Pilot Curriculum Reviews

Background

- **OECD Recommendation 3.4 –** *establish a systematic approach to curriculum review*

- **OECD recommendation 1.2 –** *the balance of knowledge across the different stages of CfE*

- **PISA** *[maths, reading, science]*

- **Knowledge-rich debate :** *the essential building blocks of knowledge required on the path from novice to expert rather than how to 'think like an expert'.*

Purposes of the curriculum review pilots

PROCESSES FOR REVIEWING THE CURRICULUM

OUTPUTS FROM REVIEWING THE CURRICULUM

2023 & 2024

Maths (and Numeracy)

Social Studies

Health and Wellbeing

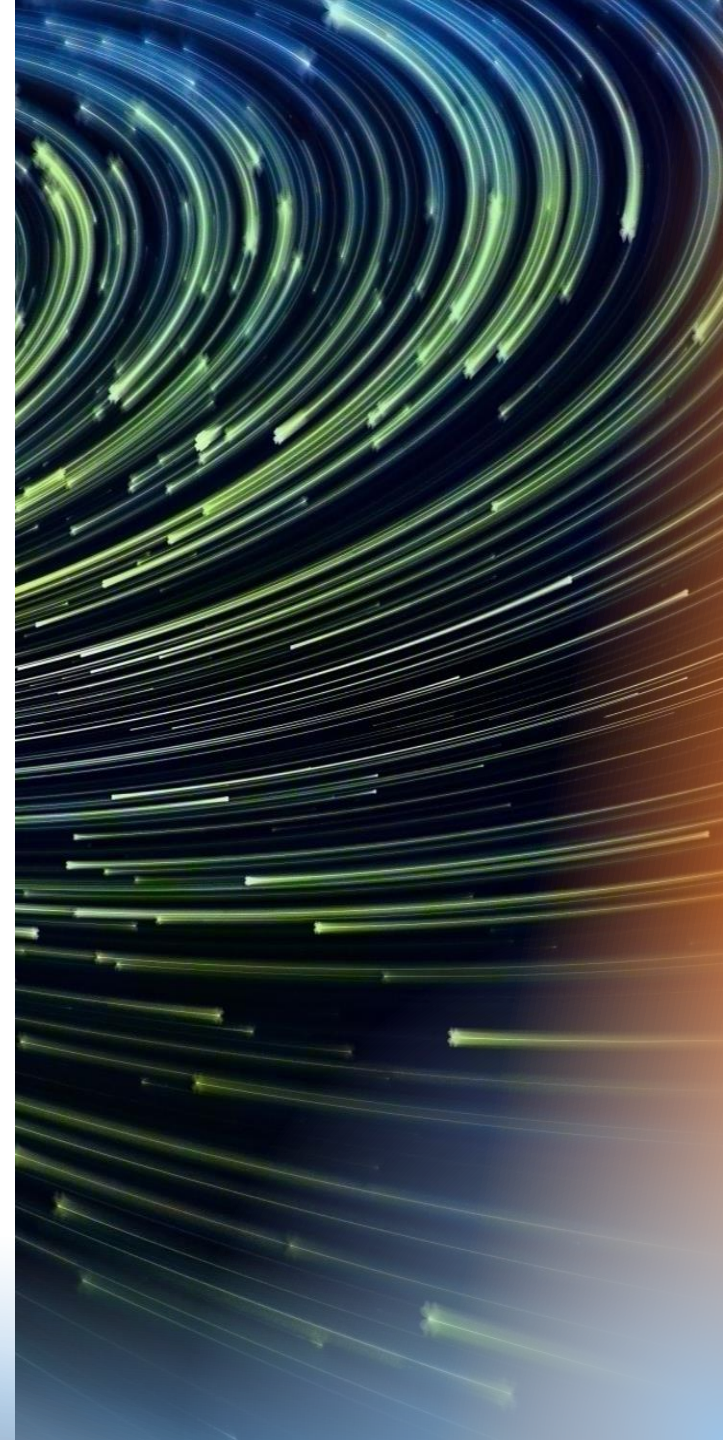Political Literacy / Financial Literacy / Sustainability

