

What's it all about . . . Contexts and Pupil Led Learning



The Curricular Area: Various

Why?

Children learn best when they are interested and engaged. They need to have ownership of their learning and of how aspects of learning will be explored. It needs to be relevant to their lives and experiences.

Pupil led learning brings ownership, engagement and a variety of ideas into the classroom. By exploring learning through stimulating contexts, pupils are more engaged, motivated and eager to learn. They also have more opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through different aspects of learning.

What?

A context is a theme that the children will learn through. It will be something which excites and motivates them. A context will cover more than one curricular area.

A context is something that may be current or what the children are interested in eg The Olympic Games, Disney, recent films, crazes etc. Contexts don't always last a whole term and can be much shorter than a 'topic' used to be. Some terms your child's class may cover more than one context or they may focus on stand along curricular areas. When thinking about an example context of Disney, the main learning would not all be about Disney, instead this would be used as a stimulating context in which other learning can take place related to a Curriculum for Excellence.

How?

A context will be identified as something that the pupils are interested in. This will then be used as a stimulus to learn new knowledge and skills through. The pupils will discuss with the teacher what knowledge and skills they wish to explore. This allows for flexibility in planning and for allowing the children to be at the heart of the planning process.

Jargon Explained . . .

Pupil led – the children make the decisions, guided and supported by staff

Context – a ‘topic’ or ‘theme’ in which the children learn through