



Balwearie High School

Our Curriculum Session 2026-27



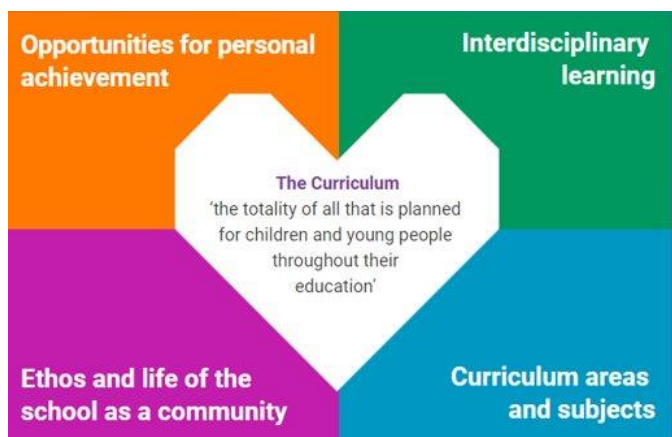
Review: January 27

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Introduction

The Curriculum of any school is a complex area to consider: As is well documented we must consider the totality of the curriculum: Curriculum areas and subjects, interdisciplinary learning, ethos and life of the school, opportunities for personal achievement as well as transferrable skills. It is the whole experience of the young people who attend Balwearie that matters.



The Four Capacities



Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence – helping our children gain knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st Century

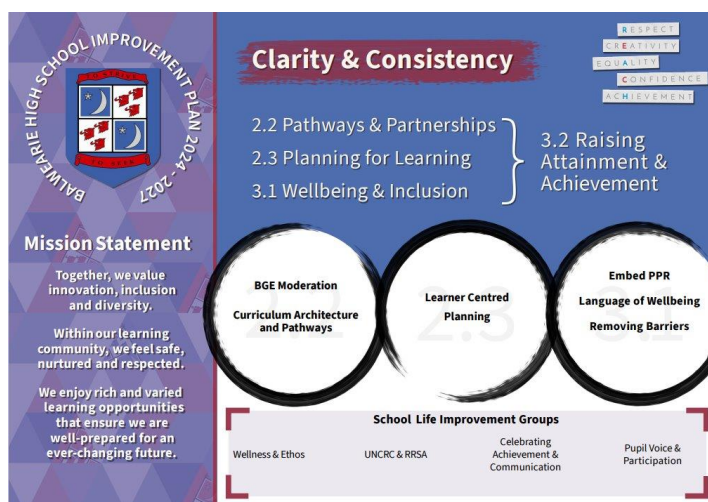
The Scottish Government has identified the following key priorities for improvement in Education:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

The Aims of our Curriculum

The way we work in Balwearie is grounded in values identified by our young people and Community. Our REACH values are at the heart of our school

Our vision for all members of the Balwearie Community is that they feel included and are given every opportunity to develop their full potential. Following consultation with stakeholders we have agreed the following Mission Statement and Improvement Priorities for the school:



Clearly, the key features of any curriculum are to ensure high levels of literacy and numeracy, promote health and wellbeing whilst raising attainment and achievement for all. It is vital that we specifically target those at risk of missing out. The curriculum as experienced by our young people is the critical measure, not the structure in itself. Our vision for our teachers is that they are positive, engaging, responsive and reflective.

We also wish to promote rights and responsibilities, equality, and responsible global citizenship.

