



From mountain to sea

Inclusion in Aberdeenshire Schools

Our Universal Offer to Children and Young People

Our Commitment

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to children and young people being educated within their local mainstream school. Education staff work with the families of children with additional support needs to identify their needs and agree the adaptations that are required to meet those needs. This may include, for example, curricular adaptations, teaching and learning approaches, support strategies, environmental adaptations, communication requirements, specialist equipment or staff undertaking professional learning.

All Aberdeenshire Schools take a solution-focused approach to overcoming any barriers to inclusion. They seek advice and support from relevant Education Support Services and multi-agency partners as appropriate.

Our Universal Offer to Children and Young People

A whole school inclusive approach embeds practices in the everyday life of a school that are known to be effective in supporting pupils with additional support needs. These practices often also benefit other learners who do not have additional support needs.

There are a number of whole school inclusive approaches that are being implemented in all Aberdeenshire schools as part of our universal offer to all children and young people.

The CIRCLE Resource to Support Inclusive Learning and Collaborative Working

The CIRCLE resource is being implemented in all primary and secondary



C CHILD
I INCLUSION
R RESEARCH INTO
C CURRICULUM
L LEARNING
E EDUCATION

classrooms across Aberdeenshire. CIRCLE supports class teachers to ensure their classroom is set up in a way that is fully inclusive of all learners. It also helps teachers to identify and anticipate pupils' additional support needs and to plan practical strategies to support individual learners.

Play Based Learning

Play is an important part of every childhood. It is essential for children's wellbeing and their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. High quality play is also known to benefit children with learning difficulties, developmental gaps and sensory needs. Aberdeenshire schools use play and playful pedagogy as a vehicle for learning, particularly in the early stages of primary education.



Understanding and Supporting Autistic Learners

Staff in Aberdeenshire schools have access to high quality professional learning which ensures that they have the knowledge and skills required to understand and support autistic learners.

Education staff who have direct and substantial contact with autistic learners have access to training in areas such as:

- Helping autistic children and young people feel welcome in school
- Cognitive theories of autism
- Autism and communication
- Understanding sensory behaviours
- Autism and anxiety



Dyslexia Friendly Schools

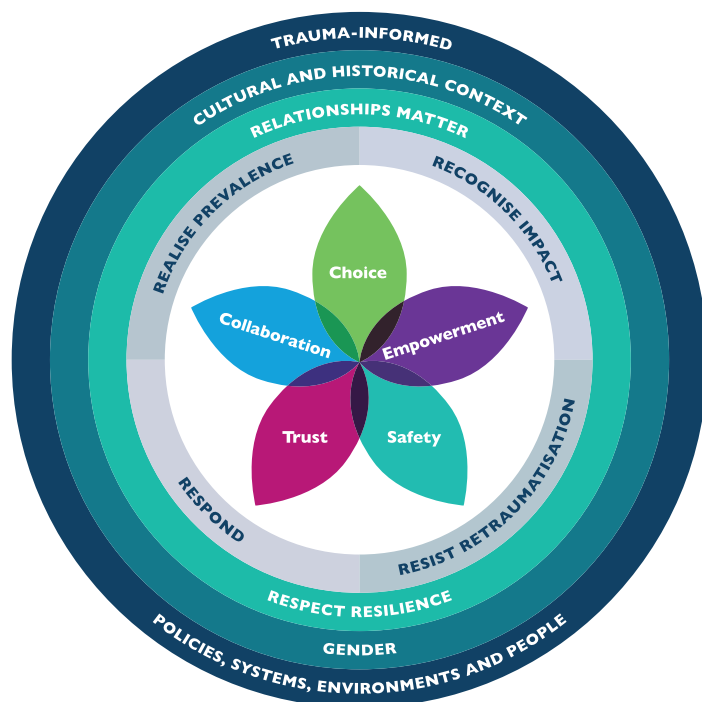
All Aberdeenshire schools are dyslexia friendly. Staff are able to identify and respond to difficulties that pupils with dyslexia may encounter. Dyslexia friendly practices enhance the learning of all children and young people, whether they are dyslexic or not. They are therefore embedded in everyday teaching and learning practice.

Inclusive Communication Approaches

Inclusive communication is an approach which enables children and young people with speech, language and communication needs to be included and supported to reach their fullest potential. Aberdeenshire schools create a supportive and effective communication environment using every means of communication available for people to understand and be understood. Education staff have access to high quality professional learning to help them understand and support inclusive communication.

Trauma Informed Practice and Nurture Approaches

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to developing a trauma informed and trauma responsive workforce. All Aberdeenshire schools adopt nurture approaches, which are key to supporting children who may have experienced trauma or adversity. These approaches, along with restorative practices, foster positive relationships across the whole school, ensuring that every child feels a sense of safety and belonging.



Restorative Approaches

All Aberdeenshire schools use restorative approaches to restore and maintain good relationships when there has been conflict and harm. This promotes empathy, respect, emotional wellbeing and good communication across the school.

Culturally Responsive Schools

All Aberdeenshire schools view diversity as a source of knowledge. Each school aims to be culturally responsive, striving to connect pupils' cultures, languages and life experiences with what they learn in school.