

Practical next steps for the development of Scots language and texts.

1 - Audit current practice and provision for Scots language and texts. Ask yourself such questions as:

Do we only look at Scots language and texts within the context of one-off events such as St Andrew's day and Burns celebrations?

When was the last time we introduced new Scots language texts?

Have we thought about integrating Scots language and literature through interdisciplinary contexts?

2 - Identify experiences and outcomes that could be delivered and achieved through the context of Scots language and texts.

This exercise will reassure both practitioners and parents as it will clearly illustrate the place of Scots language and literature within Curriculum for Excellence. Remember that as well as literacy, other areas of the curriculum have experiences and outcomes well suited to a Scots language context: for example, but not exclusively, expressive arts and health and wellbeing.

3 - Investigate contemporary Scots language texts that could be used in your setting.

The Scottish Book Trust Scots language book lists are a good place to start. Create a coherent progression of skills plan for Scots language.

Practitioner confidence can be enhanced through this kind of exercise.

4 - Develop a specific Scots language and literature policy, or include a Scots section in your existing literacy policy as appropriate.

This will be useful to demonstrate the equal status that Scots enjoys alongside English and Gaelic.

5 - Consider whether incorporating Scots into your 1 + 2 programme would be appropriate.

Some Local Authorities may wish their primary schools to explore the possibility of Scots language as L3.

6 - Consider whether engaging with the SQA Scots Language Award would be appropriate for your setting.

Remember that these flexible units can be delivered by subjects such as English, languages, history, geography or music - individually or as an interdisciplinary approach.

7 - Remember to keep spelling approaches consistent for written work in Scots.

If in doubt, remember you can always check with the Scots language dictionary - but bear in mind that there may be regional differences.

8 - Consider partnering with a Scots Language Ambassador.

The scheme encourages a partnership between schools and confident Scots speakers. This could really help to enhance the status of Scots in your school or cluster. For details contact the Scots Language Co-ordinators.

9 - Introduce a Scots word of the week.

This is an easy way to set the ball rolling and have learners and practitioners begin to discuss Scots and its use.

10 - Contact your Scots Language Co-ordinator.

Your Literacy QIO should be able to put you in touch with the member of the team linked to your authority.