



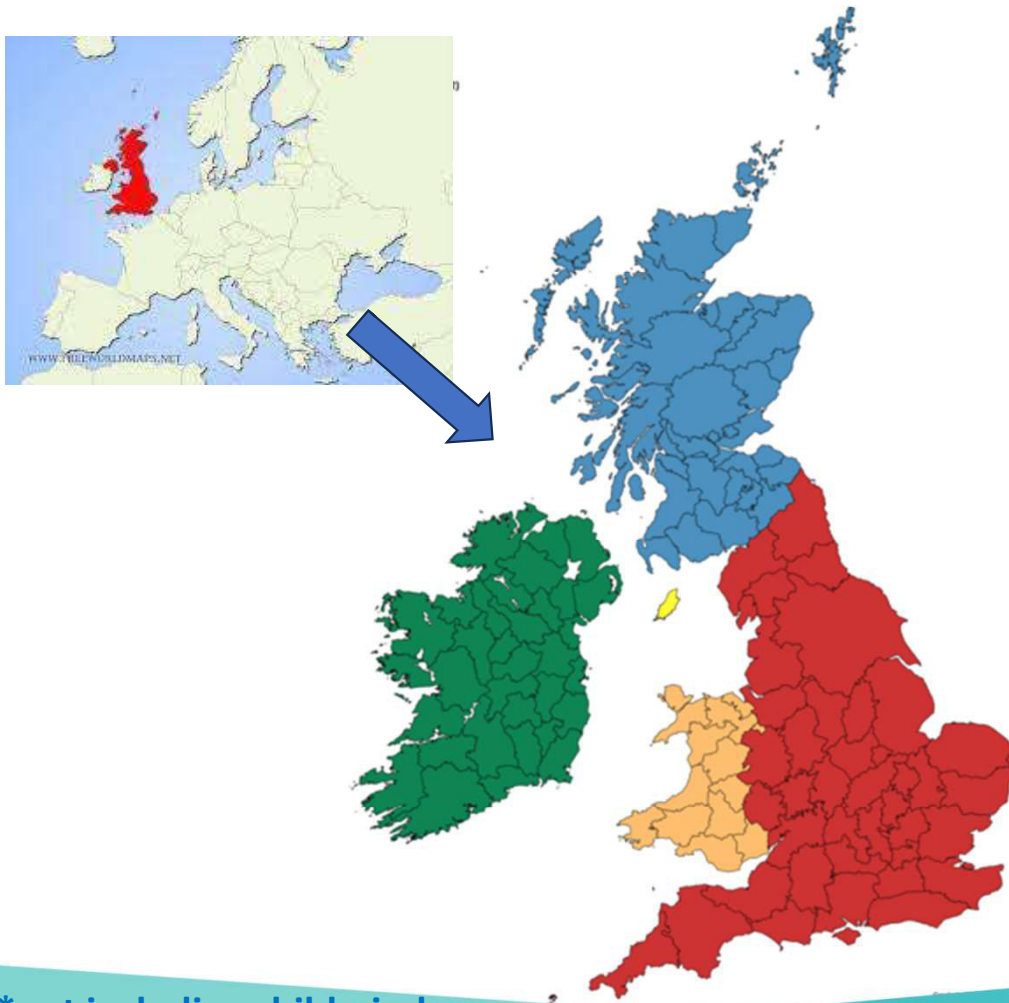
# Scotland's education system

## **Sian Neil, Senior Education Officer (ELC)**



For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators  
Do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba, le luchd-foghlaim Alba

## Scotland – some statistics!



- UK population: 67.3 million
- Scotland population: 5.5 million
- 2,606 settings providing government funded Early Learning and Childcare\*: 92,615 children
- 1,994 publicly funded primary schools: approximately 394,000 pupils
- 358 publicly funded secondary schools: approximately 309,000 pupils

\*not including childminders

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**UK Parliament**

**Scottish  
Parliament**

**32  
Local Authorities**



# Education – a national approach

## Scottish Parliament since 1998 (devolution)

### Devolved powers in :

- health
- local government
- law, including most aspects of criminal and civil law, the prosecution system and the courts
- social work
- housing
- tourism and economic development
- ***education and training***





# Structure of the Scottish education system schools (compulsory)

- **PRIMARY**

- Age 4½ to 5 → 11½ or 12
- 7 years of school
- Primary 1 to Primary 7 (P1-P7)



- **SECONDARY**

- Age 11½ / 12 → 16
- 4 years of school
- Secondary 1 to Secondary 4 (S1-S4)



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# Structure of the Scottish education system

## Post compulsory choices :

- Leave school aged 16 to enter employment, vocational education, apprenticeships, etc.

## OR

- Stay on at secondary school for another year or two (S5/S6) **[most pupils do this]** to gain more qualifications, leave school aged 17 or 18 – to go on to vocational education, apprenticeships, college, university, or into work.

