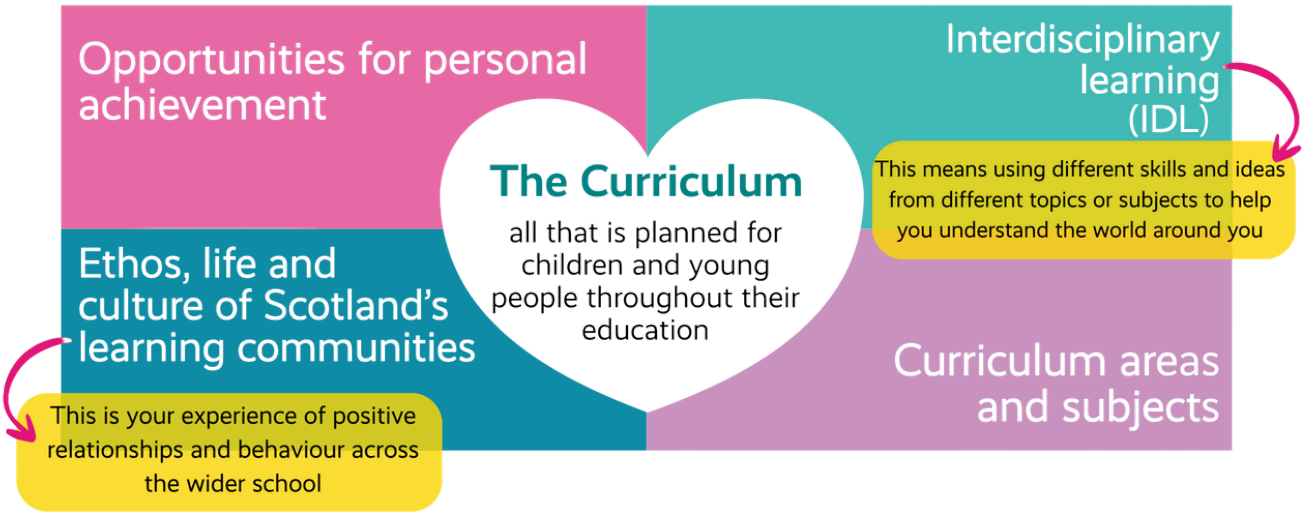
The Curriculum Improvement Cycle

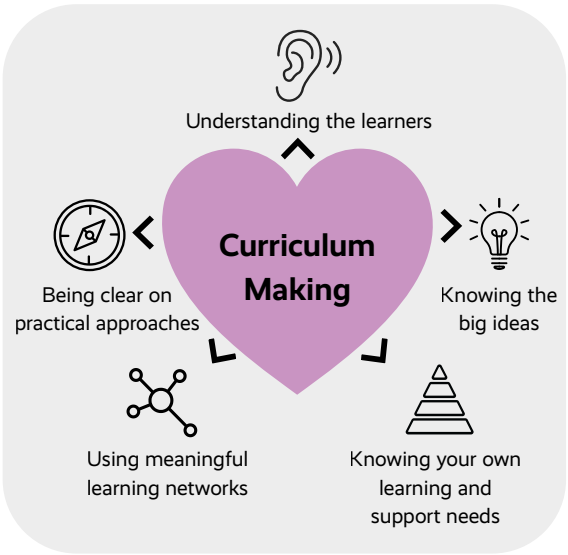
Scotland's school curriculum is changing and the improvements will be built on the views, experiences and needs of those who will be most impacted – including young people!

All children and young people, from age 3 -18, in Scotland have the right to experience a curriculum that makes sense. This is so you have opportunities to develop the **knowledge**, **skills** and **characteristics** you need to adapt, make informed choices and flourish.

