

# **ELLON ACADEMY**

## **CURRICULUM & LEARNING ENTITLEMENTS POLICY**

*“From principles to excellence”*

**April 2016**

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# 1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Aberdeenshire's Education and Children's Service and, in particular, staff across the Ellon Cluster Schools, are well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by the national *Curriculum for Excellence* programme. Positive feedback on the curriculum across our cluster and a high level of teacher commitment ensures that we are developing a continuous 3-18 curricular experience for children and young people in our community that takes full account of the four capacities and our unique local circumstances.

The work of our Cluster Transition Group and primary and secondary colleagues organised through shared collegiate arrangements combined with a range of parental engagement activities ensures we continue with a robust and successful cluster-wide implementation of the *Curriculum for Excellence* programme. Effective planning, consultation and communication, including adequate resources and targeted professional development, are vital to ensure the continued delivery of high quality teaching and learning experiences. By combining, targeted resourcing, effective consultation, wide-ranging communication and professional development, we ensure our children and young people receive a high quality, continuous educational experience which meets; the four CfE capacities, reflects both our local needs and unique educational setting in the North-East of Scotland and the Scottish Government's emerging *National Improvement Framework* key priorities and national outcomes.

The development of the staged model in this document draws upon numerous sources including; Education Scotland, the *Building the Curriculum* series of documents, the emerging *National Improvement Framework*, information gleaned from Aberdeenshire and national discussions, feedback from Ellon Parent Councils, dialogue within our primary schools and transition groups and Academy feedback from the Learning for Excellence Committee.

The fundamental principle that our children and young peoples' learning develops within a 3-18 coherent curriculum framework will ensure that we deliver a planned experience for every child and young person in the Ellon Cluster. This is particularly important at transition times, especially, but not exclusively, at the transfer from primary to secondary school. The focus for our children and young people will develop as they progress through their learning from the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase (formal qualification stage) of their education.

Our 3-18 curriculum is delivered through a range of subject and interdisciplinary experiences, with the emphasis being on; 'closing the attainment gap' between our most and least able pupils, raising attainment for all, the importance of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as a strategy to improve pupils' future life 'chances' and a continued focus on work related learning to ensure they are best prepared for post-secondary school life.

The United Nations Convention on The Rights of The Child underpins all Ellon Academy policies, procedures and practices to ensure that our young peoples' rights and responsibilities, along with respect for all, are promoted. This links into our United Nations Rights Respecting School Framework.

## **2. SCHOOL AIMS**

### **1. Achievement and Attainment**

We have the highest expectations for every single young person who enters Ellon Academy. All our pupils are given every encouragement to aim for the highest possible levels of achievement in educational attainment and life skills.

### **2. Framework for Learning**

We aim to provide quality learning and teaching experiences for all our pupils, based on their unique aptitudes, needs and abilities, delivered by a professional and highly dedicated staff. By constantly reviewing and evaluating our curriculum, we aim to ensure that the needs of all learners are addressed. We see each individual as unique and make every effort to make them aware of the school's responsibilities to them and also their responsibilities to the school, fellow pupils and the local community. Also, we have very high expectations for the learning that takes place in every classroom, and for each pupil's contribution to this. Good classroom relationships are crucial to developing a positive school ethos, firmly built on positive relationships between all partners.

### **3. Inclusion and Equality**

Ellon Academy has a tradition of being a fully inclusive school. We aim to help every individual pupil to benefit from education, and take pride in the support we continue to provide for pupils of all abilities and needs, within a framework of equal opportunities. We aim to be a caring community, providing the highest possible levels of support for all pupils. All members of the Ellon Academy community are valued and respected.

### **4. Values and Citizenship**

Promoting Education at Ellon Academy is firmly founded on a partnership that aims to teach pupils respect for themselves and others. It also aims to make pupils aware of their rights and responsibilities both within the school community and as part of society generally, thus developing effective skills of citizenship and an awareness of the need to care for and value our environment.

