

South West



Educational Improvement
Collaborative

December 2020 Newsletter



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collaboration



Colleagues

Not another Christmas Card, but the SWEIC newsletter to keep you from wearying over the holiday. It is clear from the newsletter that despite everything that is happening there is a significant amount of collaborative work continuing. You will all be familiar with the proverb that says if you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go long go together. In these challenging times it would be easy to go it alone and pull up the shutters, but I am convinced we are stronger when we work collectively. This is true at school, local authority and collaborative level. I am very grateful to everyone who has taken part in the various blethers and very much enjoyed taking part when I could. The year ahead will be a better year but there will be challenges in the remainder of the Winter. Spring and summer will arrive and better times. In the meantime, let's continue to support each other and work collaboratively to make it to the other side.

My thanks once again to the SWEIC team for keeping things going as we moved online. Thanks also to each and every one of you for your commitment to, and support for, our children, young people and families. Thank you for your continuing support of the collaborative and I hope that you enjoy the festive break and a much needed rest.

Best Wishes

Douglas



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Outdoor learning

Being outdoors and active is a vital part of growing up and living a healthy and fulfilled life. Outdoor learning benefits children, young people and adults alike. It engages our hearts through what we feel and the emotions we experience; our heads through what we think, see and say; and our hands through our physical experiences including how we move through the space the outdoors provides. Outdoor learning can happen anywhere – from the school grounds to local greenspace, from the high street to national parks; from outside your front door to the rest of the world.

Quick 4 min watch – [Outdoor Learning in Scottish Education](#)

The value that learning and teaching outdoors offers to our health and wellbeing, in addition to the learning benefits are now being more widely recognised and within the SWEIC we are keen to support high quality provision.

Across the authorities we have a diverse range of services which collaboratively can offer a progressive framework of learning in school grounds, local greenspaces, urban communities and residential centres. We have professional staff that are uniquely positioned to offer professional learning opportunities in curriculum and adventure activities.



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Professional Development

Building capacity within schools for teaching and learning to take place in the outdoor context is a key aim of the Learning Outdoors Support Team. We value and recognise the expertise of teachers and understand that to embed outdoor learning in a sustainable way, delivered as an integral part of learning and teaching frequently and regularly in all classes, we must ensure teachers feel confident and safe in the outdoor environment.

There are a wide range of professional learning opportunities for building your capacity to teach outdoors.

[Teacher Professional Development](#)

[Early Years Practitioners Professional Development](#)

[Head Teacher/Systems Leader Professional Development](#)

[Education Scotland - A summary of outdoor learning resources](#)



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@eaclost

Take the learning outdoors



The Learning Outdoors Support Team have a wide variety of lesson plans, learning themes, challenges and a weekly newsletter;

Lesson plans – all curriculum areas - [Lesson Plans](#)

Learning themes offer 4 lessons [Learning Themes](#)

Specific ASN learning pages - [Additional Support Needs](#)

Lessons for learning at home support - [Learning at home](#)

Weekly newsletter, lesson plans, funding, resources, webinars, research - [Newsletters](#)



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Closing the gap workstream

A Primary Head Teacher Blether took place on the 26th November around the themes of assessment and tracking progress; the use and impact of interventions and Covid recovery teachers; and positive behaviour/social skills. Susan Duff, Senior Inspector in the South West locality team, reassured Head Teachers with her presentation on 'Priorities during Covid'. Susan's presentation can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Head Teachers then broke up into smaller groups for discussions. Feedback was positive with many Heads saying that it was good to hear what others were doing and further opportunities to collaborate were welcomed.

A series of blethers for primary practitioners were organised, focussing on the challenges faced and lessons learned during the return to school.

On the 3rd December, first level teachers provided positive feedback following their blether, saying, "Refreshing to hear that we are all having very similar experiences in school" and a participant had welcomed sharing "Ideas for getting around limitations placed on us by Covid."

Early level teachers met on 10th December, again welcoming the opportunity to share experiences and ideas with their peers. A second level teacher blether is planned for 21st January. Please use this link to register

<https://bit.ly/3kq5nG9>



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Closing the gap workstream

On 9th December secondary leaders met on-line to hear a presentation by Jacqui Nimmo, Education Scotland on 'Getting it right for all learners during Covid-19'. Tracy Stewart, SAC, Diana Zutic, D&G and Linzie Sloan, NAC then spoke about their school's experience of supporting their learners in a Covid world. Participants then broke out into smaller groups to discuss themes around mental health and quality learning and teaching in the current context. Jacqui provided the following links which may support schools at this time.

