

## The Scottish Educational System

*Scottish education has always been entirely separate from the rest of the United Kingdom and has its own unique structure.*

### Early years

- All 3 and 4 year olds entitled to free, part-time pre-school place (approximately 400 hours)
- National guidelines cover curriculum for 3-5 year olds
- Curriculum covers:
  - *emotional, personal and social development*
  - *communication and language*
  - *knowledge and understanding of the world*
  - *expressive and aesthetic development*
  - *physical development and movement*
- Local authorities work in partnership with private and voluntary sectors

### Education 5-14

- Covers primary school (stages referred to as P1-7) and first two years of secondary education (S1-2)
- Management and delivery of curriculum rests with education authorities and head teachers
- National guidelines for curriculum aim to ensure breadth, balance, coherence and progression
- In primary cycle 5 subject areas cover Mathematics, Language (including Gaelic and European language), Environmental Studies (science, history and geography), Expressive Arts (physical education, music and art), and Religious and Moral education
- In secondary school these areas are extended into 8 modes : mathematical studies and applications; language and communication; scientific studies and applications; technological activities and applications; social and environmental studies; creative and aesthetic activities; physical education; religious and moral education.



The Stewarton Learning Partnership continues to raise educational standards, to wider horizons for all our pupils, to promote healthy initiatives, to provide a better environment and to promote achievement and celebrate success.



### **Age 14-16: Standard Grade Courses**

- Courses correspond generally to S1-S2 subject areas
- Final assessments set and marked by Scottish Qualifications Authority (see below)
- Most pupils follow core curriculum comprising English, Mathematics, a science subject, a social science subject, a modern language and provision for technological and creative and aesthetic subjects
- Pupils also choose other subjects from range of options varying from school to school
- Courses last for 2 years and are offered at 3 levels: Credit, General and Foundation
- All courses comprise different elements which are individually assessed (externally or internally). All elements must be passed to gain award
- Teachers estimate grades for each pupil and these are taken into account by SQA in final external assessment

### **Education post-16**

- Pupils can continue study in school for further 1 or 2 years, or move to Further Education college
- Academic and non-academic subjects covered by single programme of national qualifications set and marked by Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Courses offered at 5 levels : Access 1-3; Intermediate 1-2; Higher, and Advanced Higher. Entry level usually determined by performance in S4.
- Courses are unit-based, and normally comprise 3 units, each a qualification in its own right.
- External assessment at end of course (i.e. after completing 3 units)
- Group Awards allow pupils to study several career-related subjects or follow personal choices
- Group Awards cover 5 key core skills: Numeracy, Communication, Problem-solving; Working with others, and Information Technology

At Shortlees Primary School, there is a strong commitment by staff to the pupils' welfare and education, in schoolwork and extra-curricular activities.

### **Further Education (FE)**

- 46 FE colleges in Scotland with courses to develop skills and knowledge for work, continued study, or for general interest
- Open to people older than 16
- Flexible study arrangements: full-time, day release, evening classes, block release, open-learning
- Courses cover everything from traditional academic subjects to specifically vocational
- Special programmes available for those lacking conventional educational qualifications, with extended learning support arrangements
- Range of levels (in order of weighting): National Qualifications; Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs); Higher National Certificate; Higher National Diploma; degrees
- SVQs mostly workplace-orientated, with college supplying theoretical strand

### **Higher Education**

- For people aged 17 or over with academic qualifications at Higher or Advanced H level, but exact requirements may vary between institutions
- 21 institutions throughout Scotland, with 13 having university status. All offer wide range of degree level courses
- Specialist centres for Art and Design, Music and Drama, Agriculture, Healthcare, Tourism
- Degree course lasts 3 years (full-time). Honours degree lasts 4 years. Courses in architecture, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine last 5 or 6 years
- Some institutions offer courses on a part-time basis as well as by distance- or open learning

“ The Grange Learning Partnership aims to raise educational standards and provide a comprehensive service for children, young people and their families by the integration and co-ordination of all services. ”

## National qualifications

The national system of qualifications is managed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, which is jointly funded by national and local authorities. National qualifications are usually assessed by a combination of national examinations and school or college-based assessments. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework ensures consistency and comparability across both subjects and levels of study.

### *Basic structure relating to schools*

Type of course	Standard grade	National units	National courses
Duration	2 years	40 hours	1 year
Stage/age of candidates	S3-S4 (age 14-16)	Any age from S3 on	Any age from S4 on
Level of study	General Credit	Access 1 Access 2 Foundation Intermediate 1 Intermediate 2 Higher Advanced Higher	Access 3 Intermediate 1 Intermediate 2 Higher Advanced Higher
How assessed	National exam + course work	Unit assessments	National exam + Unit assessments
Type of assessment	External and internal	Internal	External and internal

#### *Notes*

1. National units and courses were introduced in 1999 under the “Higher Still” programme. This is subject to continuous review.
2. Some national courses in vocational areas have project assessment instead of a national exam.
3. All internally assessed components of qualifications are quality assured by SQA.



At Barshare Primary School we support all pupils, including a number of children with additional support needs. It is evident when you visit our school that we foster a caring and sympathetic attitude in all our young people.