### **5. Learning for Life**

Ellon Academy aims to create a learning environment that enables pupils to develop creativity, ambition, enterprise, and the skills and attitudes required for success in life the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **3. POLICY AIMS AND LINKS TO THE NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Given the broad impact of this policy, it is unsurprising that this policy specifically relates to all five of the School Aims in the previous section and is closely linked to the four key priorities listed in the Scottish Government's *National Improvement Framework* (2016). Therefore this policy aims to aid all involved in the lives of our children and young people to work together and promote excellence and equity by:

#### **School Aims (SA) Links**

1. Promoting excellent attainment and achievement opportunities
2. Providing a framework for learning that enhances the life chances of every young person
3. Maximising the opportunities for inclusion and equality to learning
4. Ensuring our shared values are at the core of learning
5. Applying our young people's learning to creativity, ambition and enterprise

#### **National Improvement Framework Links**

Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy (SA: 1, 2, 3)

Closing attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children (SA: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing (SA: 2, 3, 4)

Improvement in employability skills & sustained, positive school leaver destinations (SA 1, 5)

### **4. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

#### **Entitlements**

In delivering our *Curriculum for Excellence*, each Ellon school community will be entitled to a curriculum which.....

- is based upon the school's shared values and aims
- is focussed on high quality teaching and learning experiences
- provides the flexibility for staff to innovate and develop skills for learning, life and work through best use of their local circumstances
- is supported by high quality resources and professional development activities
- is developed through the use of emerging technologies
- is planned, delivered and evaluated through established quality assurance processes, including the use of national HMle benchmarking standards.

In delivering our *Curriculum for Excellence*, each child and young person will be entitled to a coherent 3-18 curriculum which...

- is jointly planned and delivered by primary and secondary colleagues, partnership organisations and volunteer groups
- reflects our local community and the unique Aberdeenshire setting

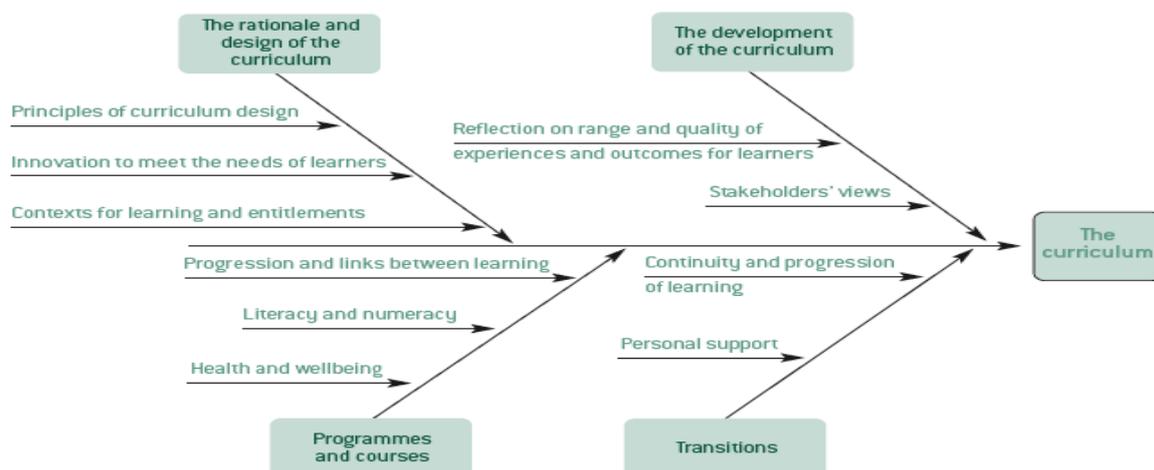
- encompasses the full range of national Outcomes and Experiences and has a particular focus on improving literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for all learners
- during a learner's time in school, includes the opportunities for; outdoor learning, the study of multiple modern foreign languages, leadership responsibilities, work placement(s), a range of residential, sporting and cultural activities, further education learning, charity and volunteer activities
- is challenging and places high achievement and attainment at the very centre of every learner's experience
- is broad and balanced and focuses on skills for learning, life and work
- incorporates a balance of inter-disciplinary and subject specific learning that provides opportunities for personalisation and choice as children and young people progress the complexity of their learning through the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase
- delivers high quality learning experiences for all through the use of emerging technologies
- delivers a high quality transition programme particularly, but not exclusively, at key stages.

