across the school
- Encouraging teachers to plan and teach high quality maths and numeracy experiences together
- Pupils develop their maths skills through different learning and teaching approaches including active learning, cooperative learning challenges, playing games and use of ICT
- Clear and focused teaching of maths and numeracy skills that provides all pupils with pace and challenge
- Providing children with opportunities to apply their numeracy and maths skills in many different ways
- Providing focused support where needed.
- Discussing with your child their strengths and next steps in numeracy and maths
- Assessment of your **child's maths and numeracy skills** to make sure they are being provided with the right amount of support, pace and challenge
- Providing high quality staff training in developing maths and numeracy skills
- Encouraging teachers to discuss maths and numeracy with staff from our school and other schools to ensure that we are providing the correct amount of support, pace and challenge for all pupils.
- We involve parents through our Curriculum open days/evenings
- Investing in lots of exciting new maths resources



Literacy

Literacy has been defined within Curriculum for Excellence as 'the set of skills which allows an individual to engage fully in society and in learning, through the different forms of language, and the range of texts, which society values and finds useful.'

Why does literacy matter? Literacy is important in all areas of learning. Being able to read and write accurately, to listen carefully and to talk clearly about ideas will increase the opportunities for young people in all aspects of life and will allow them to participate fully in learning and later in the workplace.

We are developing reading, writing, and listening and talking skills here at Dirleton through:

- Introducing pupil-friendly literacy skills progressions across the school
- Teachers planning and teaching high quality literacy experiences
- Clear and focussed teaching of literacy skills
- Providing children with opportunities to apply their literacy skills in many different ways
- Providing focussed support where needed
- Discussing with your child their strengths and next steps in literacy
- **Assessing your child's literacy skills to make sure they are being provided with the right amount of support, pace and challenge**
- Providing high quality staff training in developing literacy skills
- Staff discussing reading and writing with staff from our school and other schools to ensure that we are providing the correct amount of support, pace and challenge for all pupils.

In Reading:

- Using Accelerated Reader to increase motivation, promote independence and improve comprehension skills
- Use of Peer Reading to motivate both younger and older pupils to share skills and encourage reading
- Motivate children to read more (through new reading resources and our fabulous new school library)

In Writing:

- Improving the presentation and handwriting skills across the school using cursive script
- Supporting pupils in developing their phonic and spelling skills.

We are improving pupils' communication skills by taking part in:

- Team Tuesday working groups
- Class presentations
- School assemblies and performances
- Talking to school visitors
- School trips
- The P6 Euroquiz & P7 Rotary quiz
- French lessons
- Circle time and class discussions.



Health and Wellbeing

Why does Health and Wellbeing matter?

Curriculum for Excellence describes how children who feel cared for and valued are much more likely to be happy and do well in life. Children who know themselves well and have self-respect are more likely to be resilient and strong, cope with change and challenge in life, and make good choices.

At Dirleton we want all children and young people to feel safe and happy and be able to work in a supportive environment that promotes respect.

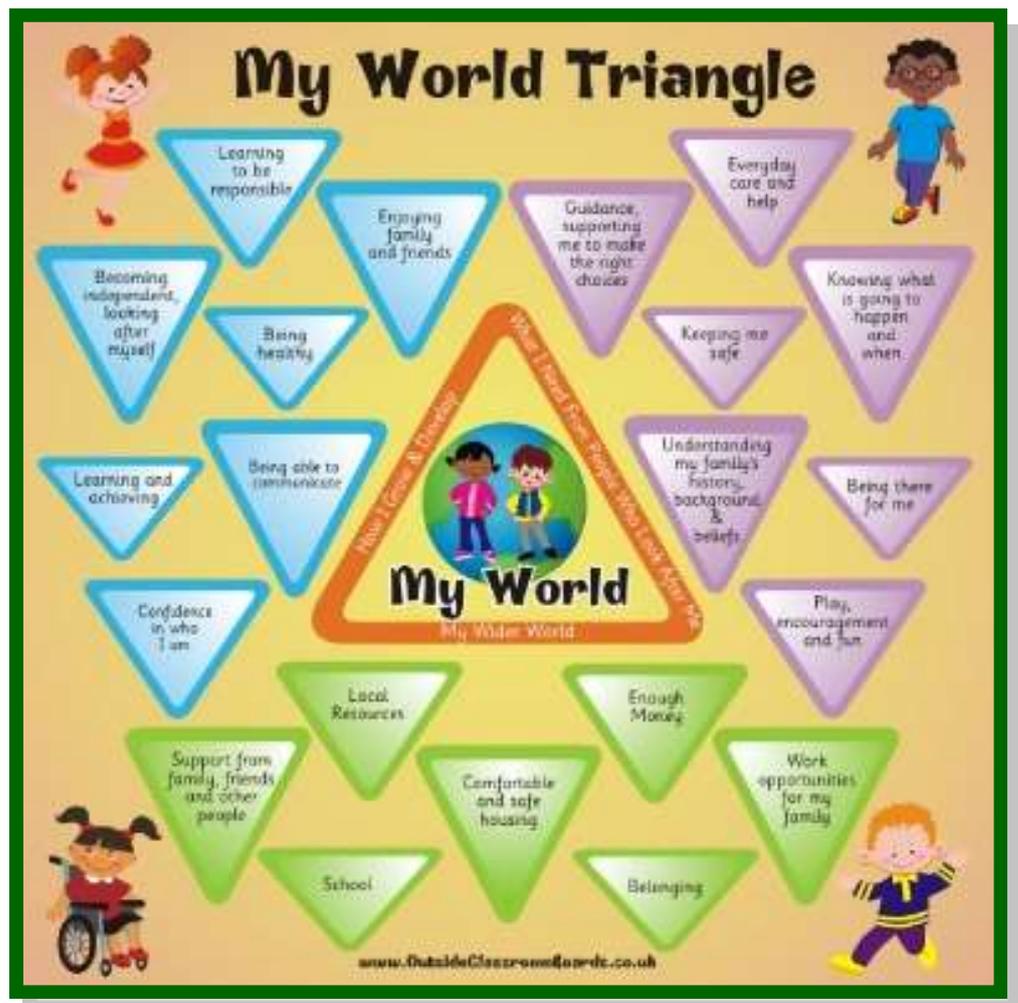
What does Health and Wellbeing cover and what will young people learn?

