



Penicuik High School

CURRICULUM REVIEW



Information for Parents and Carers

Curriculum Review

This term we are planning a comprehensive review of the curriculum at Penicuik High School. This document explains the nature and purpose of the review and provides parents with information about the review process and possible outcomes.

The curriculum is an important part of the life and work of the school so it's important we consult with parents and carers to seek their views and determine priorities.

Penicuik High curriculum

The term '*curriculum*' refers to all the courses and subjects offered by the school. More broadly the curriculum covers:

- the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn
- the units and lessons that teachers teach
- the assignments, projects and assessments given to students
- the syllabi specified by the Scottish Qualifications Authority

Why review the curriculum?

Recent changes to the Scottish education system have required all schools to revisit their curricula to ensure that young people have high quality learning experiences and are able to develop skills required for learning, life and work.

At Penicuik High we need to determine what changes are required to our curriculum to ensure all students are successful learners and achieve positive and sustained destinations after

leaving school. We need to consider some important questions, for example:

- Does our current curriculum have a clear rationale and educational philosophy?
- Are we providing students with an appropriate range of subjects and courses?
- Are we offering the right balance of academic and vocational options?
- Are students taking the optimum number of exam courses to ensure academic success?
- Do we provide appropriate pathways that help students follow their chosen career path?
- Do we ensure adequate opportunities for personalisation and choice?
- Are there sufficient opportunities for work experience and training?
- Could we align our curriculum arrangements more closely with those of neighbouring schools?
- Does our long-established school timetable need to be changed?

Current challenges

In recent years cuts to the local authority budget have impacted the level of funding available for education. Efficiency savings have placed additional restrictions on staffing levels and this has required schools to consider how best to mitigate these financial challenges so that students continue to receive a broad and balanced range of subjects and courses. Aligning our senior

phase timetable with that of our neighbouring school Beeslack is one way of helping to ensure Penicuik students continue to receive a broad choice of SQA subjects in S4-S6.

In the years ahead it is likely that further savings will be required, which is another reason to carry out a curriculum review at this time.

How will the review be carried out?

We will consider all of the important questions raised earlier in this document, and we'll involve all stakeholders – learners, parents, teaching staff and our partners within the community. Consultation will be carried out through:

- online surveys
- focus group meetings
- information evenings

We want to hear from all parents and carers and we will be in touch shortly with details about the consultation process and how you can make your views known.

The review will cover Broad General Education (S1-3) and the Senior Phase (S4-6). It will look closely at the current curriculum architecture, i.e., the school timetable and the menu of courses and programmes from which students choose their subjects.

Our curriculum rationale will also be reviewed (this is the reasoning behind the curriculum offered) to ensure it aligns with Penicuik's PRIDE values (Participation, Respect, Inclusion, Determination and Excellence) and our vision for the school.

When will changes happen?

The consultation process is Phase 1 of the review and will be carried out this term. Decisions will be made in time for the start of timetable planning in January 2020. Development work and curriculum planning will be carried out in the second half of this session.

Changes will be phased in over 3 years to minimise the impact on students and disruption to the work of the school.

What could change?

The curriculum review could result in some significant changes, for example:

- changes to the number of periods (currently 28 per week) and their duration
- changes to our course option menu from which students select subjects and levels
- removing registration time first thing in the morning
- aligning our Senior Phase timetable with Beeslack's to enable more personalisation and choice
- timetabling students from S4-S6 together as one cohort creating more flexibility in staffing
- changing the number of SQA courses that students study – e.g., taking 6 National 5 courses instead of 7 to allocate more time to each course
- an increased focus on skills for life, learning and work within BGE (S1-3)

Curriculum Design

Curriculum architecture is the term used to represent the design of courses and programmes from which students choose their subjects in the senior phase and also the structure of the school timetable. At present Penicuik has 28 periods per week of 60 or 55 minutes duration, with 10 minutes registration at the start of each day. This means a 6 period day, which determines how much time overall is allocated to subjects such as English and Maths in each academic year.