## Quality Improvement

Ensuring a high quality educational experience for learners, teachers, support staff and partner organisations is an important and integral part of our planning, delivery and review cycle at cluster, school and, most importantly, classroom levels. Through effective planning, we continue to develop a curriculum that promotes high quality, outcome focussed learning that;

- facilitates learning strategies promoted through our *Cluster Learning and Teaching Policy*
- promotes effective inter-disciplinary experiences (particularly during the Broad General Education stage of a pupil's education)
- reduces unnecessary curricular overlap
- develops opportunities for transferable skills
- promotes high order thinking skills
- focuses on improving attainment and achievement (particularly in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing) and narrowing the overall 'attainment gap' between our most and least able children and young people

To aid this process, the following structure has been designed using the series of HMIE documents, *How Good is Our School*. Exemplification follows on how Ellon Academy uses these documents to plan and deliver high quality learning experiences (outcomes).



## **Our Curriculum**

- **The Rationale and Design of the Curriculum**

Our curriculum is based upon a coherent and agreed rationale with shared values. It is designed to incorporate our unique local circumstances and promote; challenge, enjoyment, breadth, depth, progression, relevance, coherence, personalisation and choice to meet the learning needs of all our children and young people as they progress through their pre-school and school education.

Our curriculum takes into account; Ellon Academy's Development and Improvement Planning documentation, the national *Building the Curriculum* materials, the National Improvement Framework and the HMLe Quality Improvement framework for learning. Through professional dialogue and engagement, primary and secondary staff work together to plan coherent and progressive learning programmes that place high attainment and achievement at the very centre of every child and young person's experience. The agreed 3-18 curriculum ensures our pupils have every opportunity to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. In particular, our curriculum delivers richer, deeper and effective learning experiences at all stages, particularly during the important transitions from; nursery to primary, primary to secondary and secondary to Further Education, Higher Education and the world of work.

- **The Development of the Curriculum**

Our curriculum is planned and systematically revisited to ensure regular improvement as national priorities emerge. Primary and secondary staff are involved at all levels of development through; termly Head Teacher and cluster transition meetings, meetings between promoted staff within both secondary and primary schools, liaison with community and Third Sector partners, business contacts, professional support groups (PSG's) and, most crucially, discussions about learning with class teachers and pupils. Regular professional development activities as part of shared collegiate planning programme ensures the close liaison and delivery of a coherent 3-18 curriculum. Our joint primary and secondary *Cluster Learning and Teaching Policy* provides rigour and direction to support classroom learning and improve attainment.

To aid the shared delivery of our 3-18 curriculum, transition staff are deployed, as appropriate, to support inter-primary liaison and primary-secondary learning. Opportunities for regular feedback from staff, pupils, parents and our community on the range of Experiences and Outcomes delivered are inbuilt to our working practices. Stakeholders are consulted on curricular developments as we continue to evolve our programmes and courses over time.

- **Programmes and Courses – Links to Effective Learning and Teaching**

Our programmes and courses are closely linked to meeting all children and young people's needs, regardless of their abilities or interests. Imaginative timetabling techniques are applied to support effective learning practices within and across curricular areas and, in particular, at transition times. To best prepare for future learning, there are clear progression routes from inter-disciplinary activities to increasingly discrete subject specialism. The 'balance' of subject specialist delivery is greatest when our children and young people progress from S2 and S3 of the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase of their education.

- **Transitions**

We continue to ensure that all our children and young people are involved in the effective transition programmes at each stage of their education. We plan transition through open dialogue and communication with colleagues, pupils and parents/carers to ensure the most effective support for learning takes place within and between stages. This is particularly important for, but not unique to, the transition from; home to pre-school, nursery to primary, primary to secondary, Broad General Education to Senior Phase and from secondary to further or higher education and the world of work.

