



ELLON ACADEMY

**CURRICULUM
RATIONALE**

SEPTEMBER 2019

Ellon Academy Curriculum Rationale

Our curriculum is defined as all the learning and teaching experiences planned and delivered for our young people across their time in Ellon Academy, from S1 all the way to S6. It is designed to comply with government curricular guidance and meet the requirements of national qualifications courses. It should meet the needs of all learners, providing challenge and support when necessary.

The school vision of “**Personal Best**” defines our curriculum: we develop and promote an expectation that we work with every young person to help them achieve the very best they can. Our school values are the foundation for how we work together; these values are the bedrock for our curriculum:

- Aspiration
- Dedication
- Equality
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility



Our curriculum:

- provides our young people with opportunities to develop the four capacities, becoming successful learners, effective contributors, responsible citizens and confident individuals;
- is based on the design principles of progression, coherence, breadth, depth, personalisation and choice, challenge and enjoyment and relevance;
- places the needs of learners at the centre;
- builds on prior learning;
- provides opportunities to develop high levels of literacy and numeracy;
- promotes health and well-being, including mental health well-being;
- is founded on a growth mindset approach;
- provides flexible learning pathways;
- develops learners’ skills for learning, life and work.

This rationale has evolved as our school has responded to the changing needs of our learners, a changing employment market, revised curricular guidance and as we have sought to better serve our community. It is dynamic and will continue to evolve, informed by debate within the school community and an awareness of educational thinking.

The aim of our school curriculum is to enable all our young people to achieve their “personal best”, so that they can play a full, active and successful part in life beyond school. In order to achieve this, we aim to develop young people who:

- have high expectations of themselves and are ambitious for their future, always aspiring;
- strive for excellence, while accepting failure as part of learning;
- act with integrity, valuing honesty and truthfulness;
- are dedicated to their own personal development, but also the community of which they are a part;
- take responsibility for their own actions, their own learning and their own destiny;

- demonstrate respect for themselves and others, as well as the wider environment;
- value equality, showing tolerance and understanding of all, regardless of race, age, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Ellon Academy seeks to achieve these aims by providing an inclusive school environment that supports all our learners towards a positive destination; by striving for excellent attainment for all; by ensuring equity of opportunity, where there are no barriers to the opportunities to succeed, and by being ready to evaluate our own practice, review our impact on learners and by staying willing to learn.