# Vision for Scottish education:

## Scotland's Curriculum

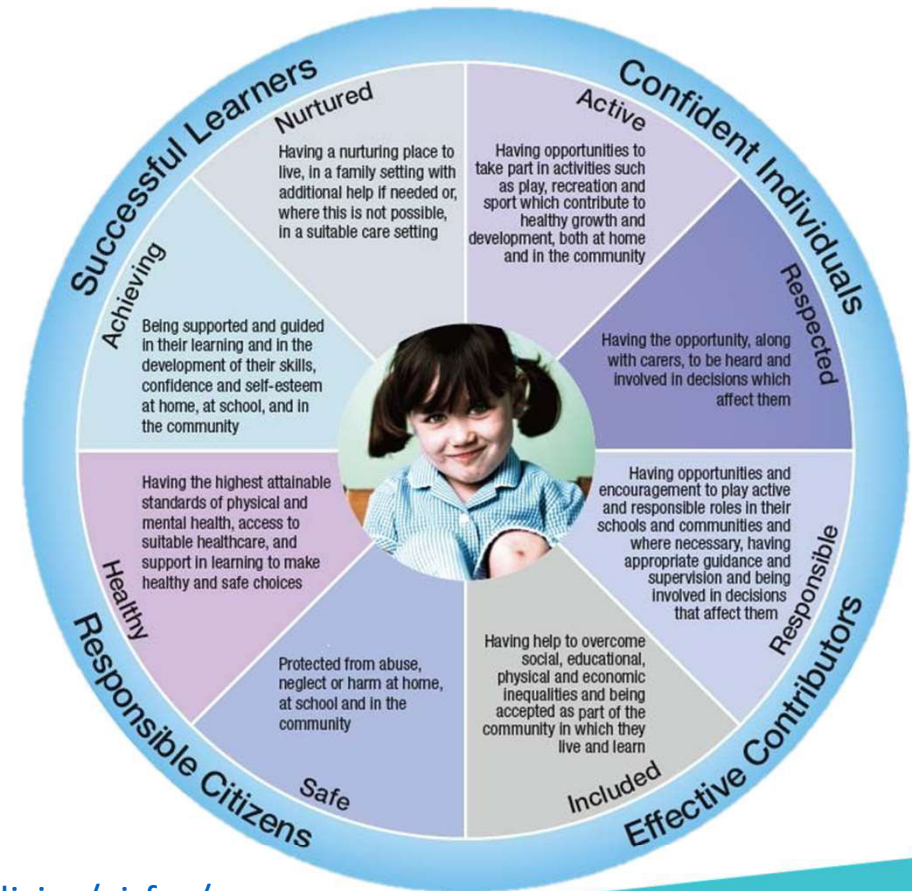
### Our core aims:

- ✓ To raise standards
- ✓ To close the (poverty-related) attainment gap
- ✓ To prepare children and young people for their future

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# Key Government Approach – Getting it Right For Every Child




<https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>

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# Curriculum for Excellence

<https://scotlandscurriculum.scot/>



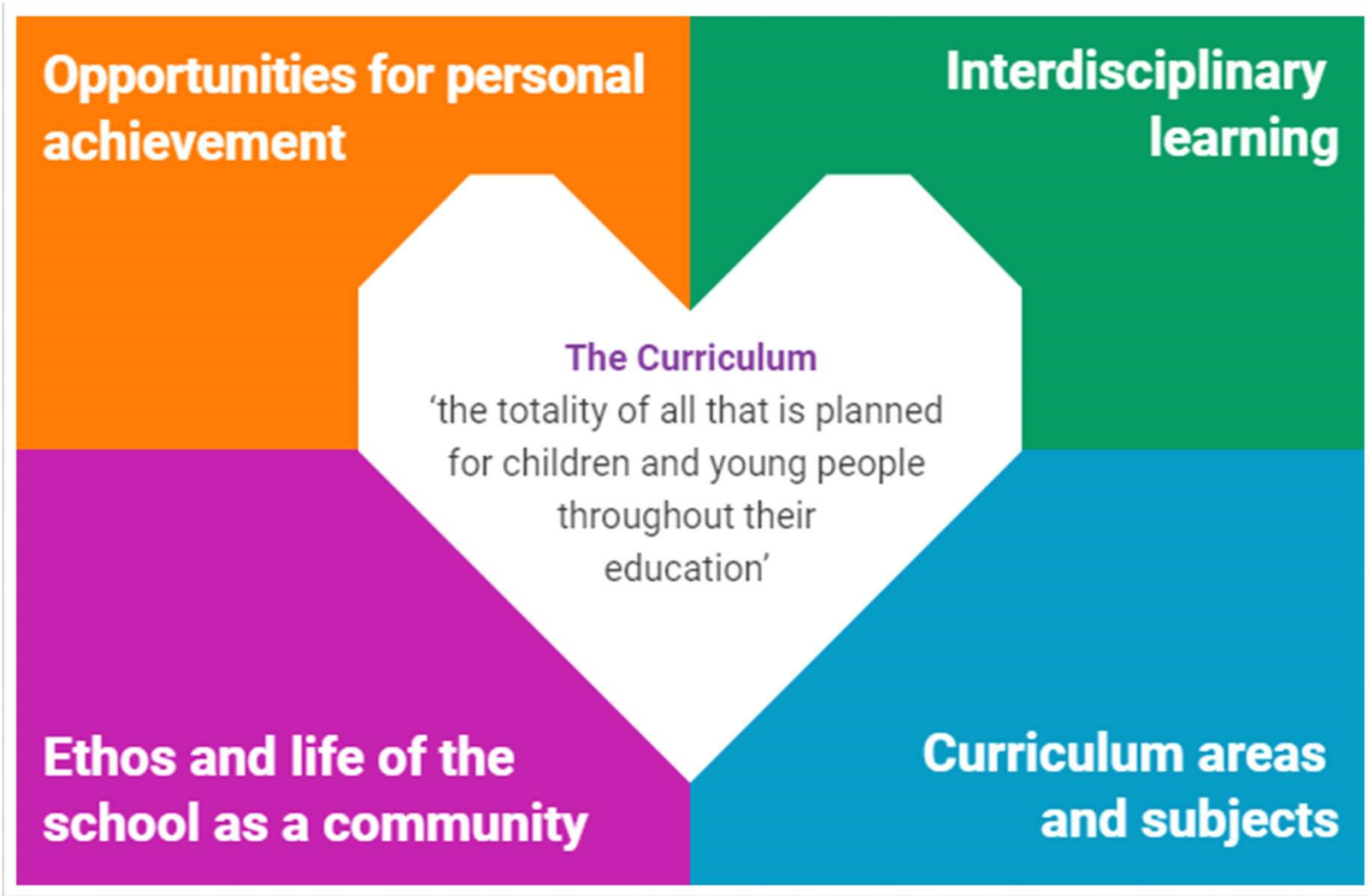
**SCOTLAND'S CURRICULUM  
FOR EXCELLENCE**  
Putting learners at the heart of education