## **5. POLICY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

This Policy has been subject to consultation with sample groups of relevant stakeholders including; primary and secondary staff, the Learning for Excellence Committee, pupils, parents/carers and the Parent Council.

## **6. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES**

Professional development and resource requirements are identified and linked through the Improvement Planning and PDRS systems. Identified teacher, faculty and whole-school needs are resourced through annual core and enhanced budget allocations.

## **7. POLICY EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed as required and formally as part of the Ellon Academy policy review cycle outlined in the Whole School Improvement Plan. This Policy will be updated annually (as appropriate) and formally reviewed during session 2018-2019.

## **8. APPENDICES**

1. BGE and Senior Phase Curriculum Stages. Please note:
  - Core areas of study are 'yellow' coloured.
  - Optional/choice areas of study are 'salmon' coloured
2. Parent/Carer Curriculum Structure Booklet
3. Primary to Secondary Supported Transition Programme

### Primary Learning Structure (Broad General Education)

Ellon Curriculum for Excellence Cluster – A coherent 3-18 Curriculum	
ELLON PRIMARIES 6/7 LEARNING STRUCTURE (Links to P1-P5 and S1-S2)	
CfE Areas	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b> <b>Mathematics &amp; Numeracy</b> <b>Languages and Literacy</b> <b>RMPS &amp; Social Studies</b> <b>Expressive Arts</b> <b>Sciences</b> <b>Technologies</b>
<b>Discrete and Inter-Disciplinary Learning</b>	Health & Wellbeing (including Physical Education) ↔ Mathematics & Numeracy ↔ Languages & Literacy (including Foreign Languages) ↔ R.M.E ↔ Social Studies ↔ Expressive Arts ↔ Sciences ↔ Technologies (including ICT across the curriculum)
	← Creative & Enterprise, Environmental, Cultural, Health & Well Being, Vocational Experiences →
	← Literacy – Numeracy – Health & Well Being →

## Secondary S1-S2 Learning Structure (Broad General Education)

Ellon Curriculum for Excellence Cluster – S1/S2 Learning Structure (Links to P6-P7 and S3)																
CfE Areas	Option Column	Health & Wellbeing	Sciences	Technologies	RMPS & Social Studies	Expressive Arts	Mathematics & Numeracy	Languages & Literacy								
<b>Professional Judgement using Outcomes &amp; Experiences to demonstrate coverage, progression &amp; achievement</b>	School, cluster and community staff	Guidance	<b>ELLON ACADEMY FACULTIES</b>													
			Health & Wellbeing 'Faculty'	Science Faculty	Technology Faculty BEIT Faculty	Humanities Faculty	Creative Arts Faculty	Mathematics Faculty	English Faculty	Modern Langs Faculty						
			<b>ELLON ACADEMY DEPARTMENTS</b>													
			Physical Education Home Economics	Biology Chemistry Physics	Business Education Technical	History Geography Modern Studies RMPS	Art & Design Drama Music	Mathematics	English	Modern Langs						
<b>S1-S2 Broad General Education</b>	<b>S1</b>	Enrichment	Core PSE	Health & Well Being Experience	Science Experience	Technology and Enterprise Experience	Humanities Experience	Expressive Arts Experience	Mathematics	English 4 X 50m	Modern Langs 4 X 50m					
				PE 3 X 50m												
			3 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	4 X 50m	4 X 50m	4 X 50m	8 X 50m						
	<b>CfE Level 3/4 Outcomes and Exp.</b>	<b>S2</b>	Enrichment	Core PSE	Health & Well Being Experience	Science Experience	Technology and Enterprise Experience	Humanities Experience	Expressive Arts Experience	Mathematics	English 4 X 50m	Modern Langs 3 X 50m				
PE 2 X 50m					HE 2 X 50m								<b>Interdisciplinary Project (1 period per week x 6-8 weeks X 5/6 curriculum areas)</b>			
2 X 50m					1X50m								4 X 50m	4 X 50m	3 X 50m	4 X 50m
<b>32 Periods per week + 10 minutes registration</b>	<b>SUBJECT CHOICE within Curricular Areas AT END OF S2 (March)</b>															
	<p style="text-align: center;">← BtC – Responsibility of All: Literacy – Numeracy – Health &amp; Well Being -Entitlements →</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Personal, Social and Learning Development (Mentoring/Target Setting/Personal Achievement/Ethos/Values/World of Work)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Technology through learning</p>															

