Curriculum Rationale
Created May 2017 in partnership with parents, pupils and staff
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# Learning and Growing to Achieve Success

## Our School Vision Statement

Our overall vision for Roslin Primary School is that everyone in our community will learn and grow as individuals, achieving success in different ways.

## Our School Values

At Roslin, we value:
- Respect
- Trust and relationships
- Support
- Individuals
- Learning through Play

## Our School Aims

Every day at Roslin Primary, we aim:
- for everyone in our Learning Community to have high expectations
- to foster a culture that recognises and nurtures attitudes and behaviour that have the greatest impact on learning
- to create a Learning Community that is welcoming, caring and helpful to all
- to promote an ethos of inclusion and celebration of individuality
- for the school to be safe place for all
ROS LIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
What makes this a great place to be?

There’s been a big change in knowing what good learning looks like.

The way we think about learning.

We try new ways of learning.

The staff have good relationships - with us and with each other.

Everyone is supported very well.

Staff can read our body language.

We are included.

Our school rules have changed for the better. Staff listened to us.
ROSLIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
What makes this a great place to be?

We know different strategies to help us with our learning.

We get a say in what happens.

We get a lot of different learning experiences and opportunities.

We are given work at the right level for us as an individual.

Our school trips help support our learning.

The things we learn every day are new.

Staff like each other—and you can tell they are friends.

There is a lot of effort made by all of the children.
The National Improvement Framework and HGIOS 4, along with Midlothian’s Strategic Overview Plan, help inform and guide our learning and teaching at Roslin Primary. Our school improvement targets are focused around the NIF drivers and we continuously evaluate ourselves against the quality indicators of HGIOS 4.
National Guidance

Values
Wisdom, justice, compassion, integrity
The curriculum must be inclusive, be a stimulus for personal achievement and, through the broadening of experience of the world, be an encouragement towards informed and responsible citizenship.

The curriculum: “the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education”
- Ethos and life of the school as a community
- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Opportunities for personal achievement

Learning and teaching
- Engaging and active
- Setting challenging goals
- Shared expectations and standards
- Timely, accurate feedback
- Learning intentions, success criteria, personal learning planning
- Collaborative
- Reflecting the ways different learners progress

Experiences and outcomes set out expectations for learning and development in:
- Expressive arts
- Languages and literacies
- Health and wellbeing
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies
Curriculum levels describe progression and development.

All children and young people are entitled to experience:
- A coherent curriculum for 3 to 15
- A broad general education, including well planned experiences and outcomes across all the curriculum areas. This should include understandings of the world and Scotland’s place in it and understanding of the environment
- A senior phase which provides opportunities for study for qualifications and other planned opportunities for developing the four capacities
- Opportunities for developing skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- Opportunities to achieve to the highest levels they can through appropriate personal support and challenge
- Opportunities to move into positive and sustained destinations beyond school

Personal Support
- Review of learning and planning of next steps
- Gaining access to learning activities which will meet their needs
- Planning for opportunities for personal achievement
- Preparing for changes and choices and support through changes and choices
- Pre-school centres and schools working with partners

Principles of curriculum design:
- Challenge and enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

Arrangements for support
- Assessment
- Qualifications
- Self-evaluation and accountability
- Professional development

To enable all young people to become:

Confident individuals
- Self-respect
- A sense of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Secure values and beliefs
- Ambition

And able to:
- Relate to others and manage themselves
- Pursue a healthy and active lifestyle
- Be self-aware
- Develop and communicate their own beliefs and view of the world
- Live as independently as they can

Responsible citizens
- Respect for others
- Commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life

And able to:
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland’s place in it
- Understand different beliefs and cultures
- Make informed choices and decisions
- Evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues
- Develop informed, ethical views of complex issues.

Effective contributors
- An enterprising attitude
- Resilience
- Self-reliance

And able to:
- Communicate in different ways and in different settings
- Work in partnership and in teams
- Take the initiative and lead
- Apply critical thinking and new contexts
- Create and develop
- Solve problems.