Gàidhlig

Scotland's Approach  
What Matters?  
How We Do It

Scotland's curriculum –  
Curriculum for Excellence –  
helps our children and young  
people gain the knowledge, skills  
and attributes needed for life in  
the 21st century.

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# Purpose of the curriculum



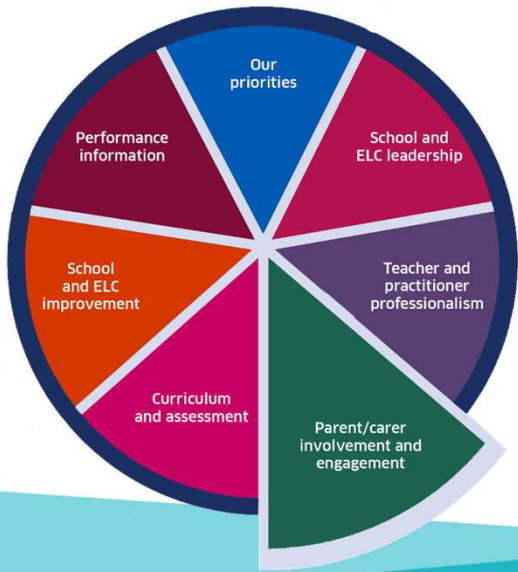
- In support of an active, stimulating approach to learning, staff need to be open to the changing possibilities of using the spaces they have, and using them flexibly and differently, with children learning both indoors and outdoors.



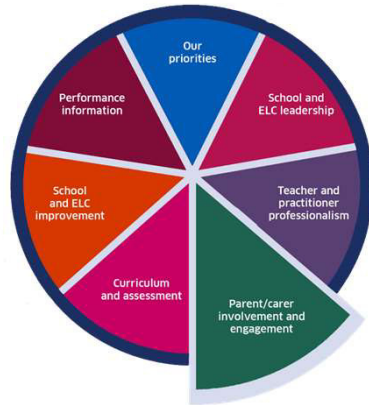
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# Parental Engagement and Family Learning

- “Research shows that when parents and carers engage in their children’s learning, and when children and young people live in a supportive home learning environment, it improves children and young people’s attainment and achievement.”
- 2019 National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan

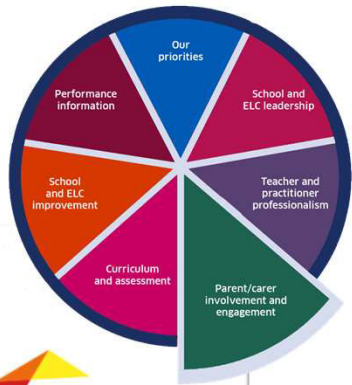


# Key national resources

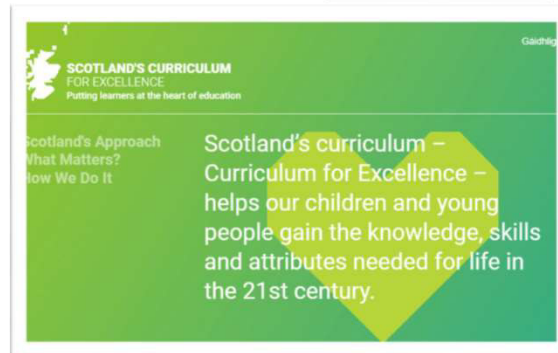


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# Key national resources



Getting it right for every child  
Policy Statement – 2022



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