



'Don't give up, great things take time!'

Loirston School
Curriculum Rationale

May 2018

Values and Vision Statement



At Loirston our values and vision statement are:

“We aspire to deliver the highest quality learning and teaching for all learners through a stimulating environment which nurtures a love of learning in all of our children. We are committed to ensuring all learners embrace opportunities, are resilient and aim to realise their potential with the aspiration of achieving life-long success.”

OUR VALUES

**HAPPY
UNITED
RESPONSIBLE
RESPECTED
AMBITIOUS
YOURSELF**

Don't give up, great things take time!

School Aims

At Loirston we aim:

- L** learning to offer a wide range of contexts for learning which cover all curricular areas.
- O** opportunities to provide opportunities to become successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals.
- I** involved to encourage every child to have a voice and be involved in the development of learning and the life of our school.
- R** resilience to encourage our children to develop resilience and a 'can do' attitude.
- S** skills to support our children in being able to identify transferable skills for learning, life and work.
- T** talent to celebrate and encourage individual achievements both within and outwith our school.
- O** outstanding to inspire our children have confidence in their ability to be independent learners and achieve their full potential.
- N** nurture to provide a nurturing environment where children can develop respect for themselves, each other, their community and the wider world.

The Rationale For Our Curriculum

" The curriculum is a totality of experiences which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated. It includes the ethos and life of the school as a community; curriculum areas and subjects; interdisciplinary learning; and opportunities for personal achievement"

Building the curriculum 3: A Framework for Learning and Teaching

Our Curriculum Design

In Loirston School we have worked collaboratively to design our curriculum and the rationale which underpins our key values for learning and the development of the whole child. Our curriculum design and rationale takes into account the following components:



Our Core Curriculum Structure

When designing our curriculum we took a number of key factors into consideration, these include:

- ❖ The needs of our local area.
- ❖ Our attainment results.
- ❖ What our learners and families want.
- ❖ What was needed to support our learners to become effective contributors, responsible citizens, successful learners and confident individuals in Scotland today.

The Ethos and Life of the School

This includes opportunities to participate responsibly in decision making, to contribute as leaders and role models, offering support and service to others and playing an active part in putting the values of the school community into practice. Children's opinions and ideas are listened to and valued, and through Pupil Council, Eco Committee, ISRU group, House Captains, P7 Buddies and Charities Committee, children are encouraged to be involved in developing the work of the school and have a positive impact on school improvement.

The Curriculum

We have a responsibility to provide children with a broad general education from Pre-school to S3 through the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes. Our curriculum incorporates the 7 principle of curriculum design.

Challenge & Enjoyment	We challenge individual learners in the experiences we provide to enable them to reach their full potential. Our learning experiences are planned so that our pupils have fun and are engaged in their learning. We support and encourage them to play an active part in their learning with opportunities to develop and demonstrate their creativity.
Breadth	We offer opportunities for a broad range of experiences. We plan and organise learning so that the children learn and develop through a variety of contexts within both the classroom and other aspects of school life.
Progression	We ensure we build on the children's prior knowledge and achievements in order to enable progression in their learning. We support the children in progressing at a rate which meets their individual needs and aptitude.
Depth	We provide opportunities for the children to develop their full capacity for different types of thinking and learning, exploring and achieving more advanced levels of understanding and skills which can be applied across the curriculum.
Personalisation & Choice	Through careful planning we ensure we have opportunities for children to exercise responsible personal choice meeting their individual needs and supporting particular aptitudes and talents.
Coherence	When planning, we ensure the learning activities combine to form a coherent experience for all children with clear links between different aspects of learning.
Relevance	We strive to ensure the children understand the purpose of their learning and related activities. We want them to see the value of what they are learning and its relevance to their lives, present and future.

Curricular Areas

At Loirston we prioritise Literacy and Numeracy as core areas of the curriculum and teach these subjects discreetly and also in a cross-curricular way using a range of learning contexts. In addition to this, we seek to ensure that Health Education remains a high priority as we want to support our pupils to be resilient, sociable learners who have developed healthy attitudes. We use planned and progressive programmes of study and a skills based framework for 'Interdisciplinary Learning' to ensure the children experience a wide range of learning across all curricular areas, allowing and encouraging flexibility to cater for pupil's needs and interests.



Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Interdisciplinary learning is a planned approach to learning which uses links across different subjects to enhance learning by providing relevant, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences and stimulating contexts. At Loirston we are developing a progressive framework for interdisciplinary learning to ensure that pupils experience their entitlement to a broad general education. The framework encompasses 'worlds' over a year plan which will extend to a 3 year plan as part of our curriculum development. Each 'world' involves different curricular areas as appropriate and is focused on skills development. At the heart of our IDL approach is 'Pupil Voice'. Pupils are involved in planning and leading their learning in IDL from the outset through discussion with the class teacher to decide the context for learning, ensuring relevance. Pupils are further involved in the planning process through the discussion of the 'big questions' to be explored through the chosen context. Scottish Studies and Transition are also an integral part of the framework.



Learning and Teaching



At Loirston we understand that the success of any curriculum is through the delivery of high quality learning and teaching. We use a variety of learning and teaching methodologies to achieve this starting with 'The Child at the Centre', ensuring that any planned approaches meet the needs of learners and are accessible to all. Some of these approaches are active learning, cooperative group work, text based and practical work, Emerging literacy, collaborative approaches, Assessment is For Learning

strategies (AiFL) and use of ICT to support learning across curricular areas.

Staff use the National Benchmarks and Aberdeen City Planning Progressions as part of their planning process to ensure learning is progressive for all children.

Achievements

At Loirston we provide opportunities for our learners to:

- ❖ Develop their resilience and confidence
- ❖ Experience a range of achievements in the classroom and beyond
- ❖ Take on challenges
- ❖ Have their voices heard

Through assemblies we share and celebrate achievements within and out with the school environment, sharing in each other's successes and achievements. These successes are displayed on the television at the school reception and throughout the school in displays of achievement. Children and their families are also encouraged to share achievements both within and out with the school through their child's Interactive Learning Diary profile. We are offering an increasing range of extra curricular activities in order to maximise opportunities for pupils to actively engage in a wide variety of activities, encouraging the development of skills and knowledge in a wider context.