Penicuik is the only school in Midlothian which runs on a 28 period plus registration structure, other schools operate a 32 or 33 period model. Such models have 7 periods of 50 minutes each day and provide more flexibility and choice in the design of the curriculum and in the allocation of staffing. As part of the

review at Penicuik we want to consider changing to a 32 or 33 period week.

The following pages show our current 28 period architecture within compared with alternative 32 and 33 period models. Alternative models A and B illustrate the kinds of changes to the curriculum that such a change would facilitate. These options offer manageable short term changes with a presumption of reduced staffing, and they do not require extensive curriculum developments.

We need to ensure our timetable structure maximises resources to ensure we provide the best possible education for all students.

At the end of this document our current timetable is compared with alternative options relating to 32 or 33 period weeks.



		Current Design 28 periods
	Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 taught periods of 60 or 55 minutes each per week. • 10 minutes registration at the start of each day.
Broad General Education	S1/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S1 - 4 periods of Maths & English per week. • S2 - 3 periods of Maths & English per week with an additional numeracy lesson per week. • 3 or 4 periods per week of the following curricular areas, Social Subjects, Science, Modern Languages, Expressive Arts, Technologies & Health & Wellbeing. • 1 period of Religious Education in S1 and 2 in S2.
	S3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 periods of Maths & English per week. • 3 periods per week of the following curricular areas; Social Subjects, Science, Modern Languages, Expressive Arts, Technologies & Health & Wellbeing in S3 where subject specialisms are chosen in preparation for S4.
Senior Phase	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 subject choices made for study at N4/5 Level. • Partnership working & work experience are also on offer. • 2 periods of P.E. • Religious Education & Personal & Social Education periods are also included.
	S5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 OR 6 subject choices at National, Higher or Advanced Higher Level. • There are options to travel to other schools to study courses not offered at Penicuik due to the size of the school. • In S6 pupils may have study periods on their timetable to support course work. • 1 period of P.E. • 1 period of Personal & Social Education.

Comment on Options Presented

1. Each version A-D shows the BGE areas broken down into subjects and areas but any variation could be possible within the framework of periods available depending on available resources
2. No registration period is shown but the 33rd period could be used for this in any option modelled.
3. We could use a combination of ideas from these models but changes shown may need to be phased in over several years in line with staffing and other resources.
4. Having a combined senior phase will be important to help with staffing efficiency but it may be difficult to have a 7 column option for S4 also being used for S5/6.
5. One key difference in the options shown is the level of personalisation and choice at S3 and the number of periods given to subjects other than Maths and English
6. The other key difference is the number of options offered at S4/5/6 through the columns. There is an option to have 7 courses available from s4-6 or 6 courses from S4-6. This means we would only offer up to 6 National 5 courses in the 6 column model which is the national average for National 5 offers. Having 6 does offer more teaching time and the chance for more depth in learning but 7 is favoured by many stakeholders when previously discussed.

7. With regard to National 5, it is worth noting the average no. of Nat 5 courses taken across the S4 cohort for the 2018-19 diet was 4.2 meaning there were many blended courses where students took both Nat 4 and Nat 5
8. Leaver destinations is something we need to consider in terms of our offer. The table below shows the largest destination categories for confirmed SLDR data in 2017-18

Positive Destinations 2017-18	Cohort Size	% Employed	% Further Education	% Higher Education
Penicuik High School	87	36.8	29.9	28.7

9. The final section presents information on the Timetable structure and possible timings for the school day.
10. Electives in Option D could be a chance for staff to design their own course that may be outside the Curriculum for Excellence but offer skills for life, learning and work and/or could lead to an accredited award e.g. John Muir, Saltire Award. This would need development time and be phased in.