Our School Context

There are many specific features of Balwearie which impact on the curriculum we are able to provide. These contextual features also inform the curriculum we must provide:



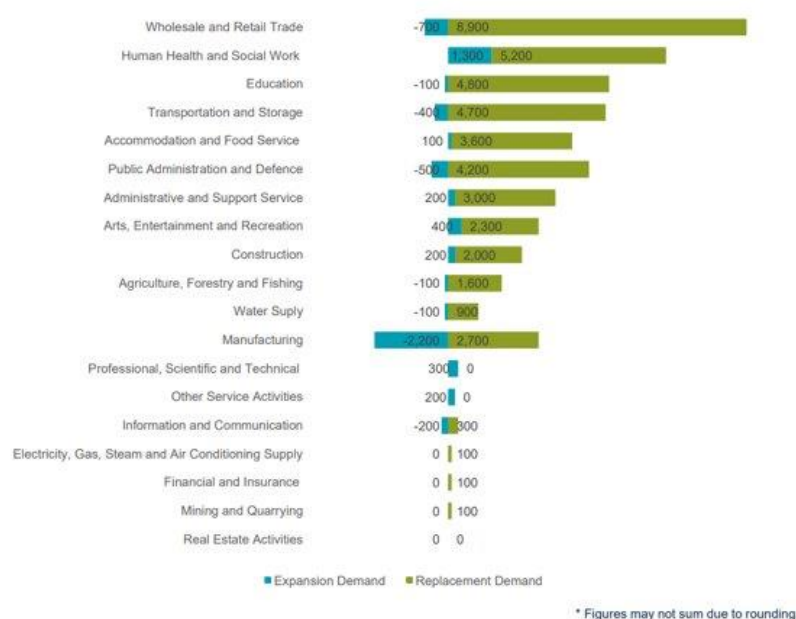
- We have around 50% split in the pupil population between upper and lower SIMD Quintiles. We can use this split to help us to raise aspiration and ambition, but it presents a significant challenge in meeting the range of needs. We are working hard to “Improve the Life Chances and Choices for All” in a diverse community.
- We have invested PEF money in supporting target groups to improvement attainment in Literacy, Numeracy and ‘closing the gap’. We have a significant population of young people for whom English is not their first language contributing to our cultural diversity but many requiring intensive support. We link with our partners in the ASL service to provide additional input for these young people
- The Fife Council commitment to rolling out 1-1 devices to all learners will both transform our approaches to Learning and Teaching and will open up a range of curricular opportunities that we can take advantage of. At the time of writing I-pads are due to be received by learners within the next few weeks.
- Many parents/carers provide their children with strong support for their education and work effectively with teachers.
- We are developing our Continuum of Support to create wider opportunities for our young people to move between our enhanced provision and the mainstream setting. Our successful Department of Additional Support educates around 40 learners with significant need who contribute hugely to the rich diversity of our community.
- Our Pupil Support facilities have been hugely improved with the addition of a dedicated suite of rooms which will allow us to offer a wider and more structured range of flexible curriculum options to our young people

- Our catchment covers a large physical area reflected in the need for thirteen school buses. We try to ensure this isn't a barrier to young people participating in extra-curricular activities and study support.
- Our Parent Voice Group are working hard to find new ways of engaging with parents in our wide catchment to help them to feel more involved in the school community.
- The campus is large and travel times between classes can be as much as 7/8 minutes- this places a limit on the length of period time to enable quality learning and teaching episodes to take place. Double periods in S3 to S6 has helped to maximise teaching time for some practical subjects and for pupils embarking on qualifications.
- The age of the building, limited PE facilities, IT hardwired rooms and constant drain on financial resources for maintenance and repair of a listed building present a challenge.

Future Pathways – Destinations

- The whole school are engaging with the Developing the Young Workforce Agenda and highlighting the wide range of pathways open to young people as they look to move on from school.
- We are proud that close to 96% of our Learners are in a positive destination on leaving school
- Local employment figures show an improving position with best prospects in: Retail, Hospitality, Health and Social Care.
- Close links with Fife College is impacting positively on pathways for learners who choose not to enter Higher Education.

