The “Big Picture” of the Curriculum at Key Stage 3

CURRICULUM AIM

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives . . .

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

- to develop the young person as an individual
- to develop the young person as a contributor to society
- to develop the young person as a contributor to the economy & environment

FOR

LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK

- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
- HOME ECONOMICS
- LOCAL & GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
- EMPLOYABILITY

THROUGH

KEY ELEMENTS

- personal understanding, mutual understanding, personal health, moral character, spiritual awareness
- citizenship, cultural understanding, media awareness, ethical awareness
- employability, economic awareness, education for sustainable development

INFUSING

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS

- COMMUNICATION
- USING MATHEMATICS
- USING ICT

THINKING SKILLS & PERSONAL CAPABILITIES

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making
- Being Creative
- Working with Others
- Self Management

ACROSS

AREAS OF LEARNING

- THE ARTS
- ENGLISH (IRISH in Irish Medium Schools) with Media Education
- ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY
- MATHEMATICS with Financial Capability
- MODERN LANGUAGES
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PROMOTING / ENCOURAGING

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- investigating & problem solving
- linked to other curriculum areas
- relevant and enjoyable
- media-rich
- skills integrated
- active and hands on
- offers choice
- challenging and engaging
- supportive environment
- culturally diverse
- positive reinforcement
- varied to suit learning style
- on-going reflection
- enquiry based

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

- building a more open relationship between learner and teacher
- clear learning intentions shared with pupils
- shared / negotiated success criteria
- individual target setting
- taking risks for learning
- advice on what to improve and how to improve it
- peer and self assessment
- celebrate success against agreed success criteria
- peer and self evaluation of learning

ATTITUDES & DISPOSITIONS

- personal responsibility
- concern for others
- commitment – determination – resourcefulness
- openness to new ideas
- self belief – optimism – pragmatism
- curiosity
- community spirit
- flexibility
- tolerance
- integrity – moral courage
- respect