Option A – 32 or 33 Periods

N.B. **PSE** – Personal and Social education / **RE** – Religious Education / **IDL**- inter-disciplinary learning (contexts/ themes taught that cover more than one subject/Empl. Employability skills – a course focusing on skills for work and training/study

BGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		
S1	English and Literacy					Maths and Numeracy					Modern Languages				Science				Social Subjects				Expressive Arts			Health and wellbeing			Technologies		PSE	RE	IDL – 3 units		

S2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		
	English and Literacy					Maths and Numeracy					Modern Languages				Science				Social Subjects				Expressive Arts			Health and wellbeing			Technologies		PSE	RE	IDL- Employability focus		

S3 Personalisation Pathways	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33				
	English				Maths			Personalisation and Choice																									PE		PSE /RE		
	5 x subject choice from Curricular Areas @ 4 periods per weeks																																				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		
*S4-6 Senior Phase	A				B				C				D				E				F				G				CORE		NOT ASSIGNED				
	English				Maths				English				Maths				Subject Choice				Subject Choice				CORE S5/6 s4 Subject Choice				PE/PSE/RE (S4)						
	Subject Choice 1				Subject Choice 2				Subject Choice 3				Subject Choice 4				Subject Choice 5				Subject Choice 6				Subject Choice 7				2 period must be PE						
*Senior phase (S4-6) take up to 7 courses	Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G				Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G						

Option B – 32 OR 33 Period

BGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S1	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy					Modern Languages			Science				Social Subjects			Expressive Arts			Health and Wellbeing			Technologies			P S E	RE			

S2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy			Modern Languages			Science				Social Subjects				Expressive Arts			Health and wellbeing			Technologies			PSE	RE				

S3 Personalisation Pathways	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	English				Maths					Personalisation and Choice 6 x subject choice from Curricular Areas @ 3 periods per week																		PSE	PE	Empl.	RE		

S4-6 Senior Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	A					B					C					D					E					F					CORE		NOT ASSIGNED
	English					Maths					English					Maths					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					PE/PSE/RME (S4)		
	Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Time will be required for further Core PE period		
	Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G							

Option C – 32 or 33 Periods

BGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S1	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy				Modern Languages			Science			Social Subjects			Expressive Arts			PE		Health and Wellbeing			Technologies			RE	IDL 3 units			

S2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S2	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy				Modern Languages			Science			Social Subjects			Expressive Arts			Health and wellbeing			Technologies			PSE/RE	IDL/ Empl. Skills 3 units					

S3 Personalisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S3 Personalisation	English				Maths				Personalisation and Choice 7x subject choice from Curricular Areas @ 3 periods per week																				PE		PSE/RE Rota		

S4-6 Senior Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S4-6 Senior Phase	A					B					C					D					E					F					CORE		PE/PSE/RME (S4) Time will be required for further Core PE period
	English					Maths					English					Maths					Subject Choice					Subject Choice							
	Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice												
	Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G												

Option D - 32 OR 33 Periods

BGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
S1	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy				Modern Languages			Science			Social Subjects			Expressive Arts			PE		Health and Wellbeing			Technologies		RE	IDL				

S2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	33
	English and Literacy				Maths and Numeracy				Modern Languages			Science			Social Subjects			Expressive Arts			Health and wellbeing		Technologies			PSE/R	IDL/ Empl. Skills					

S3 Personalisation Pathways	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	English				Maths				6x subject choice from Curricular Areas @ 3 periods per week Personalisation and Choice																			Electives		PE	PSE/RE Rota		

S4-6 Senior Phase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	A					B					C					D					E					F					CORE		
	English					Maths					English					Maths					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					PE/PSE/RME (S4)		
	Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Subject Choice					Time will be required for further Core PE period		
	Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G					Wider Achievement Options possible within some columns A to G							