Figure 12: Forecast total requirement by industry (2025-2032), Fife



Curriculum Structure

Our curriculum is structured as follows, based on a 33-period week (Appendix 1) ensuring

- High attainment and achievement for all learners
- Personal development and skills for learning, life and work
- Delivery matching the needs of all learners
- Totality of the curriculum – high quality learning experiences wherever they take place
- Curricular pathways leading to positive, sustained destinations
- Children's rights and entitlements

Our school day

Start	Finish	M	T	W	Th	F
8.45	9.35	1	1	1	1	1
9.35	10.25	2	2	2	2	2
10.25	10.40	Interval				
10.40	11.30	3	3	3	3	3
11.30	12.20	4	4	4	4	4
12.20	13.10	5	5	5	5	5
13.10	13.50	Lunch				
13.50	14.40	6	6	6	6	Pupils home
14.40	15.30	7	7	7	7	

BGE

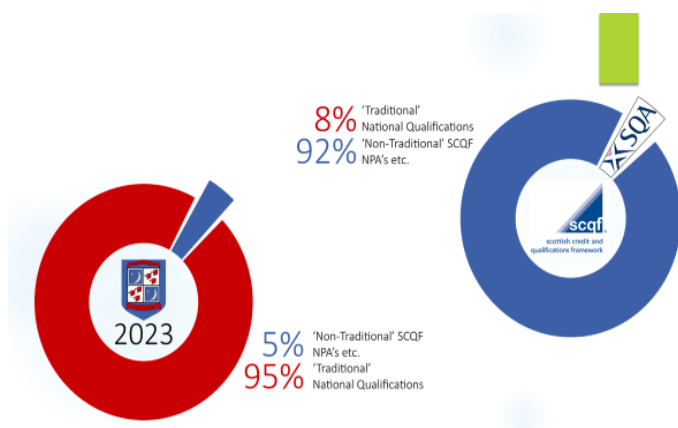
- S1: Broad and balanced general education to support transition from Primary School.
- S2: Broad and balanced general education with major and minor choice in Expressive Arts and two skills-based Electives.
- S3: Maths, English and 7 choices alongside core Health and Wellbeing, offered through PE and PSE Programmes to ensure coverage of all curriculum areas. There are elements of personalisation in the choices made. Our S3 curriculum is pivotal, blending Level 3 and 4 experiences and outcomes with a gradual transition into National 3/4/5 SQA qualifications.

SENIOR PHASE

- S4: Seven courses taken forward from a flexing of S3 choices plus core Health and Wellbeing, offered through PE and PSE Programmes.
- S5: Five free choices plus, PSE Programme and Wider Achievement Options
- S6: Up to five free choices plus leadership and volunteering activities and opportunities.

As our curriculum develops over the next few sessions there will be opportunities through the senior phase for young people to choose from a wider number of subjects, extending the range of pathways on offer. These will include a wider range of National Progression Awards.

Currently our qualifications are split with a traditional bias. There are a vast number of qualifications open to us which we are exploring to broaden the experience of young people in Balwearie.



Our Pathways site has developed [Balwearie Pathways \(google.com\)](https://www.balweariepathways.co.uk/) and has a huge amount of information on all the courses we offer in school and highlights skills links, wider achievement and connections with DYW. This is helpful and supportive for young people and parents, particularly at key transition points each session.

Curriculum Development Commitment

Our school week is designed to ensure there is balance between entitlement and personalisation in S1-S3. A shift in focus towards qualifications takes place in S4-S6. The model suits our community and allows us to deliver a wide and varied curriculum in an efficient way.

We will continue to develop our curriculum through a clear, well planned evolution process rooted in the evidence of how we are meeting the aims identified in section one of this rationale, considering the views of all members of the community.

Choice in S2 Expressive Arts and Electives to enable learners to explore pathways for the future, promote skills development and increase motivation.



Choice in S3 ensures all young people have a wide curricular experience, whilst choosing subjects to study to greater depth and with more personalisation.

We have a wide range of flexible curriculum opportunities designed to engage and raise attainment for learners at risk of disengaging from education due to low attendance and challenging behaviour, potentially leading to limited qualifications and negative leaver destinations.

