

Towards the very best...

Education Learning & Leisure Improving Learning



Aberdeenshire 
COUNCIL

Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland

Education, Learning and Leisure: Improving Learning

Policy Statement

Rationale

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to improving learning to meet the demands of a continually changing society. Education can transform lives by developing the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to support all learners to achieve their aspirations. The core business of the Education Learning and Leisure Service (E, L& L) is to improve quality of life through learning and achievement. The aim of a Learning and Teaching Policy for Aberdeenshire is to support all those engaged in delivering learning experiences to provide the very best service and to improve opportunities for all.

Participation in lifelong learning:

- Provides enjoyment and personal fulfilment
- Contributes to better physical and mental well-being
- Improves employment opportunities
- Increases confidence, ability to participate fully and have influence in the wider community

Guiding Principles

Aberdeenshire E L & L should provide:

- Effective learning, teaching and assessment practices matched to the needs of all learners
- A curriculum which aligns with the seven principles of curriculum design
- A broad general education and a senior phase appropriate to the needs of learners and local contexts
- Resources to support Getting it Right for Every Child and Young Person (GIRFEC) and Aberdeenshire's Inclusion Policy
- Support for partnerships, collegiality and professional learning which has a positive impact on learners
- New technologies in learning, appropriate learning environments and best value, through effective resource management

Aberdeenshire is committed to providing learning and teaching which:

- Is engaging and active within the context of positive learner – teacher relationships
- Provides opportunities for learners to collaborate and share learning
- Delivers appropriate pace and challenge
- Shares expectations and standards including clear learning intentions and success criteria
- Provides accurate and timely feedback including peer and self evaluation to support learners to understand their own learning
- Is responsive to the different ways in which learners learn and progress
- Promotes equality and celebrates diversity
- Makes effective use of technologies in learning

Outcomes

- Learners with the skills, knowledge and attributes appropriate to their needs, their aspirations and the needs of the local and national economy
- Learners with a love of learning who engage in lifelong learning
- Learners who reach high levels of attainment and achievement
- A culture of continuous improvement through effective self evaluation at every level
- Young people who develop as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens and are able to use these qualities to enrich their lives and the lives of others.

Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with all those working to improve learning in Aberdeenshire Education, Learning and Leisure. This includes the leadership and management of the service, leadership within schools and establishments, Community Learning and Development (CLD), leisure facilities, teachers, support staff, and the learners themselves. Partners will also have a significant contribution to make but it is the responsibility of E L & L to foster these partnerships to ensure that they support the best learning outcomes for all our children and young people.

- Learners will take an active role in their own learning, including making informed decisions about their learning, reflecting on their successes and contributing to the life and work of the establishment.
- Educators will develop life long learning opportunities which ensure learners acquire a cohesive set of skills, knowledge and attributes necessary to fulfil their own aspirations and to help them to make a positive contribution to society.
- Both learners and educators will regularly reflect on the quality of learning taking place and plan how to improve this.
- Learning communities will provide meaningful opportunities for partners, including parents, other agencies and businesses, to contribute effectively to the learning process by extending and supporting learning.
- Managers will ensure that revenue and capital budgets are effectively and efficiently allocated to support learning and teaching.
- Managers will ensure that appropriate continuing professional development opportunities are available to teachers and others working to support learning. This will include time for professionals to share and discuss practice and standards.
- Teachers and other educators will regularly reflect on the effectiveness of their teaching and the impact on all the learners for whom they are responsible.
- Teachers and other educators will ensure appropriate opportunities for learners to develop their literacy and numeracy skills across learning and to promote healthy life styles.