Successful learners
- Enthusiasm and motivation for learning
- Determination to reach high standards of achievement
- Openness to new thinking and ideas

And able to:
- Use literacy, communication and numeracy skills
- Use technology for learning
- Think creatively and independently
- Learn independently and as part of a group
- Make reasoned evaluations
- Link and apply different kinds of learning in new situations.
A Midlothian Learner

1. Collaborates
   - Can learn with and from others

2. Talks about their learning
   - Know what they are in their learning and what their next steps are

3. Knows how to learn
   - Builds knowledge
   - Links knowledge to new learning
   - Makes connections between different areas of learning

4. Aspires to challenge
   - Exceeds expectations of themselves
   - Aims high

5. Uses learner qualities
   - Is resilient
   - Understands and applies effective learning habits

6. Is responsible for their own learning
   - Can work independently to achieve goals

7. Believes that effort will lead to success
   - Growth mindset
   - Mistakes are good!
   - Knows what to do when you don't know what to do

Midlothian... A great place to grow.
A Midlothian Learner

At Roslin Primary School we are working to improve our learning and teaching culture. We have been developing our understanding of the brain, mindsets and metacognition to help achieve this. Our understanding of the principles of Visible Learning have helped guide this work and we have been gathering evidence to evaluate the impact of this process.

The Midlothian Learner graphic is our school community toolkit. It highlights what all learners in our community should be trying to achieve—pupils, parents, staff and all stakeholders. Our staff, along with practitioner enquiry and a vast amount of professional reading, use this to guide conversations about learning.

Our school blog is used to share our steps towards an improved learning and teaching culture. https://visiblejourneyatroslin.wordpress.com
The Four Contexts for Learning
How do we deliver these at Roslin Primary?

Curricular Areas
* Whole school working on same literacy and numeracy skills at certain times in session
* Writing moderation at school and ASG level, including high school English department
* Science CPD transferred into classroom practice
* Forward Plan dialogue
* Maths workshops involve parents and carers
* Maths challenge moderation
* Daily 4 across the school
* Health week to promote a healthy lifestyle—several visitors and specialist leading learning
* Modern Languages input and development
* Child lead—very responsive
* Floorbooks and Learning Folders
* Learning Walks/Trios are consistent and improving
* Novel studies
* Literacy Cafe/Daily 5
* Whole school curriculum afternoons
* Visible Learning ethos embedding into our every day learning and teaching
* Junior Tour Guides
* Independent Learning and Learning through Play
* Outdoor Learning

Ethos and Life of the School
And Community
* Use of Twitter, school website and blog to share events and information
* House point system with House Captains
* Class expectations
* P7s are P1 buddies
* Prefect roles for P6 and P7
* Peer Mediation being developed
* Assemblies share what is happening across the school
* Pupil Conference
* Parent/Carer Induction Day
  * Church Services
  * Open Mornings/Stay and Play
  * Sharing success through Hot Chocolate Friday, Morning News, Learning Folders
* Staff model good friendships
* Making use of our local community for visits linked to learning
* Parent workshops
* Welcoming office staff
* Pupils share success with ALL staff, not just teaching staff
* Social Skills groups
* Parent Council & Parent Helpers
* Learners engaging with SIP
* Parent/Carer Communications (Drop-Ins, open door policy, newsletters, e-mail)
The Four Contexts for Learning

How do we deliver these at Roslin Primary?