A sample of the programmes planned are given below:

Course Title	Facilitator	Outcomes
FOLA	J Crawford/K Crawford	SCQF Level 3/4
ICEBREAKER	FC Youth Workers/Ecology Centre	Skills & confidence development
Natural connections	BHS and Fife outdoor staff	Natural Connections award
Boxing	Glenrothes Boxing club tutor	SCQF 4 Understanding Wellbeing
Creative Growth	Suzanne Heggie	
Duke of Edinburgh	Sam Linton BHS	Duke of Edinburgh award
Employability & Wellbeing	C Williams	SCQF Level 4
Literacy Groups (S1/2)	Kate Sharp	Dynamic Youth Awards
Art Therapy	Suzanne Heggie	
Kings Trust Award	J Cairney/Y Ferguson	
Modern Studies	R Paterson	SCQF Level3/4
History	C Logan	SCQF Level 3/4

We are working with small groups of learners in S1 & S2 to support them further with their Literacy and Numeracy Skills to increase accessibility of the wider Curriculum. We have tracked progress and adapted their Curriculum to provide this additional input. All young people in S1 and S2 are using the Accelerated Reading programme. This is very much embedded in our BGE.

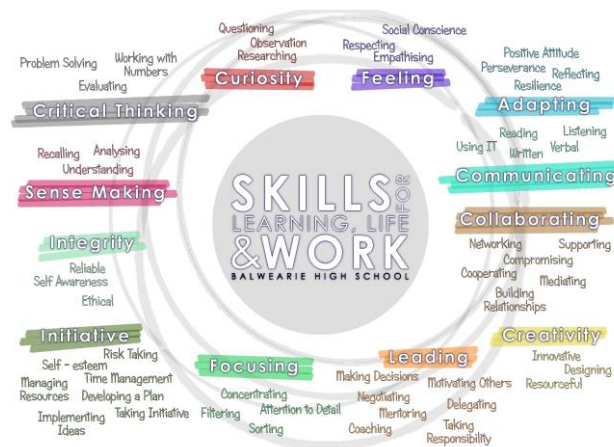
There is promotion of opportunities for engagement in a School College Partnership courses and a range of Foundation Apprenticeships along with business-based learning opportunities such as Career Ready. S6 are able to access YASS through Open University as a platform to independent study.

Partnership with Kirkcaldy Rugby Club to deliver School of Rugby with clear aims impacting on the health and wellbeing of groups of young people in S1-S3. In addition, school staff and Fife college deliver School of Football and Fife Steel partner with us to deliver School of Basketball to small groups in S1-S3. Pupils in S4-6 can continue with their School of Sport through Core PE and gain accreditation in coaching, refereeing and volunteering.

Enhanced provision of out of school activities across the curriculum to make studies more relevant and enjoyable.

The development of a range of leadership opportunities for pupils through: Community Sports Leaders, My World of Work Ambassadors, Mentors in Violence Prevention, World Challenge experiences, Duke of Edinburgh and Rotary Club link.

Our Balwearie Skills Framework has been adapted and will continue to promote employability skills linked to the Career Education Standard, aiming to embed enterprise and employability skills into learning and teaching. Teachers will plan to incorporate skills development, making explicit links to the world of work.



A Common Planning Tool in S1-3 has been developed by staff to support planning, assessment and moderation. We have introduced Solar Punk in S1 & S2 as an IDL opportunity last session. Our new S1 are enjoying Solar Punk with our current S2 looking at Seastory. These opportunities provide a pathway into Creative Thinking courses in S3 and beyond.

In our senior phase we are looking to broaden the range of qualifications offered to our young people, to help develop the range of pathways on offer. New qualifications we have introduced in recent sessions include - Creative Thinking, Design-Engineer-Construct, Film & Media Studies, Criminology, Psychology, Bakery & Barista Skills.

All S5 pupils have the chance to gain some Wider Achievement accreditation through a wide range of options including Coaching, Saltire awards, Personal Finance, Mock Trial, Travel & Tourism.



