

## What's happening in Angus?

All Angus schools are actively seeking opportunities for meaningful interdisciplinary learning. Teachers are already beginning to consider how they will link the new 'outcomes and experiences' of Curriculum for Excellence and **involve children and young people in the planning process.**

All eight secondary schools have begun projects, designed to link learning across subject areas. A common S1 interdisciplinary project has been developed in session 2008-09. First year pupils are taking part in the project "Angus – Scotland's Birthplace". This will give them the opportunity to learn about many different aspects of Angus in the context of Scotland and the wider world. Schools will select specific subjects to be involved. They may choose to explore, for example:

- Burns and authors from their local area (English Language)
- Scottish music
- The history of their local burgh and how people have lived through the centuries  
(History, Geography, Numeracy and Maths)

In many schools, 'Moving Image Education' is offering pupils exciting opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. They discuss and analyse films and use their imagination and creativity to write scripts, design and animate art work, film and edit, and produce digital music soundtracks.

Developments in interdisciplinary working will provide Angus pupils with learning experiences which are challenging, enjoyable and relevant to their every day lives. They will have opportunities to learn confidently on their own but also as members of co-operative teams. They will see how the knowledge and skills they are developing can be transferred to different areas of the curriculum and to their lives beyond school.

## Where can parents get further information about interdisciplinary learning?

**You can learn more about interdisciplinary learning by visiting the Learning and Teaching Scotland website:**

[www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk/](http://www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk/)



**Keep up to date with what is happening in Scottish education by visiting ParentZone at:**

[www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone/](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone/)

*You are encouraged to discuss the information contained in this leaflet with your child's teacher.*

School name/badge

# DRAFT

# Interdisciplinary Learning

Wisdom Justice  
Values  
Compassion Integrity



*A guide for parents and carers*

## Interdisciplinary Learning

This is the fourth in the series of leaflets for parents on Curriculum for Excellence. It provides information on interdisciplinary learning, that is, learning which connects different aspects of the school curriculum.

### What is interdisciplinary learning?

It is learning which:

- links different areas of the curriculum
- takes place through one-off projects or longer courses of study
- focuses on agreed outcomes
- ensures progression in skills, knowledge and understanding
- provides opportunities for interest-based learning, involving pupils at different stages of the school
- is based upon 'experiences and outcomes' drawn from two or more of the eight areas of Curriculum for Excellence

### What are the eight Curriculum for Excellence areas?

The eight areas around which the new curriculum in Scottish schools will be organised are:

- Expressive Arts
- Languages and Literacy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

### Why do we have curriculum areas?

The eight curriculum areas are organisers for planning learning 'experiences and outcomes'. Schools are being encouraged to plan creatively learning which is deep and sustained and which meets the needs of pupils. The eight curriculum areas can be divided into individual subjects which are an essential feature of, in particular, the later stages of the secondary school.

At every stage of a child/young person's education there will be a focus on literacy and numeracy across curriculum areas and subjects. Confidence and competence in literacy and numeracy clearly provide the foundations for learning throughout life

### Literacy across the curriculum: why is this important?

Literacy skills are essential to wider learning. Insecure literacy skills often represent a significant barrier to learning. **All** teachers have a responsibility for promoting the development of literacy. Angus schools will aim to ensure that literacy skills are taught systematically and consistently across each curriculum area, with regular opportunities provided for pupils to consolidate their literacy skills in meaningful learning contexts.

### Numeracy across the curriculum: why is this important?

**All** teachers also have a responsibility for promoting the development of numeracy. They will plan opportunities across the curriculum that will allow pupils to develop or reinforce their numeracy skills. The regular use of these skills in different contexts will assist pupils to be confident in using numeracy beyond the school in real life contexts.

### What are the benefits of interdisciplinary learning?

"The curriculum should at all stages include space for learning beyond subject boundaries so that children and young people can make connections between different areas of learning. Interdisciplinary learning can provide relevant, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences and stimulating contents to meet the varied needs of children and young people. Revisiting a concept or skill from different perspectives deepens understanding and can make the curriculum more coherent and meaningful from the learner's point of view". *Building the Curriculum 3*

