

Aberchirder Primary School

Curriculum Rationale

Updated May 2026

Aberchirder Primary School – Our Vision, Values and Aims

Our Curriculum Rationale is underpinned by our Vision, Values and Aims and the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC).

Our Vision

‘Yes We Can’

Our Values

PRAISE

Persevere

Respect and Responsibility

Attitude

Included

Safe

Enthusiastic

Our Aims (linked with UNCRC)

- To foster a mutual respect for the rights of all pupils and staff, ensuring inclusion for all (ARTICLE 4 and 28)
- To encourage everyone to take responsibility for their actions, choices and daily lives (ARTICLE 12 and 19)
- To encourage a passion for learning (ARTICLE 5 and 29)
- To create opportunities to work together, in partnership with our community and our families (ARTICLE 2, 15 and 29)
- To embrace challenges and conquer difficulties (ARTICLE 28 and 29)

Aberchirder Primary School – What Makes Us Unique?

Our Locality
We use this to make learning relevant for our children.

Farming
Library (local)
Menshed
Playparks
Cleanhill Woods
Windfarms
Bremners of Foggie
St Marnan's Football Club
Churches
Aberchirder & District Association

Our Tartan

Our Playground Zones and Field

Our Parent Council

Polycrub

Our Academy Transitions

Gardening club

Learning Improvement Team

Movement and quiet sensory spaces

Pupil Voice Groups

Play opportunities

Outdoor Learning

Aberchirder Primary School – Totality of the Curriculum

At Aberchirder Primary School our curriculum is designed to take account of the 4 contexts for learning. These support the development of the 4 capacities for learning (Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens).

Ethos and Life of the School

We promote a warm, welcoming ethos where everyone is valued, mutual respect is visible and behaviour and learning expectations are high.

Pupil Voice Groups House Teams & Captains

Assemblies Learning improvement Team

Extra Curricular Activities Planned Transitions

Activities within the Community Share the learning Sessions

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

At Aberchirder Primary School we recognise the importance of celebrating individual success and wider achievements of our children. This provides children with a sense of satisfaction, helps to build motivation, resilience and confidence therefore contributing to all aspects of our children's health and wellbeing.

Open/ Share the learning afternoons Wider achievements
Performances Certificates Prizegivings
House Tokens After school clubs Assemblies

Curriculum Areas and Subjects

We plan our curricular learning under the following organisers:

Literacy Numeracy Health & Wellbeing
Technologies Expressive Arts Social Studies
Religious & Moral Education Science

Where possible we make learning experiences relevant and plan learning which allows children opportunities for application of skills.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Interdisciplinary Learning allows children to learn beyond the boundaries of one curriculum area instead exploring various curriculum areas at once, making connections between these. This context for learning allows children to deepen understanding and apply learned skills and knowledge.

At Aberchirder Primary School all children undertake at least one interdisciplinary context per term. Children are involved in the planning of this to capture their interests and take the lead on their learning.

Aberchirder Primary School –Principles of Curriculum Design

Challenge & Enjoyment

- Lessons are differentiated.
- Appropriate extension activities.
- Use of KWL grids in cross curricular contexts (what we know, what we want to know and what we have learned).
- Activities are stimulating and interesting.
- Expectations are high of all.

Personalisation & Choice

- Pupil led and responsive planning.
- Individual targets
- Identification of resources/strategies.

Relevance

- Learning linked to real life scenarios.
- Opportunities for real life contexts (use of community)
- Skills for life long learning are being developed.

Progression

- Use of national and local frameworks.
- Use of school programmes in Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing.
- Prior learning is taken into account.

Breadth

- Appropriate variation of curricular subjects.
- Use of curricular mapping when planning.

Coherence

- Cross curricular learning is carefully planned.

Depth

- Opportunities for application of skills.
- Higher order thinking skills are encouraged.

Aberchirder Primary School – Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning and Teaching

At Aberchirder Primary School we have a shared understanding of what high quality learning and teaching looks like in all of our classrooms. These have been agreed in consultation with our pupils, parents and staff to ensure that we are providing stimulating and supportive learning environments to meet the needs of all learners and get it right for every child.

Tracking and monitoring

The whole school uses a consistent approach as to how information about children's progress is tracked and monitored. Staff have a shared understanding of the language used during tracking and monitoring conversations which is supporting a more coherent approach to attainment across the school.

Assessment

At Aberchirder Primary School we recognise that assessment is an integral part of our learning and teaching and is planned for at appropriate 'check points' in children's learning. We use a range of approaches to gather information on where a child is at in particular stages of learning and have a consistent approach across the school as to how information relating to assessment is recorded.

Pupils feel safe and school values are evident.

Teachers give effective feedback and next steps – children know their strengths and areas to improve.

Assessment is planned for and built into the lesson.

Children take responsibility for their learning – No passengers.

Children are curious and active.

Children are engaged, focussed and interested.

Everyone understands the expectations.

What does successful learning look like at Aberchirder Primary?

Appropriate Resources including Technologies.

Children are involved.

Everyone is listening.

Experimenting and trying things out.

We all learn through making mistakes.

Transferring skills across learning.

Children know what to do to be successful in their learning (Success Criteria).

Children supporting others in learning.

Children can Talk about what they are learning (Learning Intentions).

Children are being suitably supported and challenged (Differentiation).

At Aberchirder Primary we consulted with Pupils, Staff and Parents to identify What Learning and Teaching should look like in our classrooms.