Appendix 1

Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Broad General Education																																	
S1	Languages						Social Subjects		RME	Mathematics				Science		Expressive Arts				Technologies			Health & Wellbeing		IDL								
	English			Modern Languages - French or Spanish			Integrated Course			Mathematics			Integrated Course		Art & Design	Drama	Music	Home Economics	ICT	Technology	Physical Education	PSE	SOLAR PUNK										
S2	Languages							Social Subjects		RME	Mathematics			Science		Expressive Arts		Technologies		Elective Choices		Health & Wellbeing		IDL									
	English			Language 2 French or Spanish		Lang 3 Spanish or French	Integrated Course			Mathematics			Integrated Course		2 choices - Art Drama Music Dance Music Technology		ICT (2) Home Economics Technology		2 choices - wide range with a skills development focus		Physical Education	PSE	SEA STORY										
S3	Languages				Mathematics			Choice 1		Choice 2		Choice 3		Choice 4		Choice 5		Choice 6		Choice 7		Health & Wellbeing Core											
	English		Scottish Studies	Mathematics			Expressive Arts		Health & Wellbeing		Science		Social Subjects		Technologies		Free Choice				Physical Education	PSE											
Senior Phase																																	
S4	Languages				Mathematics				Choice 1			Choice 2			Choice 3			Choice 4			Choice 5			Health & Wellbeing Core									
	English				Mathematics				Pupils continue study in 5 of 7 choice subjects from S3. Some Flexing of the Curriculum possible for a small number of pupils																				Physical Education	PSE			
S5/6	Choice 1					Choice 2					Choice 3					Choice 4					Choice 5					Health & Wellbeing Core							
	Free Choice Model, Pupils choose 5 subjects to progress in S5 and up to 5 subjects in S6 - including College/Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities																														Wider Achievement	PSE	

Choice Options by Stage

S2

Expressive Arts

EA - Art & Design
EA - Dance
EA - Drama
EA - Music
EA - Music Technology

Elective
Build Your Business
Computer Games Design
Architecture
Computer Aided Design
Design and Manufacture
Draw!
F1 Engineering
Fashion Design
Jewellery Design
Metalwork and Woodwork
Photography
Sculpture
Between The Covers (Book Club)
Creative Writing
Espionage 101
Fantasy Map Making
Chef Skills
Easy German for Beginners
Become Piano Player
Get started in Music
Musical Theatre
Off Stage
Badminton/T T
Dance/Gymnastics
Footgolf
Fun Fitness
Team Sports
Astronomy
Biology of First Aid
Breaking Barriers - Girls Get Set
Forensic Science
Lego Challenge
Climate Change and the Future of the Planet
CSI Balwearie
Hitler and the Holocaust
Mock Trial
RRSA & Eco Ambassadors
Save the World

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4	Choice 5	Choice 6	Choice 7
Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Science	Social Subjects	Technologies	Free Choices 1& 2	
Art & Design	Dance	Biology	Business Management	Accounting & Finance	Accounting & Finance	French
Creative Thinking	Duke of Edinburgh (if directed)	Chemistry	Geography	Administration & IT	Administration & IT	Geography
Dance	Early Learning & Childcare	Environmental Science	History	Computing Science	Art & Design	Graphic Communication
Drama	Food Technology	Physics	Modern Studies	Construction	Biology	Food Technology
Media	Physical Education	Science	RMPS	Design Engineer Construct	Business Management	History
Music	Sport & Recreation			Design & Manufacture	Chemistry	Media
Photography				Engineering Science	Computing Science	Modern Studies
				Graphic Communication	Construction	Music
				Food Technology	Creative Thinking	Music Technology
				Music Technology	Dance	Photography
				Practical Woodwork	Design Engineer Construct	Physical Education
					Design & Manufacture	Physics
					Drama	Practical Woodwork
					Early Learning & Childcare	RMPS
					Engineering Science	Spanish
					Environmental Science	Sport & Recreation

