

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

To: Education Committee	Report: Revised 5-14 Guidelines
From: Director of Education	
Date: March 2001 Ref:	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides members with information relating to the publication of revised 5-14 Guidelines

RECOMMENDATIONS

The education committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report



Members wishing further information on this report should contact:

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REVISED 5-14 GUIDELINES

REPORT BY DIRECTOR

Background

- 1.1 In March 1998, the then Minister for Education announced a review of the National guidelines on Environmental Studies (Science, Social; Subjects, Health Education and Information Technology). The aim of the review was to simplify and clarify the current documents.
- 1.2 An initial consultation undertaken by the then Scottish CCC between October and December 1998 endorsed the proposals that the national guidelines for Science, Social Subjects and Technology should be revised and simplified and that the guidance on Information Technology and Health Education be relocated within the overall 5-14 framework.
- 1.3 In May 1999, the Scottish CCC was commissioned to undertake a consultation about possible amendments to the guidelines on structure and balance of the 5-15 curriculum. In particular, a review of the recommended time allocations as set out in the document Structure and Balance of the Curriculum was to be undertaken in relation to the changes proposed in response to the 1998 consultation.
- 1.4 Simultaneously, a review of the 5-14 Guidelines on Modern Languages was undertaken to take account of the Modern Languages in the Primary School initiative and amended Standard Grade arrangements.

Development

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive Education Department published a Circular 4/2000 in October 2000 to signal to authorities the forthcoming distribution of the revised 5-14 guidelines on Environmental Studies, Health ICT, Structure and Balance and Modern Languages.
- 2.2 The revised guidelines were commended as a useful model for delivery of these areas of the curriculum.
- 2.3 Where schools had satisfactory programmes in place, it was not expected that any changes would be required as a result of these guidelines.
- 2.4 Education authorities were asked to handle distribution locally.

Current Position

- 3.1 The revised 5-14 guidelines for Structure and Balance of the Curriculum, Environmental Studies, Science, Social Subjects, Technology, Health Education and Information Communication Technology have been distributed to schools.
- 3.2 The documents consisted of a set of guidelines for each area and a guide for teachers and managers. Every primary teacher received a copy of all documents. Subject specialists in secondary schools received a copy of relevant documents and additional copies were supplied to Senior Management teams in secondary
- 3.3 The revised documents for Modern Languages await the consideration by Ministers of the report of the Action Group on Modern Languages.

- 3.4 North Lanarkshire Council was the first authority nationally to recognise the need to review the entire 5-14 programme and address the issue of time allocations to support raising achievement in literacy and numeracy and support development in Environmental Studies.
- 3.5 In October 1997, the Education Committee approved a paper from the director which provided schools with advice and support to implement Environmental Studies 5-14 with a reduced time weighting for primaries 1-6 and a series of resources to ensure skill development, curriculum content coverage and adherence to the national guidelines framework.
- 3.6 The revised guidelines on Structure and Balance recognises the proactive stance taken by North Lanarkshire by offering locally negotiated time allocations which will endorse the core development of literacy and numeracy in the early years.
- 3.7 The targeted development of Environmental Studies support material will continue to empower schools to address the content and skill development of North Lanarkshire pupils.

#### Recommendations

- 4.1 The education committee is asked to:
  - (i) note the contents of the report