

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Curriculum Strategy 2023-2026 (Primary)
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1. Purpose of Briefing Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an overview on Curriculum Quality and Improvement Service's (CQIS) updated curriculum strategy for primary schools
- ◆ provide a briefing around work designed to support curriculum, learner pathways and curriculum design

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the plan outlined for curriculum is noted; and
- (2) that the work outlined to support curriculum strategy is noted.

3. Background

3.1. Since 2019, there have been a series of reports which focus on strengths and areas of development in Scottish Education. 2019 saw the publication of "The Refreshed Curriculum Narrative", which placed learners at the heart of education and refocused on the four fundamental capacities, which reflect and recognise the life-long nature of learning.

3.2. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report 'Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence- Into the Future' (June 2021) also produced suggestions for Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) to ensure curriculum design and learner pathways are fit for purpose. Recommendations included:

- Finding a better balance between breadth and depth of knowledge in curriculum design and offers.
- Greater opportunities for schools to collaborate on curriculum.

3.3. More recently Professor Ken Muir's report: Putting Learners at the centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education March 2022- highlighted the need to adopt a more structured and strategic approach to curriculum review and implementation.

3.4. Session 2022/2023 afforded schools the opportunity to deliver education without restrictions following Covid-19 pandemic. However, our curriculum must reflect a new age of learning post pandemic, building on the accelerated digital learning that took place and the move towards building pupils' skills for jobs of the future, in an uncertain world. Progression pathways need to be strengthened and primary curriculum design revisited to reflect our aspirations for our children and young people.

4. Curriculum Development in South Lanarkshire

- 4.1. South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) has high aspirations for all and is committed to securing improved educational outcomes for all children and young people. Three of the current five strategic priorities for Education Resources are directly linked to curriculum:
 - Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy.
 - Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.
 - Empower learners to shape and influence actions on climate change and sustainability.
- 4.2. Curriculum development has been a continuous priority for Education Resources resulting in the production of a *Framework for the Curriculum*, which was updated and re-launched to Head Teachers in January 2023. This framework is a source of information to support schools in the ongoing process of reflection, review, development, implementation, and delivery of the curriculum.
- 4.3. In December 2022, a CQIS survey was carried out to assess individual primary schools' position regarding their curriculum, a further real time survey was held in October 2023. Information was gathered on curriculum rationale, progression pathways, assessment and quality assurance. The surveys highlighted gaps in 2 key areas, namely curriculum rationale (86% have a curriculum rationale in place) and curriculum progression pathways across all aspects of CfE (67% have these in place). A need was identified to develop a South Lanarkshire curriculum strategy to strengthen schools' approach to curriculum rationale and progression pathways.
- 4.4. Information from the survey was used to offer support to schools to help them further their curriculum journey and learner offer. A group of Lead Headteachers was established to offer bespoke curriculum support to establishments in need, this proved to be a successful method of offering peer support and sharing good practice across our school estate.
- 4.5. Specific professional learning in key areas of literacy and numeracy has also been provided to our Primary schools. Curriculum projects include: Maths Recovery, Limitless Learning, Nuffield Early Language Intervention, Talk 4 Writing, Foundations of Literacy in Primary one Programme (FLIPP) and Play Pedagogy. Many of these projects were directly funded through Strategic Equity Funding (SEF). These projects have strengthened the work of schools and supported the development of curriculum and pedagogy.
- 4.6. In February 2023, The SLC Skills Framework: Supporting Skills Development was launched and introduced to Headteachers and establishments. The framework was created to support skills development with a focus on cross-curricular universal "meta-skills" and transferrable skills. The framework is made up of eight "key skill" organisers aligned to the four capacities of CfE. These eight key skill organisers are then broken down into "sub-skills" to support pupil profiling.
- 4.7. South Lanarkshire is committed to raising awareness and empowering young people to become active participants in work around climate change and sustainability. The recent Pupil Climate Conference highlights the ongoing commitment to this. We now need to continue to establish sustainability throughout more than just the life and ethos of our schools, but as part of a refreshed curriculum offer, in which learners regularly

learn about sustainable issues and share depth of learning with the wider school community.