Timetable Structures

Current school timetable and timings based on 28 periods plus Registration

Monday - Thursday		Friday	
Registration	8.30 – 8.40 am	Registration	8.30 – 8.40am
Period 1	8.40 – 9.40 am	Period 1	8.40 – 9.35 am
Period 2	9.40 – 10.40 am	Period 2	9.35 – 10.30 am
Interval	10:40 – 10:55 am	Interval	10.35 – 11.45 am
Period 3	10.55 – 11.55am	Period 3	10.45 – 11.40 am
Period 4	11.55 – 12.50pm	Period 4	11.40 – 12.35pm
Lunch	12:50 – 1.35 pm	School Closes at 12:35 pm	
Period 6	1.35 – 2.30pm		
Period 7	2.30 - 3.25pm		

There are 3 alternative options to consider based on 32 or 33 periods and these are presented on the following pages.

Option 1: 32 Period Week and no Registration

Drop Registration and have a 32 period teaching week of 4 days (Monday to Thursday) of 7 periods and one day (Friday) with 4 periods. Each period would be 50 minutes long and there would be no standalone Registration period at the start of each day. Staff non-contact time will be 6 period per week which is exactly 5 hours (300 minutes).

Monday - Thursday	
Period 1	8.30 – 9.20 am
Period 2	9.20 – 10.10 am
Period 3	10.10 – 11.00 am
Interval	11.00 – 11.15 am
Period 4	11.15 – 12.05 pm
Period 5	12.05 – 12.55 pm
Lunch	12.55 – 1.45 pm
Period 6	1.45 – 2.35 pm
Period 7	2.35 - 3.25 pm

Friday	
Period 1	8.30 – 9.20 am
Period 2	9.20 – 10.10 am
Interval	10.10 – 10.25 am
Period 3	10.25 – 11.15 pm
Period 4	11.15 – 12.05 pm
School closes	

Option 2: 32 Period Week plus Registration

Have a 32 period teaching week of 4 days (Monday to Thursday) of 7 periods and one day (Friday) with 4 periods. Each period would be 50 minutes long and there would also be a standalone Registration period at the start of each day of 10 minutes. Staff non-contact time will be 6 period per week which is exactly 5 hours (300 minutes).

Monday - Thursday	
Registration	8.30 – 8.40 am
Period 1	8.40 – 9.30 am
Period 2	9.30 – 10.20 am
Period 3	10.20 – 11.10 am
Interval	11.10 – 11.25 am
Period 4	11.25 – 12.15 pm
Period 5	12.15 – 1.05 pm
Lunch	1.05 – 1.50 pm
Period 6	1.50 – 2.40pm
Period 7	2.40 - 3.30 pm

Friday	
Registration	8.30 – 8.40 am
Period 1	8.40 – 9.30 am
Period 2	9.30 – 10.20 am
Interval	10.20 – 10.35 am
Period 3	10.35 – 11.25 pm
Period 4	11.25 – 12.15 pm
School closes	

Option 3: 33 period week and no Registration

Have a 33 period teaching week of 4 days (Monday to Thursday) of 7 periods and one day (Friday) with 5 periods. School would close nearer 1:00 pm on the Friday. Each period would be 50 minutes long and there would also be no standalone Registration period at the start of each day. Staff non-contact time will be 6 period per week which is exactly 5 hours (300 minutes).

Monday - Thursday	
Period 1	8.30 – 9.20 am
Period 2	9.20 – 10.10 am
Period 3	10.10 – 11.00 am
Interval	11.00 – 11.15 am
Period 4	11.15 – 12.05 pm
Period 5	12.05 – 12.55 pm
Lunch	12.55 – 1.45 pm
Period 6	1.45 – 2.35 pm
Period 7	2.35 - 3.25 pm

Friday	
Period 1	8.30 – 9.20 am
Period 2	9.20 – 10.10 am
Interval	10.10 – 10.25 am
Period 3	10.25 – 11.15 pm
Period 4	11.15 – 12.05 pm
Period 5	12.05- 12.55 pm
School closes	