Scotland's Curriculum Framework







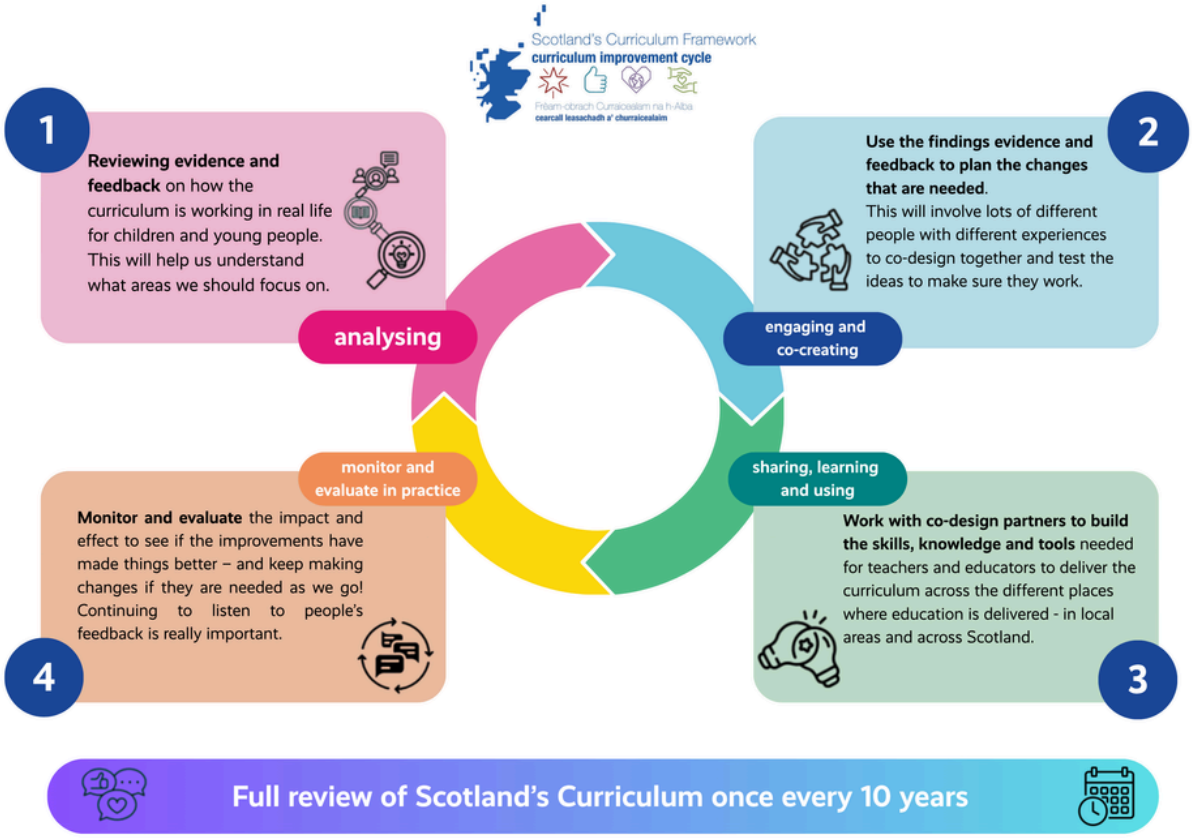
Improvements are being made to the curriculum - why?

In 2021 an organisation called the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) gave a list of recommendations for how Scotland's curriculum should evolve to be as good as it can be to support Scotland's young people to thrive.

Introduction of a review process (called a cycle) will inform how the curriculum is updated and is called the **Curriculum Improvement Cycle**.

What is the Curriculum Improvement Cycle?

Improving the curriculum should never stop. Scotland will review and make changes to the curriculum every ten years to make sure it continues to be the best it can be. This cycle started in 2023. This means that the process will start again in 2033.



How have young people been involved?

Education Scotland has engaged with over 4,000 children and young people - and used questionnaires to reach tens of thousands more. They are engaging with children and young people in three different ways:

Inform	Telling children and young people what the Curriculum Improvement Cycle is.
Listen	Asking and listening to children and young people's views on the improvements that need to be made.
Involve	Providing opportunities for children and young people to be involved in the process. Young people were involved in co-creating the information you are reading just now!

