

## Information for Parents-Carers (1 of 3): Education in Scotland

### PHASES OF EDUCATION

The **Broad General Education (BGE)** phase is from 3-14 years old (to the end of S3), and children and young people learn through different subjects. Compulsory education starts at age 4 or 5 (depending on the child's birth date).

In the **Senior Phase**, from age 15 (S4) to age 18 (S6), young people work towards national qualifications. From the age of 16\*, they can study at school, college or in other ways (e.g. job training, distance learning).

#### ***Which year group will my child join?***

Children and young people join the year group that corresponds with their age. At the end of the school year, they move up to the next year regardless of their academic performance.

Children under school age in Scotland go to Early Learning and Childcare settings (ELC – also called 'nursery'). Places in ELCs are free for all 3- and 4-year-olds and for some 2-year-olds. Information on applying to nurseries in Edinburgh is available [here](#).

Date of Birth	Session 2022-23	Session 2023-24	Session 2024-25
1.3.2022 – 28.2.2023			nursery
1.3.2021 – 28.2.2022		nursery	nursery
1.3.2020 – 28.2.2021	nursery	nursery	nursery
1.3.2019 – 29.2.2020	nursery	nursery	P1**
1.3.2018 – 28.2.2019	nursery	P1**	P2
1.3.2017 – 28.2.2018	P1**	P2	P3
1.3.2016 – 28.2.2017	P2	P3	P4
1.3.2015 – 29.2.2016	P3	P4	P5
1.3.2014 – 29.2.2015	P4	P5	P6
1.3.2013 – 28.2.2014	P5	P6	P7
1.3.2012 – 28.2.2013	P6	P7	S1
1.3.2011 – 29.2.2012	P7	S1	S2
1.3.2010 – 28.2.2011	S1	S2	S3
1.3.2009 – 28.2.2010	S2	S3	S4
1.3.2008 – 28.2.2009	S3	S4	S5
1.3.2007 – 29.2.2008	S4	S5	S6
1.3.2006 – 28.2.2007	S5	S6	
1.3.2005 – 28.2.2006	S6		

**\*\*P1 Registration:** all parents-carers must register their children to start in P1. P1 registration takes place in the November before the child is due to start primary school. [Start primary school – The City of Edinburgh Council](#).

**Deferral:** in some cases, parents and carers ask to defer the start of school (P1) for children who are still four at the start of the school year (August). Applications for children with a January or February birthday are automatically approved. Applications for children with a birthday between August and December are reviewed by Edinburgh Council. More information: [Defer entry to P1 – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

\* **School leaving age:** If your child's 16th birthday falls between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> September, they can leave school in the May of that year. If their birthday falls between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> February, they can leave at the start of the winter holidays. However, many children choose to stay in school until the end of S6 (age 17/18).

## THE SCOTTISH CURRICULUM

The Scottish curriculum is called '**Curriculum for Excellence**'. The aim is to help children and young people become: **successful learners - confident individuals - effective contributors - responsible citizens**

### LEARNING AND TEACHING IN THE BGE (Broad General Education)

#### *What does learning look like in Scottish schools?*

We aim to bring real life **experiences** and learning into the classroom and we take learning and lessons beyond the classroom.

The four **Contexts for Learning** are:

- Ethos and the school community
- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning (learning across different subject areas)
- Opportunities for personal achievement

We encourage children and young people to be 'active' learners. Sometimes children and young people learn through working together, in 'group work'. They can ask questions, investigate and bring their own experiences to their learning. Lessons can bring ideas and information from different subject areas together to help children and young people make connections between different subjects.

### CURRICULAR AREAS *What subjects will my child study?*

The Broad General Education (BGE) has **8 curriculum areas**:

- Expressive arts
- Languages (including literacy)
- Health and well-being
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

Each curricular area has specific **Experiences** and **Outcomes**. These are concise statements about children's learning and achievement. We use these statements to help plan learning and assess progress. All teachers also develop children's skills in three key areas:

**Health and Well-being:** This helps children and young people develop confidence, learn to think for themselves and develop positive attitudes. It includes Physical Education, food and diet. It helps children develop life skills. Wellbeing indicators: nurtured, respected, included, healthy, active, responsible, safe and achieving.

**Literacy across Learning:** this helps learners to improve their literacy skills in reading, writing, talking and listening. It helps them to think critically and creatively. These skills are important for life and future work.

**Numeracy across Learning:** this helps learners to develop and apply their numeracy skills (counting, measuring, calculating) for working out and solving problems in different contexts, for example taking information from a graph about climate in Geography.

## CURRICULAR LEVELS IN THE BGE (Broad General Education)

### *What are the levels of study?*

Learners will progress through different Levels of learning from 3 to 18 years old. Generally, each of the Levels takes three years. Children can progress at different rates. Some children may need additional support and other children may achieve some of the learning skills sooner.

	Level	Stage (class/year)
<b>Broad General Education</b>	Early	the pre-school years and Primary 1 (P1)
	First	to the end of Primary 4 (P4)
	Second	to the end of Primary 7 (P7)
	Third and Fourth	From Secondary 1 (S1) to Secondary 3 (S3)
<b>Senior Phase</b>	National Qualifications	From S4 to S6, in school/college/other type of study, until the age of 18

**Early to Fourth Level:** a broad, deep, general education, building on previous learning. This general education is the foundation for studying for qualifications later in secondary school.

**Third and Fourth Levels (S1 - S3):** learners begin to specialise in subject(s). Learning depends on ability and interest. The learner and teacher, together with parents-carers, choose which subjects the learner will continue to study. In S3, learners will choose which qualifications to take in the Senior Phase (see below).

Schools design their curriculum to suit their own learners' needs. Every school curriculum is based on the same seven principles: **Challenge and enjoyment; Breadth; Progression; Depth; Personalisation and choice; Coherence; Relevance.**

### *What are the key points in my child's education?*

The Curriculum for Excellence aims to ensure continuity of learning. Key 'transition' times for this are:

- Early Level (from pre-school to primary)
- Second to the Third Level of learning (moving from primary to secondary)
- S3, when learners choose qualifications for the Senior Phase
- Senior Phase, for choices into higher education, work, training or college

Parent-carer involvement is very important to help learners make the best possible transitions. (For more information, see 'Parents-Carers as Partners in their Children's Education'.)

## THE SENIOR PHASE

### *How will my child prepare for employment, further training or study?*

In the Senior Phase (S4 to S6), learners can study in school, at college or in other ways (e.g. job training, distance learning). The Senior Phase aims to increase knowledge, understanding and skills through qualifications and other learning. Young people will study and be assessed for qualifications from S4 onwards.

For more information about qualifications, see 'Assessment, Reporting and Qualifications'.

Staying in education or training gives young people the best chance of future employment. Curriculum for Excellence aims to offer all young people choices to continue their learning (at school, at college, in training, or a combination of these) when they reach 16 years old.

**For more information speak to your local school or visit:**

[Parentzone Scotland](#) | [Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

[Education Scotland](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

[Scottish Qualifications Authority - SQA](#)

**Other information leaflets for bilingual parents/Carers (you can ask the school for these):**

- Assessment, Reporting and Qualifications
- Parents-Carers as Partners in their Children's Education