

Curriculum for Excellence  
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## **SHOW AND TELL FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS ON NEW CURRICULUM**

### **New resource to help bring curriculum to life**

Teachers in Orkney will be using a new toolkit to help explain changes to the school curriculum to parents.

The resource aims to give mums, dads and carers more information about how the new curriculum will affect their children and how they can get involved.

Schools in Orkney are currently preparing and developing their plans for implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in August 2010. This resource lets teachers show parents examples of how learning will change with film clips, images and slides to bring it to life.

Leaflets have also been developed for parents to explain each level - early years, primary and secondary and posters for school notice boards and sent to every school.

Councillor Janice Annal, Chair of Orkney Islands Council's Education, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee, said: "One of the central themes of Curriculum for Excellence is the ethos and life of the school as a community, and parental involvement plays a key role in the success of the programme. We encourage parents to speak to teachers to find out more about how learning is being shaped in their school."

Education Secretary Michael Russell has urged teachers to take advantage of the new resource to update parents on the Curriculum for Excellence.

Mr Russell said:

"As changes to learning and teaching begin to take place in schools around Scotland, we know parents want to hear more about what's going on.

"Our research shows that they want to hear from those who are teaching their children. That's why we've worked with parents and teachers to put together a flexible toolkit - containing film clips, case studies, and a bank of slides to make sure teachers can feel confident explaining the changes.

"I'd encourage headteachers and teachers to think about when is best to talk to their parents about these changes, perhaps at an upcoming parents evening, and use the parts of this toolkit they feel will work best for them."

Gerry McTiernan, a member of the National Parent Forum, said:

"We are embracing exciting times in Scottish education. Parents need and want to be part of this welcome development and we look forward to Curriculum for Excellence giving

all our children a better education and better opportunities. I hope the new toolkit will encourage schools and parents to take Curriculum for Excellence forward together."

The resource was developed following research which showed parents want more information about Curriculum for Excellence from teachers and their child's school. The toolkit was developed by Learning and Teaching Scotland with the National Parental Involvement Coordinator, parents, headteachers, teachers, and council staff across Scotland.

Parents should ask their child's school for more information on the new curriculum or visit [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk)

Bernard McLeary, Chief Executive of Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS), the education body that led on the production of the Parent Toolkit, said : "The aim of this resource is to provide teachers with the confidence to engage with parents about Curriculum for Excellence and help them understand the positive impact that the new education system will have on their children. I'm confident that the Parent Toolkit will play a key role in ensuring that all Scotland's parents are fully up to speed with the implementation of the new curriculum."

Ends.

Notes for Editors:

1. The Parent Toolkit can be viewed online at [www.curriculumforexcellence.org.uk](http://www.curriculumforexcellence.org.uk)
2. Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching and help improve children's life chances. Building on the best, it focuses on the importance of knowledge and skills and is about bringing life to learning and learning to life.
3. Schools are currently planning throughout 2009-10 for implementation of the new curriculum in 2010-11.

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