Health and Wellbeing is organised in 6 areas::

- 1 Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical Wellbeing
- 2 Planning for Choices and Changes
- 3 Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport
- 4 Food and Health
- 5 Substance Misuse
- 6 Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood

What happens at different ages/stages?
Young people develop at their own pace so learning is planned to suit their stage of development, maturity and ability.

Pre-school In nursery and early primary, children learn through play, exploration and investigation.
They'll learn about hygiene, how to take care of their teeth, how to choose and prepare foods and how to learn and play together.



Primary Children develop their knowledge and skills to higher levels. They will enjoy regular physical activity and learn more about how to keep themselves safe and healthy. Health and wellbeing will be woven into learning across a variety of subjects.

Experiences and Outcomes

These describe the knowledge, experiences and skills that your child will develop in eight different learning areas

Pupils develop their knowledge and skills through:

- Carefully planned learning activities
- Using the local environment and community
- Opportunities to link areas of their learning together



- Expressive Arts - including art and design, dance, drama and music
- Health and Wellbeing - mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, PE, food and health, substance misuse, relationships, sexual health and parenthood
- Languages - listening and talking, reading and writing in literacy and English and modern languages
- Mathematics - including analysing information and solving problems
- Religious and Moral Education - learning about Christianity, other world religions, and developing values and beliefs
- Sciences - understanding important scientific concepts across planet Earth, forces, electricity and waves, biological systems, materials and topical science
- Social Studies - understanding people, place and society in the past and present including history, geography, modern studies and business education
- Technologies - including computing science, food, textiles, craft, design, engineering, graphics and applied technologies

When we are planning learning for our pupils we aim **to ensure that...**

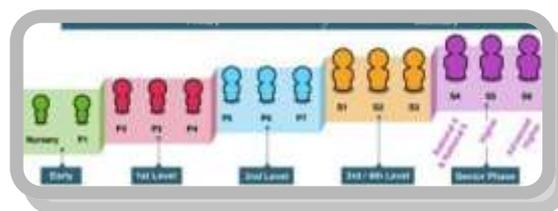
- All pupils enjoy their learning and find it challenging
- We provide our children with a broad range of different learning experiences
- We make sure that they are making good progress in their learning
- We develop their learning by applying their skills in different ways
- We give our children opportunities for choosing how and what they learn
- We make sure that the different things that they are learning link together
- Our children understand why they are learning something and how it will be important in their lives



Curriculum Levels

There are national levels to describe different stages of learning and progress. For most children, the expectation is:

- Early Level - pre-school to the end of P1
- First Level - to the end of P4
- Second Level - to the end of P7
- Third and Fourth Levels - S1 to S3, with the fourth level broadly equivalent to SCOF (see abbreviations section)
- Level 4
- Senior Phase (see Entitlements) - S4 to S6, and equivalents in other settings, where they can continue to develop the four capacities and achieve qualifications