S5/6 Column Choices

Course	Yeargroup	Level	Level	Level
Drama	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Music	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Music Technology	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Musical Theatre NPA	S5/6	L6		
Physical Education	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Play in Sports Environment	S5/6	L6		
Sport & Fitness - Football (level 5)	S5/6	L5		
Sport & Fitness - Netball (level 5)	S5/6	L5		
Climate Change NPA	S5	L4	L5	
Travel & Tourism	S5	L4	L5	
Geography	S5/6	N5	H	
History	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Modern Studies	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Criminology NPA	S5/6	L5		
Politics	S5/6	H		
RMPS	S5/6	N5	H	
French	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Spanish	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Maths	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Applications of Maths	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Personal Finance	S5	L4		
Intro to Literature and Communications	S5/6	L5	L6	
English	S5/6	N4	N5	H & AH
Media	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Journalism	S5/6	L6		
Film & Media	S6	L5	L6	
Accounting & Finance	S5/6	N5	H	
Administration & IT	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Business Management	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Computing Studies	S5/6	N4	N5	H
Business Management	S6	AH		
NPA Money Management	S6	L5	L6	
NPA PC Passport	S5/6	L4	L5	L6
Young Enterprise	S6			
Art & Design	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Photography NPA	S5/6			
Creative Thinking	S5/6	L5	L6	
Draw NPA	S5/6	L5		
Design & Manufacture	S5/6	N5	H	
Design, Engineer, Construct	S5/6	L5	L6	
Engineering Science	S5/6	N5	H	
Graphic Communication	S5/6	N5	H	
Practical Metalwork	S5/6	N4	N5	
Practical Woodwork	S5/6	N4	N5	
Biology	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Chemistry	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Lab Science (SfW)	S5/6	N5		
Physics	S5/6	N5	H	AH
Psychology	S5/6	N5		
Bakery NPA 4 & Barista NPA 5 (unit)	S5/6	N4		
Health & Food Technology	S5/6	N5	H	
Practical Cake Craft	S5/6	N5		
Practical Cookery	S5/6	N4	N5	

S5/6 Wider Achievement/College & FA Opportunities

	Course	SCQF Level
An Introduction to Sound Design and the Music Industry	NPA Cyber Security	5
Learn a musical Instrument - Music Enrichment	NPA Data Science	5
Production Team	NPA Digital Animation	5
Duke of Edinburgh	NPA Computing Technologies	5
Saltire Volunteering Awards	NPA Esports	4
School of Sport - Basketball	NPA Accountancy	6
School of Sport - Rugby	NPA Legal Studies	6
Sports Ambassadors	NPA Business Skills/ NPA Business and Marketing	6
Sports Ambassadors / Sports Council	NPA Hospitality	6
Sports Leader Award	Foundation Apprenticeship Hospitality	4
Wellbeing through PE	Certificate: Make-up (inc NPA Make-up & eye Treatments)	5
SQA Religion, Belief & Values Award	Introduction to Hair and Beauty	4
Eco Ambassadors	Foundation Apprenticeship Scientific Technologies	6
Mock Trial	Healthcare Pathway	5
Rights Ambassadors	Pathway to Early Learning	5
School Newspaper / BBC Young Reporter	Gateway to Childhood Studies	4
MVP (Mentors for Violence Prevention)	Skills for Work Engineering	5
Cultural Studies through Foreign Language Films	Foundation Apprenticeship Automotive	4
Zero to Hero - Basic Language Communication in German	Shell Girls in (Renewable) Energy	5
Helpdesk	Foundation Apprenticeship Construction Craft	4
Let's Look At Great Films (YAA)	Intermediate Certificate: 3D Design (Furniture, Interior and Product)	5
Literacy Ambassadors/Paired Reading	Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services Children and Young People	6
Reading For Pleasure (YAA)	Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services and Healthcare	6
Art & Design Skills Enrichment		
Portfolio Building		
Powering Futures		
Young Stem Leaders		