<https://young.scot/campaigns/national/aye-feel>

[Young people's mental health \(seemescotland.org\)](https://seemescotland.org)

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/health-and-wellbeing-activities/the-journey-adventures-in-resilience/>

[Emerging practice across education authorities | Emerging practice | COVID-19 education recovery | National Improvement Hub](#) (published Dec 2020)

<https://sites.google.com/eds.glow.scot/girf-all-learners-during-covid/home>



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Future On-line Collaborative Opportunities

Date	SWEIC Activity
18.11.20 2.12.20 20.1.21 10.2.21 28.4.21 26.5.21	P1 Literacy Pedagogy and Practice Programme 4 - 5.15pm Language and Communication Phonological Awareness and Phonics The Balanced Reader and Writer
3 rd November 24 th November 8 th December 12 th January	Evolving Systems Thinking Programme 1.30 – 4.00pm
21 st January	Primary Teachers Blether –Second level - 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday 9 th December Wednesday 3 rd February Wednesday 21 st April Wednesday 12 th May	Eco Schools Programme Webinars – Google meet, 4-5pm Introduction and refresh of the EcoSchools Programme Drafting the action plan Question and Answers Surgery-possible focus on one Topic Monitoring, Surveying and Evaluation
Wednesday 27 th January	Outdoor Learning for Head Teachers – A Strategic Approach
2 nd February	Education Recovery Teachers Blethers - 4-5pm Initial Experiences, Impact and Measures
18 th May	Impact, Outcomes and the future
24 th February	Webinar - Mind the (new) Gaps An opportunity for practitioners and school leaders to explore disadvantage as influenced by Covid-19, its impact on attainment and effective mitigations.



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Assessment and Moderation workstream

Digital Moderation

From March 2020 to present, practitioners have been successfully undertaking a range of professional learning through digital platforms.

With this mind, professional learning aimed at improving teacher confidence in their professional judgements will be offered to practitioners via Teams. A flipped learning delivery model will ensure that practitioners will be actively involved in knowledge construction around the learning, teaching and assessment cycle as they participate in these sessions and evaluate their learning in a manner that is personally meaningful. Prior to the session and at a time of their choosing, practitioners will engage with a video outlining the key elements of the learning, teaching and assessment cycle. They will be asked to submit assessment evidence prior to the session to support their learning in the session. This will support their engagement in professional discussion and the practical activities.

QAMSOs will lead the professional learning by facilitating and supporting small group sessions at the end of the school day.

A menu of professional learning opportunities focussing on the learning, teaching and assessment cycle will be made available to schools/practitioners in the new year.

It is also hoped to organise a series of 'wee blethers' led by QAMSOs around the learning, teaching and assessment cycle during the course of this session.



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E-learning

Sheelagh Rusby, QIM from D&G, has been seconded to lead e-learning within the SWEIC. Sheelagh will also represent SWEIC at the national implementation board meetings. A regional implementation group has been formed to take forward the national e-learning offer and support e-learning transformation across the SWEIC. The group's priority is to establish what the collaborative's vision is for e-learning and how this links to individual local authority digital strategies and priorities. To support this a SWEIC digital skills audit, supported by Education Scotland is planned for the New Year.

A letter has been issued to teachers across the SW asking for contributions to the national offer. Practitioners from across all four local authorities have been invited to submit a description of any potential educational resource they are willing to share for early learning and childcare, the BGE or senior phase NQ. The description should specify the curricular area or NQ subject, the level and the content. Practitioners have been asked to submit descriptions of potential resources, to their local authority representative on the SWEIC e implementation group. Already a number of responses have been received.

On the 5th November 2020, as part of the National e-Learning Offer a supported study blog went live <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/nationalelearning/>. This blog, available through Glow is accessible to all children and young people to support blended learning, those children and young people who are self-isolating or shielding and anytime anywhere learning. Advanced Higher has been added to the menu from week beginning 23rd November. This is being provided by the Glasgow Caledonian University Adv Higher Hub. All 4 LAs are engaging in the supported study offer.

A SWEIC subgroup for Advanced Higher is planned to meet week beginning 11th Jan . Nationally Advanced Higher e learning is also being explored.

A SWEIC e blog is being set up to support practitioners in accessing e learning resources as well as professional learning resources to support delivery. This will go live after Christmas .



SWEIC Numeracy and Mathematics Professional Learning Team

The SWEIC Maths Group was formed in February 2019 with the aims of improving the quality of learning, teaching and assessment in numeracy and mathematics through sharing practice and collaborating across the South-West to design and deliver high quality CLPL inputs for practitioners across the South West Collaborative.

During lockdown the SWEIC Maths Group developed the SWEIC Numeracy and Mathematics PL Team site. This professional learning team provides links to a wide range of anytime, anywhere numeracy and maths focused CLPL inputs, resources and sources of inspiration currently being provided across our local authorities, including the recording of the 'Mathematical Reasoning using Bar Models' CLPL input delivered by the SWEIC Numeracy Leaders during session 2019-20. To date 210 practitioners from across the four authorities have joined the Team. To access the SWEIC Numeracy PL Team please follow the instructions provided in this [link](#).