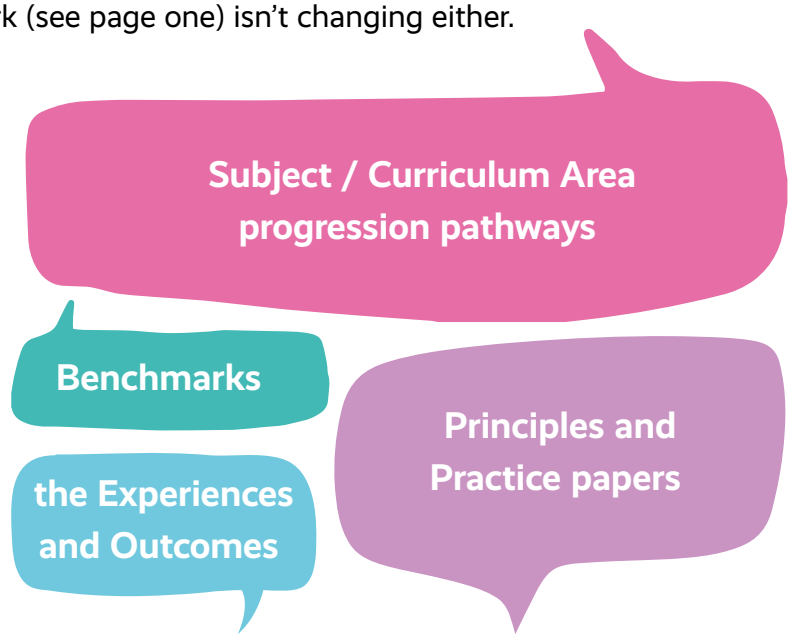
The process has been inclusive. Others have been involved too with different experiences and diverse backgrounds: early learning and childcare, primary and secondary schools, community learning and development, additional support needs specialists, specialists from universities, Gaelic language experts, employers, national organisations, Scottish Government.

What will the improved curriculum look like?

The purpose of Scotland's education system has been the same for years. It is 'to help Scotland's children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in 21st century Scotland.' This isn't changing. Scotland's Curriculum Framework (see page one) isn't changing either.

Changes will be made to the documents to help teachers, practitioners, and community organisations plan learning for children and young people both in and out of school.

You might have heard your school talk about these by using phrases such as:



The improved curriculum will be introduced from August 2028.

Make the curriculum clear and easier to understand.

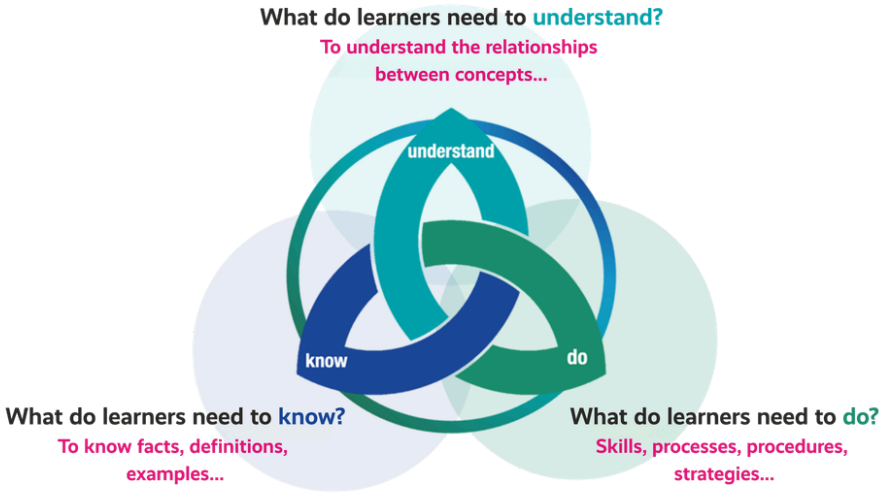
Improve the way your learning fits together from the ages of 3 to 18.

Focuses on helping learners to understand key concepts and ideas, and how to use these.

Show clear links between what learners know (about topics and subjects at school), the skills they develop (what you will do with what you learn) and what you understanding of the big ideas (the general principles and idea you are expected to understand).

Your teachers/educators will combine the three elements in ways they think will support you best in your learning.

The Know-Do-Understand Model



What will the improvements mean for young people?

The improvements through the Curriculum Improvement Cycle will ensure you are able to experience the best education, that supports your needs, helps you to develop skills and provides the best opportunities to help you thrive and succeed.

The Curriculum Improvement Cycle lasts for 10 years. Some young people might wonder why something is important if it won't fully be in place until after you have left school. Young people told us improvements will:

- Help children and young people in the future access the best education they can
- Make a difference to my siblings, friends or family members
- Help any kids I might have in the future
- Make Scotland a better place - young people in the future will be better prepared for life after school. That could be further education/studying or work.

How can you find out more?

If you want to find out more about the Curriculum Improvement Cycle and how you might be able to be involved, visit **scotlandscurriculum.scot**

Know Your Rights!

To know your **rights around education** (UNCRC Articles 28 and 29), **having your voice heard about things that matter to you** (UNCRC Article 12) **or any other rights you have** as set out in the United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child (UNCRC) visit: **https://young.scot/campaigns/activate-your-rights/**

Education Scotland
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Co-created with young people, supported by YOUNG SCOT