



– Curriculum for Excellence in the Recovery Phase: A Guide for Parents and Carers –

This guide aims to provide parents and carers with information about the Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) for the 'recovery phase' of education. Our children and young people will be returning to school from the 11th August 2020, but this will be different to the normal return after the holidays. Schools will be taking part in 'blended learning' – meaning that there will be some learning in school and some learning at home supported by your school. This means that aspects of the curriculum may be a bit different.

What is Curriculum for Excellence?

Whatever their age and stage, all children in Scotland follow the same general programme of learning. This is called Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CFE).

The CFE covers Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings, primary school and secondary school. It is split into two parts: Broad General Education (ELC – S3) and the Senior Phase (S4-S6).

For more information on the CFE you can read the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFs) guide to CFE in a Nutshell [here](#).

What will the Curriculum for Excellence look like in the 'Recovery Phase'?

The curriculum is already flexible to fit individual learners and recognises that children learn wherever they are and all of the time – whether this is in a classroom, outdoors, online, in workplaces, and in the community. However, teachers and other practitioners will be preparing over summer how they will teach the curriculum in schools as we start the recovery phase of education in August.

Although our children are going back to school, due to Covid-19 this won't be the same as usual. Teachers will be given guidance from the Scottish Government and Education Scotland to help them make some changes to the curriculum. These changes will ensure our that our children's well-being is a focus when they go back to school and support them to learn in the new 'blended' model. The guidance will give them key points to consider when planning their teaching, whilst also giving schools, teachers, learning assistants and other support staff some local flexibility so they can meet the needs of their children and families. This new way of learning is a big change for you as a parent, for your child but also for your child's teachers.



are the key points?

- 'Blended Learning' will include some learning in school and some learning at home. Schools are expected to provide good quality activities for children and young people, both for the time they spend in school and at home. There will also be support for children and young people to develop their skills at learning online and from home, and to help them develop skills to cope with the uncertainty and challenges of Covid-19.
- Some children will be particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 or live with people who are. The plans for returning to school will include extra arrangements to ensure that children in this situation are supported to continue their learning in line with public health guidance. There is more detailed information about this available here:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-re-opening-schools-guide/pages/people-who-are-clinically-vulnerable-or-shielding/>
- It has been recognised that blended learning for children and young people with additional support needs and/or complex needs, will need careful planning. Individual requirements will need to be taken into account e.g. reviewing co-ordinated support plans and recognising any additional needs. More information will be provided.
- There will be lots of different circumstances for families all over Scotland. Schools are being asked to shape their curriculum to fit the local needs, and the individual needs of children and families. When our children return to school, the first priority will be on welcoming children and young people back and supporting them to re-connect with their teachers and classmates as they transition to being back at school. The main focus will be on literacy, numeracy and health and well-being before widening out to other learning.
- It is important that children and young people's well-being is nurtured, especially in these challenging circumstances. Schools will prioritise both the mental and physical health and well-being of not only children and young people, but also parents, families, and practitioners. Well-being is essential for children and young people to be able to learn.
- Schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings are being asked to make sure that children and young people have regular contact with an adult from their own school or nursery. This relationship will provide them with support and be an opportunity for them to talk about how they are doing, their experiences of the lockdown, and any other support they may need.
- Some social distancing will be in place in line with the public health guidance at the time. This may mean you cannot go into your child's school in the same ways you usually would. This does not mean that you will be prevented from being involved in your child's learning and the school community. Teachers are being asked to be in regular contact with you, to communicate, and to work in partnership with parents. During lockdown, your school may have been in touch by video or phone call or by email or text. In some cases, staff might have come to your door to deliver home learning materials. Schools are likely to continue to use lots of different methods to keep in contact with you and to answer your questions.



- Schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings will be likely to use play and outdoor learning more than in the past, and as part of the curriculum. This will help with space and social distancing; however, it is equally important that children and young people are able to be physically active, enjoy and learn about their natural environment, and to also relax. Outdoor learning includes more than playing outside, and it can be a really good way to learn. Teachers will be creative in using the outdoors to teach a range of subjects, and they may make use of spaces in the local community as part of this approach.

- Teachers will use lots of different methods to encourage children and young people's learning, skills, knowledge, and understanding. This could include class discussions, written work, and some practical activities such as in the outdoors. These are unusual times and teachers will be understanding of that. They will work with learners and their families together to discuss both your children's progress, and the challenges they may have faced during the lockdown and in the recovery phase. Teachers will work with you and your children to decide what the next steps in their learning will be to suit their needs.

- During lockdown, schools have provided distance learning to you and your child. This might have included tasks and ideas for younger children, Google Classroom learning or assignments provided via the Glow system or other similar systems. In some cases, you might have received a learning pack from the schools. The home learning as part of the blended approach will be similar to this, but there is also likely to be some adjustments as we all adapt to the part-school, part home learning approach. You will get further detail on how this will work from your school.

It is always important that children, young people, parents, carers, and families are involved in education and included by their school. This means that you should feel able to ask any questions about the arrangements and be provided with advice as appropriate.

Where you have a Parent Council in your school, it will continue to play a really important role in working with the headteacher to make sure that the arrangements are working well.

Your child's views - their questions, their concerns and their own suggestions - are a really important priority too. Your school is likely to have a pupil council or perhaps other approaches to hear from pupils. It is important that your child is able to raise any questions or concerns, either through you or with their teachers.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.

Further advice is available from the following:

[Parent Club Scotland](#)

[National Parent Forum](#)

[Parentzone Scotland](#)

