

EDUCATION — SCOTTISH CURRICULUM · P1–P7

Curriculum for Excellence

A Guide for Scottish Schools

CfE structure — the key terms

1

Five levels

Early (Nursery–P1) → First (P2–P4) → Second (P5–P7) → Third/Fourth (S1–S3) → Senior Phase (S4–S6). Children progress at their own pace — some move faster through levels.

2

Eight curriculum areas

Expressive Arts; Health and Wellbeing; Languages; Mathematics; Religious and Moral Education; Sciences; Social Studies; Technologies. Plus Gaelic for Gaelic Medium schools.

3

Experiences and Outcomes (Es&Os)

The specific statements describing what children should learn. Written as 'I can...', 'I have...' statements. Teachers use these to plan and assess.

4

Broad General Education (BGE)

The curriculum from Nursery to S3 — designed to give all pupils a broad foundation before specialisation. The BGE is CfE's most distinctive feature.

5

SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments)

Taken in P1, P4, and P7. Online, marked automatically, no pass mark. Diagnostic — to support teacher judgement, not to rank schools.

6

HMIE / Education Scotland

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education — Scotland's school inspection body. Equivalent of Ofsted in England but generally considered less adversarial in approach.