Expressive Arts

English (and Literacy)

Modern Languages

Reviewing the curriculum
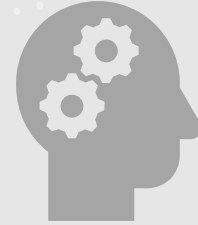
Curriculum specialists

Prioritisation

Deprioritisation

Clutter and Coherence of curriculum

Parameters for review – Capacities and Big Ideas

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Knowledge and skills

What is knowledge?

Knowledge and Skills

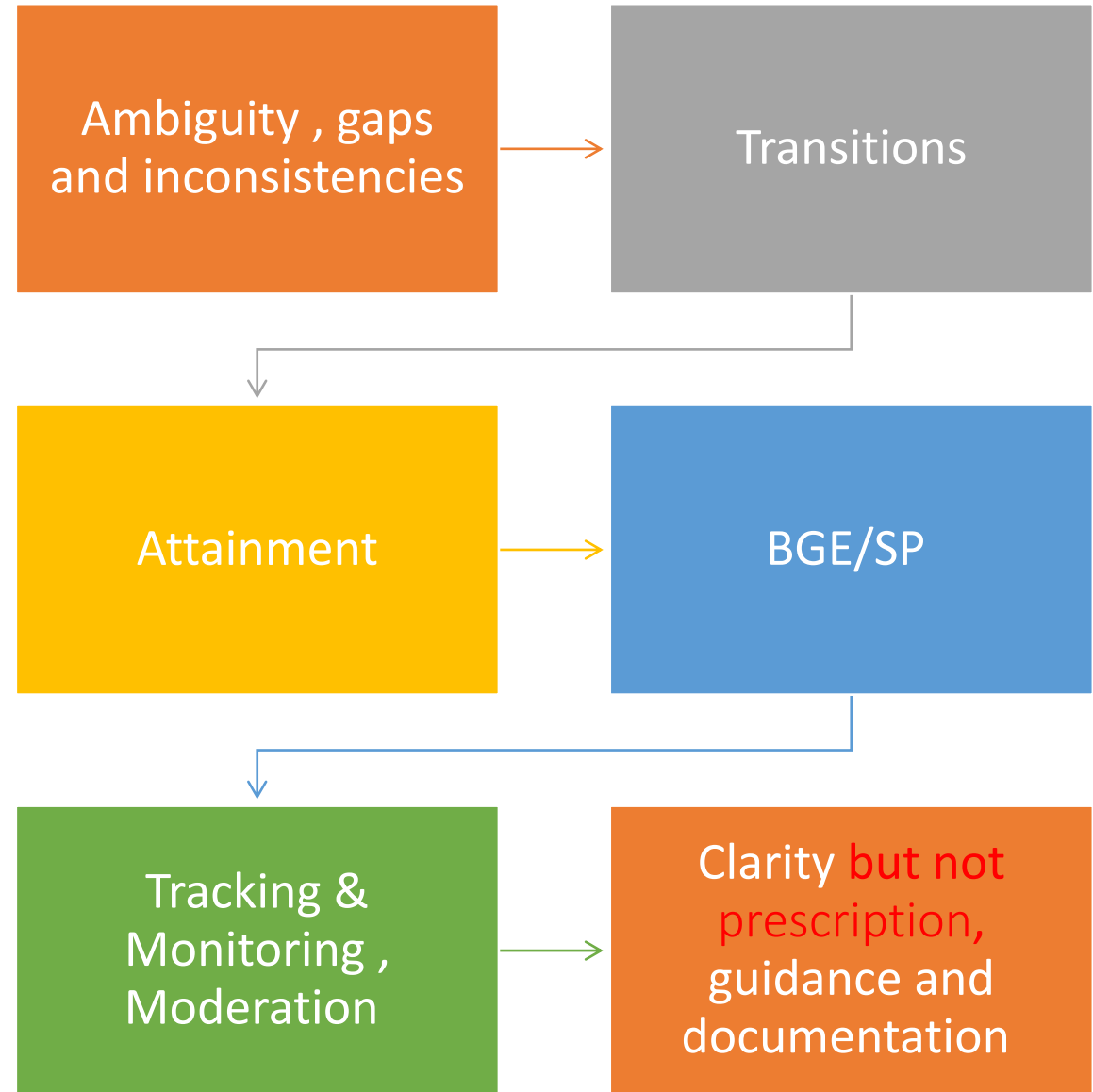Disciplinary, Cross Curricular and Interdisciplinary