- 4.8. There is, therefore, a need to update the Curriculum strategy for primary with a view to further upskilling our schools to design and build their curriculum in light of the refreshed curriculum narrative. We require to support schools to build the foundation of strong progression pathways, driven by skills that offer success for all. A South Lanarkshire approach to curriculum will allow establishments to build upon guidance and pathways, by adopting them and making them bespoke to their own context and learner need.

5. Curriculum Development in South Lanarkshire - August 2023

- 5.1. The refreshed Curriculum strategy renews our commitment to providing a rich and stimulating curriculum, it goes beyond a commitment to only literacy and numeracy and sets out to support the development of wider curriculum design and pathways for all subject areas of CfE.
- 5.2. In order to take forward the refreshed narrative, share practice and ensure a collective understanding of curriculum, the development of an SLC Curriculum Rationale will be a key driver in the strategy. It is hoped this will encapsulate, explain and enthuse all, about the 'why' of the SLC curriculum and it's vision to Inspire, Transform and Strengthen education across South Lanarkshire. Our new curriculum rationale video can be accessed using the following link: [SLC Curriculum Rationale](#)
- 5.3. Continued sense making of recent national reviews alongside local workstreams is required. This will pull together and build an online curriculum hub for practitioners with a suite of materials to support curriculum development at practitioner level. Progression pathways and examples of good practice to be published and shared with all primary schools. Due to the nature and size of curriculum development, two Lead Officers with specific remit of Curriculum have been appointed.
- 5.4. The Lead Officers will build on the existing use of the SLC Literacy and Numeracy progression pathways and create pathways for all CfE areas. These pathways will support practitioners to plan learning across the curriculum to ensure depth, breadth and progression for learners.
- 5.5. Primary curriculum design guidance will also be created and model the use of the four contexts for learning as well as how the design principles can be applied across the curriculum. Curriculum mapping will be exemplified, and cognisance given to next steps in terms of innovative curriculum design, particularly with regards to skills development and interdisciplinary learning.
- 5.6. Schools will be provided with a detailed audit tool by April 2024, which will support the self-evaluation of their school curriculum and direct staff to support materials and examples of good practice. This tool will be a strong starting point for school improvement planning and by using emerging, developing and embedded evaluative statements, schools will be able to assess where they are on their curriculum journey.
- 5.7. It is recognised that curriculum is more than a suite of materials. There may be a need to adapt and review current practice and approaches to teaching and learning in light of a reviewed curriculum design process. Further professional learning will be required over the next two years to support this. A three year plan is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.8. Curriculum building is a team effort and our curriculum is owned, created and lived by all. Our curriculum continues to be supported by the CQIS Primary Team, with a focus

on literacy, numeracy, science and sustainability, skills and play. An established technologies working group is in place who will develop progression pathways in this area.

- 5.9. Each school will incorporate sustainability into their strategic school improvement plan as part of our ambition to embed Learning for Sustainability as an entitlement within our curriculum for all learners.
- 5.10. The continued use of an established group of Lead Headteachers will support the development of pathways, the audit tool and allow views around the quality of materials to be sought. Lead Headteachers will also put together a bespoke offer to share practice from their schools across the local authority using their strengths to support other establishments.
- 5.11. The curriculum strategy also links to other wider CQIS workstreams, in particular school improvement and attainment and achievement across both primary and secondary. Curriculum pathway tools must align with the updated tracking and monitoring 'key' being implemented by primary schools on Progress and Achievement. The use and development of common language within, planning and tracking is vital to allow robust assessment and moderation of learning.
- 5.12. Recent CQIS work on the implementation of Play at early level: 'Being Me in SLC' and the SLC Skills Framework, will also be reflected in curriculum design guidance to ensure coherence and build established approaches.
- 5.13. The CQIS will host a Primary Curriculum Conference to share widely progression pathways, curriculum design guidance and good practice. This will provide an opportunity for colleagues to engage fully in reflection of the refreshed curriculum narrative across SLC.

