

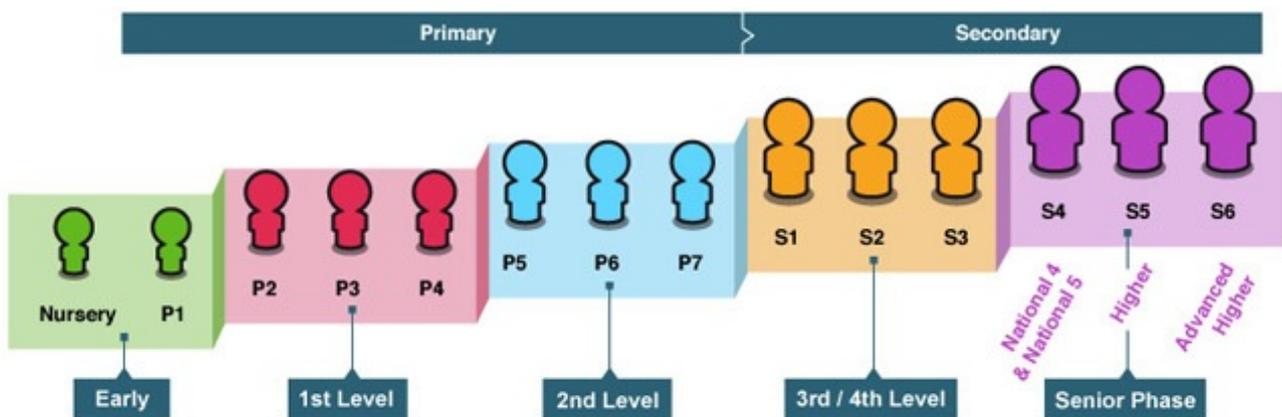


SCA Brief Guide to the Scottish Curriculum

Brief Guide # 2: Curriculum Levels

Children move through their schooling in age-specific batches or “year groups”, nearly always staying with the same year group and moving up in annual stages. In primary schools these are called Primary stages (P1, P2 etc) and similarly at secondary school they are S1, S2 etc. Children starting at nursery and staying in school until the end of S6 will be at school for 14 years in total.

The Curriculum for Excellence divides this 14-year school career into six **levels** of achievement. Confusingly, the first of these **levels** is called **Early Years**, the second is called **Level 1**, and so on up with the sixth level being called **Senior Phase**. The chart below makes this a bit clearer.



Each **level** is intended to be achieved by most children over a two or three-year period. The Curriculum allows for the fact that some children will achieve more quickly than this, and others more slowly, and that they will progress at different rates in different subjects.

For this reason a class of children at P5, for instance, may contain some who are working at **level 2** in Maths and **level 3** in Social Studies, or **level 1** in Writing and **level 3** in Sciences. Each child, in theory, moves through each **subject** in the curriculum at the appropriate pace for them. Some children may not achieve all the **levels** of the curriculum by the end of S3, and some may go beyond **Level 4** into ‘enrichment’ learning.

The levels of the curriculum from **Early Years** to **Level 4** are collectively called the **Broad General Education** stage.

When children reach the end of S3 (aged 14/15) they finish the **Broad General Education** stage of the curriculum, regardless of the curriculum level they have reached, and they move to national qualifications courses leading to **Access**, **National**, **Higher** and **Advanced Higher** qualifications in different **subjects**. This 6th level of the Curriculum for Excellence is called the **Senior Phase**.