The school must ensure that the way

Is active and interesting

- Learning based on pupil questions or ideas
- Work at the appropriate level for all pupils
- Reflecting on strengths and next steps through personal targets and Learning Journeys
- Includes cooperative learning and outdoor learning challenges
- Planning special theme days or weeks
- Inviting visitors to school
- Using skills in different areas of the curriculum
- Arranging sports taster sessions
- Taking part in school trips
- Participation in school assemblies & performances

Gives feedback on learning that will help pupils improve

Including:

- Verbal / written feedback from staff

- Reflecting through our learning journeys
- Setting personal targets
- Individual education or action plans
- End of topic maths assessments

- Accelerated Reading
- Write for Success
- Maths challenges
- Peer-assessment of pupils
- Class of the Week
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

Gives opportunities to learn individually, in pairs and in groups

By taking part in:

- Individual tasks
- Working in pairs or trios
- Cooperative learning in home teams
- Table groupings
- Maths / language groups
- Paired reading programme
- PE lessons
- Outdoor learning challenges
- Team Tuesday Groups
- Golden time
- House challenges
- Sports teams
- Homework tasks



Dirleton Primary

Provides pupils with challenging goals

For example:

- Programmes of study
- Work at the correct level

- Personal targets
- Learning Journeys
- Accelerated Reading
- Maths challenges
- Cooperative learning

that our pupils are taught and learn...

Accelerated Reader results
to the top targets
challenges
and self-assessment
is work
group discussions
and family feedback

Helps pupils to learn in the best way for them

For example:

- Applying skills in other areas

- Pupils setting their own learning questions
- Participation with their individualised Learning Journey
- Creating individual action/education plans where necessary
- Taking part in cooperative learning opportunities
- Sharing learning intentions and success criteria
- Differentiation of work to **meet a child's individual** needs
- Planning between classes



Primary School

Promotes high expectations and standards

Through:

- Dirleton PS vision, values and aims
- Cooperative learning
- Golden rules
- Playground rules
- Class rules
- Programmes of study
- Learning Journeys
- Personal targets
- Achievement assemblies
- Stars of the week
- Accelerated Reader

Shares the learning intention and success criteria for each area of learning

Through:

- Programmes of study
- **Teachers' planning**
- Discussions with pupils
- Written in jotters or on work
- Learning Journeys
- Peer- and self-assessment sheets
- Teachers planning activities together

- Paired reading activities
- Team Tuesday
- Bikeability training
- John Muir Award
- Outdoor learning opportunities

Getting it Right for Every Child

At Dirleton Primary School

We regularly review our children's learning and help them plan their next steps. This includes working with them to record their learning and evidence in their Learning Journey.

We make sure that we plan different activities to meet the learning needs of all our pupils

- Planning interesting, motivating and challenging learning experiences for all our pupils
- By evaluating their learning on a regular basis and identifying each child's next steps
- Through discussing learning and teaching with other teachers and the Head Teacher
- By helping pupils to evaluate their progress through learning conversations and their Learning Journeys

We prepare and support our children when they move classes or schools

- Providing our Pre-school children with opportunities to work with Primary 1 staff, pupils and identified buddies
- Arranging buddies for our Pre-school pupils to help them settle into Primary 1
- Pupils regularly work with staff and pupils from classes across the school
- All pupils participate in meet your new teacher/class transition days
- Class teachers meet regularly to discuss **our pupils' learning**
- Class teachers visiting other schools in the cluster to make sure that we are all assessing learning in the same way
- Primary 7 take part in many activities with other schools in the cluster to help them with the transition to North Berwick High School
- North Berwick High School teachers meet throughout the year with our Primary 7 teacher to discuss pupils and their learning

We support our children to achieve in different activities inside and outside school through:

- Learning Journeys
- Personal targets
- Cooperative learning
- Achievement assemblies
- Stars of the week
- Reading awards
- Maths challenges
- School assemblies and performances
- Team Tuesday Citizenship Groups
- Golden time
- House challenges
- Sports teams
- Sports Day
- Sports taster sessions
- Transition activities
- Paired reading
- Peer reading
- Library monitors
- House captains
- Accelerated Reader
- House points
- Riding therapy
- Outdoor learning and nature play
- John Muir Award
- Bikeability awards
- Brass lessons



As a child in a Scottish school our pupils are entitled to:



- Well planned learning from the age of 3 to 18 years
- Lots of different learning experiences from every area of the curriculum
- **Learning about the world and Scotland's place in it and the environment**
- Opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- Support and challenge to help them do their best

