



Banff Primary School

Curriculum Rationale

January 2016

Our Vision

At Banff Primary School, we want everyone to be happy, challenged, encouraged, supported, confident and heard.

The vision, values and aims of Banff Primary School have been developed by pupils, staff and parents.

Our Vision

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Our Values

Rights respecting
Equality and fairness
Responsibility
Honesty
Pride
Partnership

Our Aims

- To aspire and achieve.
- To develop skills for life, learning and work.
- To accept and value difference.
- To be resilient and have a positive attitude.
- To make sure everyone feels included and valued.
- To create a safe environment and exciting learning experiences.
- To promote positive relationships with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.

The 4 capacities

At Banff Primary, children and young people are at the centre of our learning provision. Staff have an awareness of their responsibility to build and develop the skills involved with helping the children work towards the 4 capacities set out in the Curriculum for Excellence: Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

Successful Learners

This means we are:

- Enthusiastic and motivated for learning.
- Determined to do the best we can.
- Open to new thinking and ideas.

To help us do this we:

- Use maths, language and talking and listening.
- Use technology.
- Learn to work independently and in a group.
- Think creatively.
- Use everything we learn in different circumstances.

Confident Individuals

This means we are:

- Respectful of ourselves.
- Healthy and happy.
- Look forward to the future.

To help us do this we:

- Listen and try to understand others.
- Are healthy and active.
- Try to understand the Banff community and the world around us.
- Decide what is right and wrong.
- Try to achieve success in different areas of our lives.
- Bounce back from challenging situations.

In Banff we all aim to help our pupils become...

Responsible Citizens

This means we are:

- Respectful of other people.
- Able to take part in making decisions.
- Able to act responsibly in many situations.

To help us do this we:

- Listen to different opinions and ideas before making good choices.
- Respect different cultures from around the world.
- Think about issues in the world, Scotland and the Banff community and develop informed views about them.
- Try to be as independent as we can.

Effective Contributors

This means we are:

- Able to show an enterprising attitude.
- Able to think of new ideas for ourselves and others
- Resilient in different settings

To help us do this we:

- Find different ways of sharing our ideas with others.
- Work with partners or part of a bigger team
- Can take the lead when working with others.
- Use skills to solve problems
- Show we can be creative and develop
- Apply our learning to new situations.

The 7 principles for curriculum design

Challenge and Enjoyment

This means - Not too easy/Not too hard/Children are motivated

In Banff Primary, we aim to enhance challenge and enjoyment, we provide a variety of learning experiences to motivate and engage all pupils. We encourage critical thinking skills through the use of co-operative, active and independent learning.

Breadth

This means - Coverage of subjects/Identifying gaps in learning

In Banff Primary, children have the opportunity to experience a wide range of educational contexts across the curriculum.

Progression

This means - What can children do that they couldn't before?

In Banff Primary, we aim to inspire children to progress at an appropriate pace, providing support and challenge as required.

Depth

This means - Secure learning/Able to apply skills and knowledge to new situations

In Banff Primary, we aim to encourage deeper thinking throughout all areas of the curriculum. Through this we promote connections between different aspects of learning.

Personalisation & Choice

This means - Children are encouraged to make choices

In Banff Primary, we aim to have all pupils experience a common curriculum but offer opportunities for personalisation and choice throughout learning.

Coherence

This means - Making links between learning, life and future work

In Banff Primary, there are clear links across all aspects of children's learning, including opportunities for extended activities.

Relevance

This means - Purposeful experiences related to education, community and the wider world

In Banff Primary, children are encouraged to see the value of their learning and its impact on their lives, present and future.

Learning and Teaching

At Banff Primary School quality learning, teaching and assessment is an integral part of what we aim to provide for all of our pupils. Active learning encourages children to be motivated. Subsequently learning is challenging, stimulating and enjoyable. We use a variety of approaches to encourage the development of key skills needed for lifelong learning, for example:

- Using technologies
- Appropriate differentiation to meet individual needs
- Encouraging creativity
- Using our outdoor environment
- Working cooperatively

We share Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, expectations and standards with the children and give them the opportunity to reflect on their progress. They are involved in setting targets for themselves in order to set goals and make assessments of their own learning. We provide active and engaging activities and lessons, and children are also given the opportunity to work in cooperative settings where appropriate. We know our pupils well academically, and ensure that their progress is tracked and monitored carefully.

Experiences and Outcomes

During their time at school, pupils will develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in life, through learning and working with others in and out of school. Curriculum Experiences and Outcomes set out the expectations for learning and development in the following areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *Literacy and Languages | *Social subjects |
| *Numeracy and Maths | *Technologies |
| *Health and Wellbeing | *Expressive Arts |
| *Science | *Religious and Moral Education |

The children are given opportunities to learn in these core areas of the curriculum and also enjoy developing experiences in these areas through cross curricular topic work.

Totality of the curriculum

Opportunities for inter disciplinary learning will create depth within the teaching and learning for our children. It will encourage the transfer of skills and knowledge across the curricular areas and increase their own knowledge. The depth and breadth of learning allows connections and skills to be applied across both school and real life. This gives our pupils exciting opportunities to further their interests, apply their knowledge, make connections and challenge their thinking.

In Banff we also try to offer the children as wide a range of experiences as possible through activities such as:

- Boatbuilding
- School shows/assemblies
- Pupil voice groups
- Burns/Doric poetry competition
- Enterprise day
- World Book Day
- Local community projects – Deveron FM radio project, Christmas, church services, School Fair
- Supporting charity work- Local, National and International
- Kodaly singing
- Banff and Buchan Ranger Service
- Grow Well Choices/ALEC caravan
- Rugby festivals/Sports day
- Class trips/excursions – Dalguise
- Pantomime/visiting theatre groups
- Buddies/Playmakers/Peer mediators
- Swimming
- Forest Schools
- Rotary Quiz
- Bramble picking and jam making
- Knitting club
- Choir



Personal achievement

Throughout all areas of learning and teaching, pupils are provided with opportunities to succeed and reach their potential. We celebrate the successes and achievements of children in class settings through our

Schooner Awards. We encourage the children to share their outside achievements too, through our Good News books.

Ethos

In Banff Primary children are encouraged to contribute to the life of the school. Pupil Voice Groups provide opportunities for children to become involved in aspects of leadership and enterprise, helping to plan and prepare for school, community and charity events. They consider global citizenship issues and contribute to the Unicef Rights Respecting School Award.



Transition

Banff Primary aims to create smooth transitions between all stages to make children feel secure and supported as they move throughout the school. Staff are aware of the importance of ensuring that information and academic progress is passed between stages and are keen to ensure that this happens effectively. Strong links exist between the Nursery and Primary 1 and we have a clear transition process for children moving to the school. We endeavour to ensure that all children are given the chance to visit their new class and teacher. We also have good links with Banff Academy and Primary 7 children are given the chance to visit the school.