6. Year on Year Planned Outcomes

- 6.1. Year 1- See **Appendix 2** for additional detail.
 - Creation of an SLC Curriculum Rationale
 - SLC progression pathways for all areas of CfE
 - Curriculum design guidance created and curriculum innovation from across SLC shared at the curriculum conference
 - Development of a SLC Curriculum Audit tool, leading to improved SQIP outcomes and measures related to curriculum
 - CQIS Curriculum Conference
 - Professional Learning sessions on curriculum rationale/design, the refreshed narrative and curriculum innovation will be on offer in partnership with Education Scotland
 - School Visits from LO Curriculum or Lead HTs to support curriculum development
- 6.2. Year 2
 - All schools will have implemented or reviewed progression pathways
 - All schools will have a curriculum rationale in place by December 2024 at the latest
 - Possible development of a curriculum professional learning academy, in which schools deliver and host CPD on areas of strength throughout the academic year, building a sustainable model of professional learning for curriculum for all practitioners to access
 - Development of a curriculum innovation group, to develop case studies on exceptional approaches across SLC
 - Review of curriculum in place through survey
 - Launch IDL Enquiry Based Guidance

- Offer IDL Enquiry Based training opportunities and collate examples of good practice

6.3. Year 3

- Full implementation of the Curriculum strategy across Primary and Early Years
- Evaluation of progression pathways from practitioners
- Develop Literacy & Numeracy Assessment guidance
- Curriculum Innovation guidance updated

7. Next steps

- Key messages around the development of curriculum progression pathways shared with HTs at August meeting and again on Lead Officer offer email
- Audit tool to be created for literacy in the first instance, then for all areas of curriculum
- Focus groups established to support the development of the SLC curriculum Rationale, to reflect stakeholder views
- Development of short SLC Rationale film clip
- LOs to visit establishments to view good practice and gather planning materials in use across SLC and the West Partnership
- Progression pathways developed for all CfE areas. Examples of programmes of study also collated
- Further consideration on curriculum innovation, skill development and IDL: reflected in SLC Curriculum design guidance
- Strategic use of the Lead Head Teachers to support both curriculum development and schools with a bespoke curriculum needs/request.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. None.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. None.

10. Other Implications

10.1. There are no implications for sustainability or risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. This report does not present a new strategy, policy or plan and is therefore not subject to equality impact assessment.

11.2. There was no requirement to undertake any formal consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

Carole McKenzie

Executive Director (Education Resources)

1 May 2024

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Education and learning: inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships.

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ The OECD report 'Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence- Into the Future' (June 2021) www.oecd.org/education/scotland-s-curriculum-for-excellence-bf624417-en.htm
- ◆ The Refreshed Curriculum Narrative: <https://scotlandscurriculum.scot/>
- ◆ Professor Ken Muir: Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education [Putting Learners at the Centre: Towards a Future Vision for Scottish Education - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://Putting_Learners_at_the_Centre:_Towards_a_Future_Vision_for_Scottish_Education_-_gov.scot_(www.gov.scot))

Appendix 1 – 3 year curriculum plan (Primary)

Appendix 2 – Curriculum Strategy, Year 1 (Primary)

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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APPENDIX 1 - SLC Curriculum Strategy 3 Year Plan 2023-2026

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By June 2026 SLC will provide all schools clear guidance on curriculum content and structure that can be adapted to suit their individual context. - By June 2026 all curricular areas will have clear progression pathways, linked to the benchmarks which have been launched and reviewed. - By June 2026 all schools will be confident in accessing a range of support materials, examples of good practice and training opportunities for all areas of the curriculum. - By June 2026 all schools will be offering IDL learning as defined by SLC definition and most schools will have embarked on IDL enquiry IDL. - By June 2026 an established group of Lead HTs will consistently support schools with published and bespoke guidance on the curriculum. - By June 24 all curriculum guidance will be accessed through SLC Glow tile be updated annually. All SLC HT and staff will be aware of this.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum Audit samples and evaluations - Curriculum Rationales - Attainment data collection for P1-7 three times per year