## Secondary S3 Learning Structure (Broad General Education)

Ellon Curriculum for Excellence Cluster – S3 Learning Structure (Links to S1-S2 and S4-S6)												
CfE Areas	Personal Support		Health & Wellbeing		Sciences	Technologies	RMPS & Social Studies		Expressive Arts	Mathematics & Numeracy	Languages & Literacy	
<b>Professional Judgement using Outcomes &amp; Experiences to demonstrate coverage, progression and achievement based upon SCQF levels 2-5 S3 S3 CfE Level 4/3 outcomes &amp; Exp. 32 Periods per week + 10 minutes reg.</b>	<b>ELLON ACADEMY FACULTIES</b>											
	Guidance Faculty		Health & Wellbeing Faculty		Science Faculty	Technology Faculty BEIT Faculty	Humanities Faculty		Creative Arts Faculty	Mathematics Faculty	English Faculty	Modern Languages Faculty
	<b>ELLON ACADEMY DEPARTMENTS</b>											
	S3 Register Teachers (Tutor)	Guidance	Physical Education Home Economics		Biology Chemistry Physics	Computing Technical Business Education	History Geography Modern Studies RMPS		Art & Design Drama Music	Mathematics	English	Modern Langs
	Core Personal Support	Core PSE	Core PE	Option Choices	Option Choices	Option Choices	Option Choices	Core RMPS	Option Choices	Option Choices	Core Mathematics	Core English
1 X 50m	1 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	1 X 50m	3 X 50m	3 X 50m	4 X 50m	4 X 50m	3 X 50m
<b>SUBJECT 'UPDATE' AT END OF S3</b>												
 <p style="text-align: center;">BtC – Responsibility of All: Literacy – Numeracy – Health &amp; Wellbeing- Entitlements Personal, Social and Learning Development (Mentoring/Target Setting/Personal Achievement/Ethos/Values/World of Work) Technology through learning</p>												

## Secondary S4-S5-S6 Learning Structure (Senior Phase)

<b>32 Periods</b>	<b>Ellon Curriculum for Excellence – S4/S5/S6 Learning Structure (Link to S3 and Further and Higher Education and World of Work)</b>										
<b>Senior Phase</b>	<b>ELLON ACADEMY FACULTIES / ALL CfE AREAS</b>										
<b>S4</b>	PSE (1)	RE (1)	<b>Choice 1 (4)</b> National 3/4/5	<b>Choice 2 (4)</b> National 3/4/5	<b>Choice 3 (4)</b> National 3/4/5	<b>Choice 4 (4)</b> National 3/4/5	<b>Core Modern Language (4)</b> National 3/4/5	PE (1)	<b>Core English (4)</b> National 3/4/5	PE (1)	<b>Core Maths (4)</b> National 3/4/5
			<b>Choices 1 and/or 2</b> Higher								

<b>S5</b>	PSE (1)	PE (1)	<b>Choice 1 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 2 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 3 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 4 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher  Work Related Learning	<b>Choice 5 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 6 (5)</b> Higher/Advanced Higher	
					<b>Study (3)</b>			<b>Wider Achieve (2)</b>	
<b>S6</b>	PSE (1)	PE (1)	<b>Choice 1 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 2 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 3 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 4 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher  Work Related Learning	<b>Choice 5 (5)</b> National 3/4/5 Higher/Advanced Higher	<b>Choice 6 (5)</b> Higher/Advanced Higher	
					<b>Study (3)</b>			<b>Wider Achieve (2)</b>	

**Curriculum and Learning Outcomes - Pupils will have experienced: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work with a continued focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Health & Wellbeing leading to an outcome of positive and sustained destinations for all**