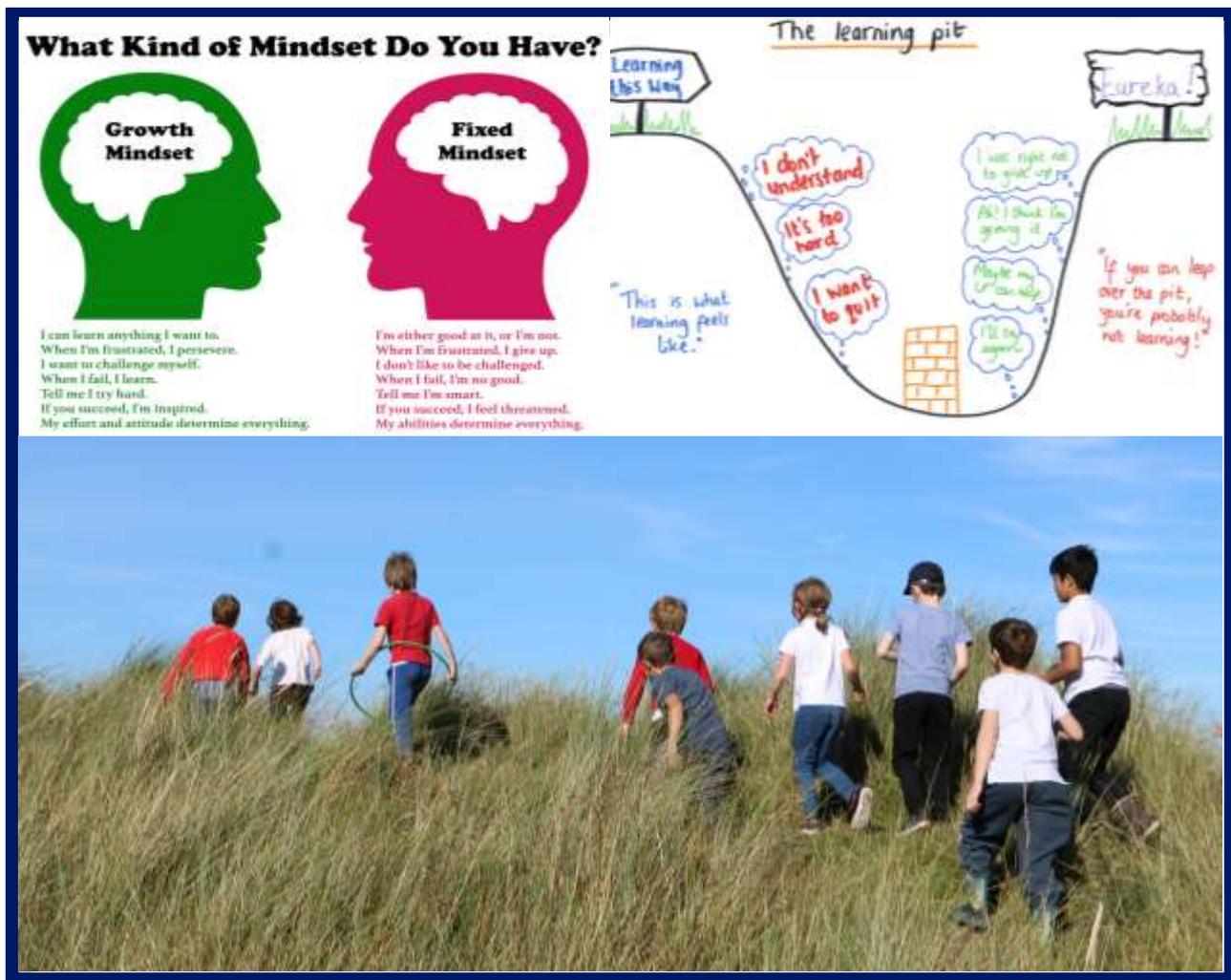
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To make sure that all the adults that work with our children understand how to support them to help them achieve

- All children have clear targets for their learning
- Share these targets with everybody who works with the child
- Provide extra support for some pupils to help them with their learning
- Making sure that children are invited to any meetings about their learning and have an opportunity to share their strengths and next steps
- Work closely with all adults or organisations who support the child in their learning
- Make sure that a child knows who they can speak to if they have any problems at school

We must also make sure that we...

- Regularly assess how our pupils are learning and compare our results to other schools in the area and across Scotland
- Assess how well we are doing as a school
 - ◊ Ask pupils, staff and families for their opinions
 - ◊ Watch how children learn in school
 - ◊ Look at their work to make sure we are giving them all the challenge and support they need
 - ◊ Look at how we plan to help them learn to see if we can do it better
- Give our staff the opportunity to develop their professional skills to help all our pupils learn



If you would like to know more about Curriculum for Excellence or how we are delivering it at Dirlerton Primary School please do not hesitate to contact us. You can also find more information about the curriculum at:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/>

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf