

The Framework

Using the level of a qualification or learning programme and the number of credit points awarded, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) can help to understand and compare the various Scottish qualifications that are available.

The level of qualification indicates the level of difficulty and the number of credit points indicates the length of time it takes to complete. One SCQF credit point represents an average of 10 hours of learning time. You can find more information about the SCQF as well as compare older qualifications with current qualifications [here](#).

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK					
<small>This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.</small>					
SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12				Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9				Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher				Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards				
1	National 1, Awards				

Curriculum

To meet the needs of our learners, we have reflected upon and refreshed our curriculum and utilised the SCQF database to investigate alternative pathways for our young people. Curriculum development and pathway progression has been extended here at Castlehead in recent years to include qualifications such as Leadership of Personal Development, Photography, Creative Thinking and Refereeing. Our curriculum offer now includes more SCQF Level 4, 5, 6 and 7 options and pathways for young people, with even more in planning for introduction in '25-'26. Ten S4 pupils

and thirty-six S5-6 pupils are attending a school-college partnership course at West College this year as part of their timetable.

Partnerships

Our school has strong partnerships with many organisations including West College, Focus West, Routes for All, Street League, Street Stuff and Barnardo's. We are also partnered with University of the West of Scotland and twenty-nine S6 pupils are signed up to participate in their Foundation Academy Step Up to University programme (SCQF level 7) in the '25-26 session. Additionally, our partnership with The Open University means S6 pupils have the opportunity to choose to complete University modules online free of charge through the Young Applicants in Schools Scheme.

Awareness & Recognition

Castlehead is currently an SCQF Ambassador school. Our group of SCQF Pupil Ambassadors manned an information stand to raise awareness of SCQF at the S2 and Senior Phase options evenings and were available to answer any queries. They are currently planning a recruitment selection process to grow the number of pupil Ambassadors in order to provide future sustainability for the SCQF team.

An SCQF presentation was part of our Options and Pathways Information Event for parents and carers of S2 and Senior Phase pupils prior to option choices, which raised awareness and increased knowledge of the SCQF levels to support their young person in decision making.

Our goals for SCQF in session '25-'26 include:

- a group of staff participating in SCQF training to increase awareness of the pathways available
- identifying additional pathways that could be introduced to extend learner interest in a curricular area
- expanding the SCQF Pupil Ambassador team
- having the Ambassador team available at more events, such as parents' evenings