

Integrity

Mackie Academy

Excellence

Teamwork

"There is virtue in hard work"

Commitment



Mackie Academy Curriculum Rationale

Vision

At Mackie Academy our curriculum includes all the learning opportunities our young people will experience within the classroom, the school and the wider community. This curriculum is designed to nurture and develop all young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

As a school community we are committed to providing a curriculum which is responsive to the needs of each and every learner, by offering a wealth of suitably challenging and enjoyable experiences underpinned by the core skills of literacy, numeracy, health and well-being.

Our curricular experiences will develop, enhance and enable our young people to be ambitious in their learning, thus raising expectations for all, closing the attainment gap and ensuring equity of provision.

Our curriculum will enable positive and sustained destinations for all our learners beyond Mackie Academy, whatever form that may take, whilst addressing the local, national and international job market picture.

Learning Context

The learning context is an area which must be addressed if meaningful learning is to take place. In order to acquire new information, the brain must place it in the context of something that is already known. You can't learn what you don't already know.

The learning context refers to the use of real-life and imagined examples in learning environments in order to learn through the actual, practical experience with a subject rather than just its theory alone. Mackie Academy believes the single most important factor influencing learning is the active engagement of the learner with the material. In achieving this what becomes important is retention of a high level of engagement by the teacher with the learner. This can be thought of as the learning journey.

In building the curriculum here at Mackie Academy the learning context can be seen clearly within the four building blocks of the curriculum:

- Life and character of the school as a community
- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning (combining two or more academic fields and transferable skills)
- Opportunities for personal and wider achievement.

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The curriculum should include space for learning beyond subject boundaries, so that our young people at Mackie Academy can make connections between different areas of learning, allowing them to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. Our partnerships with other educational establishments, business links and Community Learning allows our young people to experience wide and varied learning environment.

Skills Development

At Mackie Academy developing our young people for the workforce in the future is one of our key outcomes. As stated in the report, "Developing Scotland's Young Workforce" (2014),

"It is important that all young people in Scotland are provided with the opportunities to develop and use the skills and abilities necessary to become an active part of the labour force and to maximise the benefits to them and their contribution to economic growth."

Preparing young people for the world of work happens through all aspects of our curriculum and the development of key skills alongside knowledge and understanding is critical in producing a lifelong learner. In the North-East of Scotland employers, through the Chamber of Commerce, identified the following as the top five skills expected in prospective employees:

- Communication
- Team Work
- Customer Service
- Problem Solving
- Computer Literacy and IT

Skills for Learning, Life and Work are critical with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy to ensure that our young people can access their learning and succeed in life. Confidence and competence in literacy and numeracy provide the foundations for lifelong learning.

At Mackie Academy we are committed to a regular review process associated with our curricular provision so that it reflects the needs of our community whilst developing the skills base of individuals to "future proof" our young people for the challenges of demands of the workforce in an ever changing world.

Outcomes

Effective engagement in all of the above means that young people at Mackie Academy will be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors, ready for the workplace of the future.

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