What are the purposes of knowledge ?

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"The place given to knowledge in CfE is too implicit ... creates the misleading impression that a strong knowledge base is no longer a priority"

OECD


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Ambiguity , gaps        →    Transitions
and inconsistencies
                                 │
                                 ↓
Attainment              →    BGE/SP
                                 │
                                 ↓
Tracking &              →    Clarity but not
Monitoring ,                 prescription,
Moderation                   guidance and
                             documentation
```

Frameworks

Clarity & Simplification

E&Os, Benchmarks, Progression Frameworks

Knowledge and skills frameworks

Alternative Technical Frameworks e.g. 'Big Ideas' model , sections of CEFR?

Key themes

- **The urgent need to clarify the position of knowledge.** This aligns with advice from the OECD (2021) that **"clarifying the role of knowledge in the vision of CfE is the first step to strengthen the coherence of CfE"**.

- **A willingness** from those involved in the Pilot Curriculum Reviews **to consider alternative technical frameworks** that might provide greater clarity but **without resorting to the dangers of strict specification**. [Clarity vs Specificity/ prescription]

- **Need for a wider review of the totality of the curriculum**, and the position of knowledge within this to provide **greater clarity linking the position of knowledge to how knowledge and skills can develop the 4 capacities**. This provides an opportunity to review and update the curriculum area 'Principles and Practice' documentation as part of this process.

Key themes

- A **clear reluctance to create new or additional levels or layers of guidance** (when clarifying the position of knowledge). New, simplified and clear guidance is needed.

- Curriculum review is a specific opportunity to develop a clearer and more streamlined framework. This might thus address the issues surfaced by the OECD (2021) regarding "**the complexity and overload due to numerous elements including : experiences and outcomes; benchmarks; moderations; progression levels and more, leading to a 'cluttered', over-accessorised curriculum' which includes 'specific, somewhat unnecessary, jargon**".

- A '**big ideas' model may provide a means** to deal with decisions on what knowledge (and skills) to prioritise. Languages | Building Student Success - B.C. Curriculum (gov.bc.ca)

Opportunities

- There are potential opportunities through curriculum review to address **deeper 'structural' challenges** with CfE. These can include:

- a disconnect between the BGE and Senior Phase

- weaknesses in tracking and monitoring

- onerous and impractical processes for moderation

- barriers to attainment

- barriers to effective transitions

- ambiguities over progression and achievement of a level.

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Immediate next steps

Further engagement – Maths , HWB, Modern Languages

Analysis and evaluation – Political Literacy

Expressive Arts

English and NRIL

Paper on Position of knowledge April 2024

Curriculum Review - [Have your say](#)

- **From your experience, what should the languages curriculum look like?**

- **How do we work towards a relevant and sustainable languages curriculum?**

Feedback

https://forms.office.com/r/0zKRRsZkXk

Link to Microsoft form

Curriculum Review - Modern Languages

Languages:

Next Steps

Meeting with principal teachers/ faculty heads from across the 32 local authorities to examine alternative frameworks

Friday 22nd March
In-person

Glasgow

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More info

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