Implementation Plan			
Area	Year 1 – 23/24	Year 2 – 24/25	Year 3 – 25/26
General Guidance	Curriculum Audit Tool Creation of SLC Curriculum Rationale Curriculum Rationale – further guidance (refreshed curriculum narrative) and examples Curriculum and stage by stage mapping guidance and examples Progression Pathways guidance Quality Assurance guidance and exemplars Refresh SLC Staff Learning Centre to ensure all new guidance easily accessible CQIS Curriculum Conference Professional Learning on curriculum rationale/design, the refreshed narrative and curriculum innovation LO & Lead HT – Bespoke support for schools	Ensure all SLC guidance reflects any new National advice/direction Standing item on LO school visit re: Curriculum and use of audit tool. Introduce Curriculum Professional Learning Academy. Introduce curriculum innovation group. Update Audit Tool with Numeracy and HWB audit. Curriculum Rationale – Collect all Rationale's from SLC Schools and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre . Update SLC Staff Learning Centre LO Bespoke support for schools	Ensure all SLC guidance reflects any new National advice/direction Standing item on LO school visit re: Curriculum and use of audit tool. Update SLC Staff Learning Centre LO -Bespoke support for schools Curriculum IDL Enquiry based learning mapping

APPENDIX 1 - SLC Curriculum Strategy

3 Year Plan

2023-2026

Area	- Year 1 – 23/24	- Year 2 – 24/25	- Year 3 – 25/26
Literacy & English	Audit and relaunch Progression Pathway Planning exemplars Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre <i>Lead HT – Reading, Writing, T&L Audit Tool and guidance</i> FLIPP Rollout	Develop writing guidance/programme based on HTs professional enquiry work. Roll out professional enquiry in writing to all SLC schools, CQIS to support development of this approach to leading change. CPD linked to writing pedagogy, training across SLC on offer. Continue FLIPP etc	Wider work on creation of a holistic approach to literacy, HT working party established to lead change. SLC Literacy Assessment Guidance
Mathematics & Numeracy	Audit and relaunch Progression Pathway Planning exemplars Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre Continue Maths Recovery Training Roll out Complete 6 staff Maths Recovery Trainer Programme Limitless Learning – 92 staff to complete Multiply Project	Continue Maths Recovery Training Roll out Complete 6 staff Maths Recovery Trainer Programme New 6 SLC Maths Recovery trainers to increase training opportunities including recorded content. SLC Maths Recovery guidance for schools to be launched Multiply Project	Continue Maths Recovery Training Roll out Complete 6 staff Maths Recovery Trainer Programme 12 SLC Maths Recovery trainers to offer training opportunities and supportive school visits SLC Maths Assessment Guidance Multiply Project
Health & Wellbeing	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>
RME & RERC	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>
Expressive Arts	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>

APPENDIX 1 - SLC Curriculum Strategy 3 Year Plan 2023-2026

Area	Year 1 – 23/24	Year 2 – 24/25	Year 3 – 25/26
Social Studies	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>
Science	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>
Technologies	Introduce Progression Pathway Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review Progression Pathways</i>
Skills for Learning, Life and Work	Planning exemplars	Collation of SLC good practice & programmes of study and publish on SLC Staff Learning Centre	<i>Review SLC Skills Framework</i>
IDL/ Curriculum Innovation	SLC definition of IDL Launch IDL guidance linked to curriculum mapping Showcase innovative curriculum design at CQIS curriculum conference.	Launch IDL Enquiry based learning guidance IDL Enquiry based learning Training opportunities Collation of IDL enquiry based learning examples Establish curriculum innovation working group to drive innovation across SLC	Further showcasing of innovative curriculum design.