

# New Machar School



## Curriculum Rationale & Design

Draft November 2018

# New Machar School – Our Vision, Values and Aims

*“Our vision is to provide the highest quality educational experiences in a happy, safe and stimulating environment where learners are supported and challenged in order to maximise their potential. We want to equip all our learners with the knowledge, skills and attributes to enable them to be the best they can be”*

***Our School Motto: #aimtobeawesome***

**C**ommitment and Cooperation

**R**espect and Responsibility

**A**chievement and Ambition

**F**riendship and Fairness

**T**eamwork and Trust

# New Machar School – What makes us unique?

Our Pupils, Parents  
and Staff

The way in which we  
communicate and  
engage our parents

Historical Family  
Links

Our Cultural  
Heritage

Strong Links to  
Employment

We are a big school  
with a family feel

Taught generations of  
the same family

Close links with  
Aberdeen City  
Council/Dyce Academy

# The Rationale for Our Curriculum

## Our Core Curriculum Structure

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

- What our staff, learners and families required
- The needs of our local area
- Promote skills for learning, life and work
- Provide a broad general education

## Our Curriculum Design

At New Machar School we have worked collaboratively to design our curriculum rationale which is underpinned by our Vision, Values and Aims for our school community. This helps us to create a positive, nurturing ethos in which we can all learn together.

We have organised our curriculum experiences under the 4 contexts for learning, as highlighted by Education Scotland:

- Ethos and Life of the School
- Opportunities for Personal Achievement
- Learning and Teaching/Curriculum areas and subjects –
- Inter Disciplinary Learning (IDL)

# Ethos and Life of the School

Effective Contributors/Responsible Citizens



P3 Roots of Empathy  
Peer Mediators

P6 Bikeability  
Health Group  
School Garden

Pupil Leadership Team  
House/Vice Captains

Buddy system      Play Leaders

Platinum Play      Good to be Green

Eco Group      Tech Team

Effective transition programmes

Pupil Led Assemblies

Floor Book Planning

Extra-Curricular Activities

ALPHA

BRAVO

CHARLIE

DELTA



# Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Confident Individuals



Whole school homework tasks

Ski Racing

Open Afternoons    Class Assemblies

Christmas Shows    House Points

Platinum Play    P7 End of Year Show

Encouraging talents to lead learning

Interactive Learning Diaries (ILDs)

Annual District Rotary Quiz/Euro Quiz

Sporting Opportunities

Swimming

Residential trips



# Learning & Teaching/Curriculum Areas

Successful Learners

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Literacy

Technologies

Expressive Arts

Health & Wellbeing

Skills for  
learning, life  
and work

We deliver the curriculum through a blend of discrete subject learning, cross curricular themes or topics.

We have a clear progression across the experiences and outcomes and most children will move from Early Level at P1 through First Level and into Second Level by P7.

At New Machar we track children's progress to ensure a breadth of learning is taking place. Wherever possible learning experiences are made relevant for children by delivering them through real life contexts.

Modern  
Languages

Religious, Moral  
Education

# Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

## Successful Learners



At New Machar we aim to take advantage of those naturally occurring 'big questions' which children will often ask to engage in Interdisciplinary learning. Interdisciplinary Learning adds depth and challenge and enjoyment to children's learning by allowing them to apply the skills and knowledge they have learned in a child led and stimulating context. IDL, which is planned with the children, takes account of children's needs and interests adding personalisation and choice to our curriculum. At New Machar we will aim for all children to be involved in an Interdisciplinary Study at least once a term.





# At New Machar School:

Pupils will be given equal opportunities

We will encourage our parents and wider community to get involved with the life of the school

Our pupils' rights and wellbeing will be put at the heart of our service using the national approach GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child)



Every pupil matters

Our pupils will have a say in their learning

We will celebrate diversity

Our pupils will develop skills for learning, life and work

We #aimtobeawesome

# The Principles of our Curriculum Design

## Challenge and Enjoyment

- Well differentiated lessons and activities
- Extension Activities
- Use of KWL at beginning of cross curricular topics (what we know, what we want to know and what we learned)
- Activities are motivating and active
- We have high expectations of all

## Breadth

- Opportunities to apply learning in different situations and curricular areas
- Flexible timetables
- Bundled outcomes ensure all E's and O's covered and revisited
- Previous learning and knowledge taken account of

## Progression

- Use of school Literacy and Numeracy Progressions and Programmes with flexibility to ensure all learners follow appropriate pathways
- Use of National Frameworks and Benchmarks provide reference to ensure progression

## Depth

- Pupils teach others to show understanding
- IDL will be developed throughout school
- Play based learning is a focus in Early Years
- Higher Order Thinking Skills are encouraged
- Opportunities for pupils to transfer skills in other areas

## Personalisation and Choice

- Pupils set personal targets which are shared with parents through Learning Profiles
- Pupils involved in the planning process for cross curricular themes
- Personal Projects / ILD inputs
- Responsive Planning

## Relevance

- Real life experiences are supported
- Outdoor learning is encouraged
- Use of real life contexts
- Flexible cross curricular themes which take account of current themes (community based or wider world)
- IEPs for children who require targeted support

## Coherence

- Links are made to support transference of skills
- Promote the learning of skills for learning, life and work

## Our Curriculum Will:

- Encourage learners to contribute to the ethos and life of the school community
- Provide a broad general education
- Recognise and deliver curriculum for excellence experiences and outcomes
- Support active learning
- Support progression for all