**Opportunities for Personal Achievement**

* Learning Folders  
* Using language to encourage and build confidence—Growth Mindset  
* Home link sheets  
* Assemblies  
* Achievement Wall—literacy and numeracy certificates, wider achievements  
* pupil led Spanish club  
* pupil led bake sales  
* Active School Club opportunities  
* Defining our own next steps  
* Junior Tour Guides  
* Prefects  
* Bikeability  
* P1 buddies  
* CDT sessions at the high school  
* Outdoor Education sessions  
* Transition Camp  
* Pupil reps - Learning Council, Eco Committee, JRSO, House Captains  
* Instrumentalists performing at church and assemblies  
* Choir  
* External competitions  
* Sports Day  
* Athletics Championships  
* Greater delegation to pupils of clubs and activities

**IDL**

* Independent Learning opportunities in each class/area  
* Links are made to the community and to real world examples  
* Outdoor learning—links with the Ranger service  
* IDL comes through in our new planning format instead of an individual IDL plan—themes across learning appear  
* putting Experience and Outcomes together  
* School trips are linked to class learning  

**Examples**

* Junior Tour Guides (Literacy, Drama, History)  
* Novel studies across the school  
* GeoScience with Edinburgh University  
* Romans (Technologies, Social Studies, Art and Design, Literacy)  
* Nursery experience of finding a dead mouse (anatomy, life/death, personal hygiene, technology) - very responsive practice  
* Rainforest (Science, HWB, Art & Design, Literacy)
Staff at Roslin Primary School take into account all seven principles when planning for learning. They help inform our curriculum, learning and teaching and assessment practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>How we address this at Roslin...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenge and Enjoyment</strong></td>
<td>Children and young people should find their learning challenging, engaging and motivating. The curriculum should encourage high aspirations and ambitions for all. At every stage, children should experience an appropriate level of challenge. They should be active in their learning and have opportunities to develop and demonstrate their creativity. There should be support to enable children to sustain their efforts.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Learners are encouraged to embrace challenge and mistakes</td>
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<td>• One of our key aims is that all members of our learning community have high expectations of everyone</td>
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<td>• Learning opportunities are differentiated to suit the needs of all learners</td>
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<td>• Staff engage with current educational research that develops our skills in providing progression and challenge</td>
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<td><strong>Breadth</strong></td>
<td>All children should have the opportunities for a broad range of experiences. Their learning should be planned and organised so that they will learn and develop through a variety of contexts within both the classroom and other aspects of school life.</td>
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<td>• Staff design learning opportunities that are based on all of the Experiences and Outcomes</td>
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<td>• Transition information from one teacher to the next includes detailed discussion of what has been covered</td>
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<td>• We ensure that skills in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are evident across all other areas of the curriculum</td>
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<td><strong>Progression</strong></td>
<td>Children should experience continuous progression in their learning from 3 to 18 years. Each stage should build upon earlier knowledge and achievements. Children and young people should be able to progress at a rate which meets their individual needs and aptitudes.</td>
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<td>• Staff are aware from transfer of information sessions, what prior learning has taken place</td>
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<td>• Continuously challenging pupils to reflect on their own learning to evaluate how secure they are</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principle</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personalisation and Choice</strong>&lt;br&gt;The learning planned for children should respond to their individual needs and support particular aptitudes and talents. It should provide opportunities for exercising responsible personal choice. Once children have achieved suitable levels of attainment across a wide range of areas of learning, the choice should become as open as possible.</td>
<td>• We listen to the ideas and questions of our learners&lt;br&gt;• We provide support for each individual’s needs&lt;br&gt;• Dialogue within the classroom links learning to real life skills and experiences&lt;br&gt;• Learners are taught HOW to learn and how to identify their own next steps&lt;br&gt;• Learners are encouraged to pursue their learning interests during Independent Learning&lt;br&gt;• Staff use their knowledge of each child’s prior experiences to ensure support and feedback is individualised</td>
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<td><strong>Coherence</strong>&lt;br&gt;Children’s learning activities should combine to form a coherent experience. There should be clear links between different aspects of learning. Such links should be discussed with children in order to bring different strands of learning together.</td>
<td>• We work to make clear links between the skills used in discreet lessons to those used in an interdisciplinary experience&lt;br&gt;• Staff encourage learners to understand and reflect on the development of these skills&lt;br&gt;• Learners learn to become aware of ‘progression’ and develop the ability to talk about their learning&lt;br&gt;• Staff use their planning overviews to ensure consistency and coherence across a term or whole session</td>
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<td><strong>Relevance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Children and young people should understand the purpose of their learning. They should see the value of what they are learning and its relevance to their lives, present and future.</td>
<td>• Our learners know why, what and how their learning relates to everyday life&lt;br&gt;• Staff consider the interests and activities of learners outside of school when planning contexts for learning&lt;br&gt;•</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Depth</strong>&lt;br&gt;There should be opportunities for children to develop their full capacity for different types of thinking and learning, exploring and achieving more advanced levels of understanding.</td>
<td>• Staff create a depth of learning by starting with skills development and the acquiring of knowledge, to applying those skills and knowledge to different and more challenging contexts&lt;br&gt;• Learners are encouraged to show their learning in different ways&lt;br&gt;• Staff work to ensure assessments include the application of skills</td>
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# Learning at Roslin Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Area</th>
<th>What/How/Resources</th>
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| **Maths and Numeracy** | * CfE Experiences and Outcomes inform all planning/teaching/assessment along with Midlothian Understanding Mathematics Programme  
* Key resource is Scottish Heinemann Maths  
* Daily focus on 4 operations—open dialogue about strategies used and common mistakes (improving mental agility)  
* Fluid/Flexible grouping  
* Open-ended challenges and investigations  
* High ceiling/low threshold tasks  
* choice of learning tasks  
* textbook/worksheets where appropriate  
* maths games (including ICT)  
* majority of staff are SEAL trained and this is a big focus in the Early Years |
## Learning at Roslin Primary School

