



Curriculum Rationale

At Lockerbie Academy, our curriculum is designed to ensure every young person becomes a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor, in line with Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). Our vision is shaped by our rural context, our strong relationships, and our commitment to equity, aspiration and wellbeing. We aim to provide a curriculum that is inclusive, future-focused and responsive to the needs of our learners, families and the wider community.

Our Local Context

Lockerbie Academy serves a small town and rural catchment with 9 feeder primaries, significant transport logistics, and a roll of around 670 pupils. Key contextual factors shaping our curriculum include (2026 data):

- SIMD 3–8, with the majority in SIMD 5–6
- 52.40% ASN, rising year on year
- 17% FSM, increasing
- Attendance at 87%
- High rurality, with nearly half of pupils travelling by bus
- Local labour market dominated by health, social care, retail, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing
- Forecast decline in employment, increasing competition for jobs
- Skills shortages in complex analytical, operational and digital skills

These factors require a curriculum that is flexible, nurturing, aspirational and skills-rich, ensuring young people can thrive in a changing economy.

Values and Principles

Our curriculum is built on the seven design principles of CfE: Challenge & enjoyment | Breadth | Progression | Depth | Personalisation & choice | Coherence | Relevance

It is also shaped by:

- UNCRC – ensuring children's rights are embedded in decision-making
- The Promise – ensuring care-experienced young people are fully supported
- The National Improvement Framework – with a focus on excellence and equity
- HGIOS 4 – driving continuous improvement
- OECD 2021 Review – strengthening senior phase pathways and learner agency
- Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) – ensuring employability and skills development

A Nurturing, Relationship-Centred School

This forms a core part of our curriculum rationale and we prioritise:

- Strong adult–pupil, and pupil–pupil relationships
- Nurture-informed practice across the school
- Targeted support through Hive, Nurture Room, Room 10 and the Wellbeing Hub
- Multi-agency partnerships including Barnardo's, CAMHS, Youth Work, Autism Outreach and Pupil Services
- Universal and targeted wellbeing support through PSE, mentors, senior ambassadors, nurture ambassadors and leadership programmes

This ensures that wellbeing is the foundation for learning, in line with SHANARRI and GIRFEC.

Broad General Education (S1–S3)

Our BGE is designed to provide breadth, progression and relevance, with clear pathways into the senior phase.

Key features

- Full entitlement to all eight curriculum areas
- Strong literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing as responsibilities of all
- Integrated learning in S1–2 to build skills and connections
- Choice introduced in S3, allowing depth while maintaining breadth
- Digital skills development embedded across subjects
- Profiling and learner conversations to support progression and transition

The BGE is aligned with Building the Curriculum 3 and 4, ensuring a strong foundation in skills for learning, life and work.

Senior Phase (S4–S6)

Lockerbie Academy has undergone significant curriculum development since 2015, moving from a traditional model towards a diverse, flexible and aspirational senior phase.

Key features of the Senior Phase

- 7 subjects for all S4 learners from June 2025
 - Up to 6 subjects in S5/6, with flexible combinations of SCQF levels 3–7
 - Growing range of NPAs, SfW courses, Awards and vocational pathways
 - College partnerships with D&G College, SRUC and UWS
 - Online and hybrid learning to widen choice
 - Wider Achievement embedded, including:
 - Saltire Awards
 - Sports Leaders
 - Senior Ambassadors
 - Boys to Men
 - Barista Award
 - Metaskills development through Gen+ and Powering Futures
 - Work experience strengthened and expanded
 - Pathway support and careers guidance through SDS and DYW
- This aligns with the OECD recommendation for flexible, multi-pathway senior phases.

Skills for Learning, Life and Work

In response to local labour-market needs, our curriculum prioritises:

- Digital skills
- Complex analytical skills
- Operational and practical skills
- Meta-skills (self-management, communication, problem-solving, creativity)
- Career management skills through SDS and DYW
- Leadership and volunteering opportunities

This ensures learners are prepared for positive, sustained destinations in a competitive employment landscape.

Inclusion, Equity and Support

We are committed to ensuring every learner can access the curriculum.

Support includes:

- Nurture spaces (Hive, Nurture Room, Room 10)
- Wellbeing Hub
- Pupil Support and multi-agency teams
- Targeted support for attendance, engagement and attainment
- Early evidence gathering for learners at risk of disengagement
- Alternative curriculum pathways for those who need them

This aligns with The Promise, GIRFEC and the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Partnerships and Community

Our curriculum is strengthened by partnerships with:

- Barnardo's
- Youth Work
- CAMHS
- Autism Outreach
- Local employers
- D&G College, SRUC, UWS
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third-sector organisations

These partnerships enhance support, widen pathways and connect learning to the real world.

Continuous Improvement

Using HGIOS 4, the National Improvement Framework and local authority guidance, we:

- Track attainment, wellbeing and destinations
- Analyse workforce and destination data to shape curriculum design
- Engage learners, staff, parents and partners at regular intervals in curriculum evaluation
- Ensure the curriculum evolves to meet changing needs

Statement Summary

Lockerbie Academy's curriculum is:

- Nurturing and relationship-centred
- Flexible, aspirational and based on our local context and needs
- Grounded in rights, equity and wellbeing
- Responsive to local labour-market needs
- Rich in pathways, skills and wider achievement
- Designed to ensure every young person thrives now and in the future

It reflects national expectations while celebrating what makes our school and community unique.