The SWEIC Maths Group are currently investigating opportunities for practitioners to engage in discussion and collaborate on key issues in relation to teaching and learning in numeracy and mathematics within this virtual space. Details in relation to this will be made available during this session.

SWEIC Maths and Education Scotland Professional Learning

Education Scotland are working with the SWEIC Maths group to deliver a series of numeracy and mathematics webinars in January and March 2021. These webinars will complement the National Numeracy Professional Learning Resources .The first two themes in the series are:

Number and Number Processes and Fractions, Decimal Fractions and Percentages

Each theme will have two webinars:

One aimed at practitioners working at Early Level through to Second Level, and

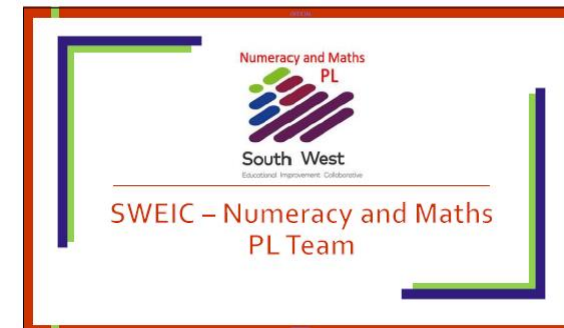
One aimed at practitioners working at Second through to Fourth Level

Further information and access details can be found in the attached [flyer](#).

Webinars will take place on the SWEIC Numeracy and Maths Professional Learning Microsoft Team and a Glow login will be required to access it.

Further joining instructions will be sent out following registration to the webinars.

Plans are underway to offer further sessions in relation to Time, Data Handling and Chance and Uncertainty towards the end of this session. Information regarding these sessions will be sent out through local authority Communication channels.



Early Years

•The first SWEIC Blether for early years practitioners was held on November 30th. Entitled “Planning for Learning, Teaching & Assessment in early learning and childcare” this was led by Frances Rodman along with Marion Burns and Jackie Maley from Education Scotland. This was well attended and participants engaged fully when given the opportunity for professional dialogue. Feedback given was very positive and this will inform future SWEIC events. Common themes arising were:

- ✓ Self-evaluation
- ✓ Parental engagement (particularly in the current climate)
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Outdoor Learning

A similar focus for Head Teachers/EYC Managers is being planned. Details will follow shortly.

•Froebel and Childhood Practice training for a SWEIC cohort of 28 participants is starting in January 2021. The programme is being delivered by the University of Edinburgh. We have been working alongside other RIC’s who have already undertaken this opportunity to look at how best to share and cascade the training across the SWEIC in order to ensure sustainability for maximum impact.

• The SWEIC Literacy Pedagogy Programme aimed at Early Level teachers is ongoing with its current focus on speech and language development being well received by participants. Feedback from one teacher was that the course content was immediately transferable into her classroom practice.



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Visit [Digilearn.scot](https://digilearn.scot) and see their webinars on You tube:

[Digital Skills – YouTube](#)

DYW Live

– online work-related learning opportunities to enhance skills, employability and career pathways.

Launch: January 2021

Education Scotland and [eSgoil](#) have teamed up with a wide range of national partners to curate a unique programme of over 15 live online interactions to help learners develop their employability and career management skills as well as enhance their understanding of labour market opportunities and career pathways.

The first 8 week block will be advertised and open for registration before Christmas via [eSgoil](#) and will be delivered from the 18 January onwards.



CLD Practitioner Digital Discussions

The latest in a series of CLD practitioner led digital discussions took place in November. East Ayrshire's SAC Health & Wellbeing Manager and Vibrant Communities led a practical workshop focusing on strategies to support the Health and Wellbeing of staff and the communities they support. Over 50 practitioners from across the SWEIC participated, sharing resources, and strengthening peer communities of practice. The needs led CLD Digital Discussion programme will continue in the new year.

Parental engagement/Involvement guidance

The Scottish Government COVID Education Recovery Group (CERG), recently approved the publication of guidance on Reporting to Parents and Involving / Engaging Parent Councils during COVID-19: [Reporting to Parents and Involving / Engaging Parent Councils during COVID-19 \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

The document is accompanied by new practice guidance - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/guidance-for-early-learning-and-childcare-settings-schools-and-local-authorities-during-covid-19/>.



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Latest CERG approved guidance can be found at the dedicated website - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/cerg-guidance/>

CLD COVID-19 recovery guidance

Clips of the key inputs from the CLD COVID-19 recovery guidance webinar held on the 20th November are now available: [Course: CLD COVID-19 recovery Guidance webinars \(i-develop-cld.org.uk\)](https://i-develop-cld.org.uk/course/CLD-COVID-19-recovery-Guidance-webinars)

Links to the latest Scottish Government guidance for CLD recovery, and accompanying resources for the CLD sector can be found here: [Links to guidance and resources \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com)



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<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/sweic/>



@SWEIC2019

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