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<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy</strong></td>
<td>* CfE Experiences and Outcomes structure our primary planning/teaching/assessment</td>
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<td>* ORT reading scheme</td>
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<td>* Jolly Phonics programme</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* A variety of novels at all reading levels</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Classrooms have their own reading areas</td>
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<td>* Our school library allows access to fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, graphic novels etc.</td>
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<td>* ASN makes use of support materials that aid in the development of reading</td>
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<td>* Literacy Cafes, Literature Circles</td>
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<td>* Midlothian Writing Criteria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* School and ASG writing moderation</td>
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<td>* Nelson Handwriting</td>
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<td>* Prim Ed Resources</td>
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<td>* The Comprehension Box (3 levels)</td>
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<td>* Personal talks and group discussions have shared success criteria with ASG</td>
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<td>* Opportunities to speak at assemblies and class showcases</td>
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<td>* Single Word Spelling programme</td>
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### Assessment

- GL, PIPS
- National tests
- Midlothian writing criteria
- Literacy benchmarks
- NAR reading assessments
- ORT assessments
- POLAAR
- reading skills tracker

- ASG Listening and Talking individual talk & group assessments
- weekly spelling assessments
- continuous formative assessment
- teacher summative assessments
# Learning at Roslin Primary School

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| **Health & Wellbeing**| * CfE Experience and Outcomes inform all planning/teaching/assessment  
* School Counsellor available  
* Staff trained in Relax Kids programme  
* P7 trip to the Risk Factory  
* Cool in School Programme  
* Heart Start (covers serious bleeding, choking, recovery position, CPR)  
* Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood is taught using the Living and Growing DVD/Online Resources  
* Keeping Myself Safe, Keeping Myself E-Safe programmes for P6 & P7  
* Drugs & Alcohol outcomes covered in P7 or earlier if necessary  
* Annual Health Week—focus changes every year and visitors hold taster sessions in various activities  
* P.E. Lessons—Better Movers Thinkers programme utilised; move away from sport specific to skills focused  
* Healthy Eating—using Eatwell Guide based on information from local high school  
* Mental Health addressed through activities designed by class teacher |

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<td>* Timing circuits</td>
<td>* Bucket filling</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Summative assessments created by class teacher (based on HWB topics i.e. Human body, food chains, growth and development)</td>
<td>* Pre/post assessments</td>
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<td>* Role Play</td>
<td>* Class/Group Discussion</td>
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<td>* Producing leaflets to share learning</td>
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<td>* Observation by staff</td>
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