

Braes High School Parent Guide to Curriculum for Excellence Levels



Understanding Your Child's Learning Journey

Welcome to the Braes High School guide to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) – the Scottish Government's framework that shapes your young person's learning from ages 3 to 18 in Scotland. This guide is here to help you understand the different levels within the Broad General Education of CfE as well as what the bronze, silver, and gold indicators mean for your young person's learning journey.

Levels in the Broad General Education

CfE is designed to support all children and young people in Scotland in their education to succeed in learning, life, and work. It is organised into various levels that correspond to different stages of your young person's education. The Broad General Education covers the learning from P1 to S3. Here's an overview:

- **Early Level** (Typically pre-school to the end of P1): This is where your young person starts their educational journey. At this stage, they will be introduced to foundational concepts and skills that lay the groundwork for future learning.
- **First Level** (Typically to the end of P4): In this stage, your young person continues to build upon their foundational knowledge and skills. They will be encouraged to explore new subjects and ideas, setting the stage for more in-depth learning.
- **Second Level** (Typically to the end of P7): As your young person moves to the second level, they will delve deeper into subjects and start developing a more comprehensive understanding of various topics.
- **Third Level** (Typically in S1 to S3): During these years of secondary school, your young person will be working towards mastering a wider range of subjects and skills.
- **Fourth Level** (Typically to the end of S3): The fourth level is broadly equivalent to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4 (e.g. National 4) and your young person will strive to achieve mastery in a broad array of subjects and skills.

Within each of these CfE levels, your young person's achievement is assessed using a simple and informative system - bronze, silver and gold. Here's what the bronze, silver, and gold levels mean:

- **Bronze:** When your young person is at the bronze level, it means they are at the early stage of working at that particular level. They are in the process of developing the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.

- Silver: A silver level indicates that your young person is making positive achievements at their current level. They have already developed many of the required skills and acquired a substantial amount of the necessary knowledge.
- Gold: When your young person reaches the gold level, it signifies that they have successfully mastered a wide range of skills and acquired almost all of the knowledge necessary to move to the next level in their learning journey. This is an important milestone that reflects their competence and confidence in their learning.

What to Expect

As your young person moves through the different levels of CfE, you can expect them to experience a gradual and progressive increase in the complexity of their studies. This is a natural part of their educational journey, designed to challenge and stimulate their growth.

Remember that every young person is unique, and development may vary from one individual to another as well as from subject to subject. CfE is flexible and adaptable, allowing each young person to learn at their own pace and according to their own strengths and needs.

The Senior Phase

Following the third and fourth levels, your young person will enter the senior phase (S4 to S6). Here, they will have the opportunity to further develop their skills and knowledge while working towards qualifications. The level of qualification in the senior phase may vary depending on your young person's needs and aptitudes. In S4 this is typically at SCQF level 4 and 5 before progressing to SCQF level 5 and 6 in S5. At Braes High School we run many qualifications up to SCQF level 7.

Tracking reports

CfE provides a national framework for your young person's education, ensuring they have the skills, knowledge, and understanding they need to succeed in learning, life, and work. The bronze, silver, and gold levels are valuable indicators of your young person's achievement within each level, helping you to support and celebrate their educational journey. Remember, every step your young person takes, regardless of the level, is a significant achievement in their pursuit of knowledge and personal growth.

In order to support their growth effectively, we also include a teacher comment along with clear next steps. The teacher comments serve as a short and personalised reflection on your young person's development, highlighting their strengths and potential areas for improvement. Outlining specific next steps ensures you and your young person understand how to build upon their strengths and address their challenges. This holistic approach not only encourages improvement but also nurtures a positive and growth-oriented learning environment where every young person can earn success.