

Creating a BSL Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Schools

Friday 12th January 2018

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

- Brief Update re: Scotland's Progress
- Background in BSL;
- Issues we face with BSL teaching;
- BSL Qualifications & Units – Comparisons
- Modern Foreign Language (MFL)
- Curriculum Examples
- Creating a Curriculum
- Future Meetings

BSL Awards in Scotland – Brief Update

- BSL Bill in Scotland = National Plan / NAG
- BSL Curriculum in Scotland (2016)

2017+

- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
- QDT Meetings: 4 Meetings December 2017 to July 2018

Background in BSL

Current Qualifications:

- BSL Level 1 – BSL Level 6 NVQ (Signature)
- BSL Entry Level – BSL Level 6 (iBSL)

Main BSL Course Modules:

- Understanding BSL (Receptive Skills)
- Using BSL (Productive Skills)

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Entry Level	<div>Entry Level Certificates</div> <div>Skills for Life</div> <div>Functional Skills</div> <div>Awards, Certificates & Diplomas</div> <div>Foundation Learning</div>	Entry-Level qualifications recognise basic knowledge and skills and the ability to apply learning in everyday situations under direct guidance or supervision. Learning at this level involves building basic knowledge and skills and is not geared towards specific occupations
Level 1	<div>5 GCSEs (Grades D – G)</div> <div>BTEC Foundations</div> <div>OCR Nationals</div> <div>NVQs</div>	Level 1 qualifications recognise basic knowledge and skills and the ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. Learning at this level is about activities which mostly relate to everyday situations and may be linked to job competence.
Level 2	<div>5 GCSEs (Grades A* – C)</div> <div>Intermediate Apprenticeships</div> <div>BTEC Firsts</div> <div>NVQs</div> <div>OCR Nationals</div>	Level 2 qualifications recognise the ability to gain a good knowledge and understanding of a subject area of work or study, and to perform varied tasks with some guidance or supervision. Learning at this level involves building knowledge and/or skills in relation to an area of work or a subject area and is appropriate for many job roles.
Level 3	<div>A-Levels</div> <div>Advanced Apprenticeships</div> <div>BTEC Nationals</div> <div>NVQs</div> <div>OCR Nationals</div> <div>GCE in Applied Subjects</div>	Level 3 qualifications recognise the ability to gain, and where relevant apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding. Learning at this level involves obtaining detailed knowledge and skills. It is appropriate for people wishing to go to university, people working independently, or in some areas supervising and training others in their field of work.
Level 4	<div>Foundation Degrees</div> <div>Higher Apprenticeships</div> <div>Diploma of Higher Education</div> <div>NVQs</div> <div>BTEC Higher Nationals (HND, HNC)</div> <div>Specialist Awards</div>	Level 4 qualifications recognise specialist learning and involve detailed analysis of a high level of information and knowledge in an area of work or study. Learning at this level is appropriate for people working in technical and professional jobs, and/or managing and developing others. Level 4 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Certificates of Higher Education.
Level 5	<div>Higher National Diploma</div> <div>Diploma of Higher Education</div> <div>Foundation Degree</div> <div>NVQs</div>	Level 5 qualifications recognise the ability to increase the depth of knowledge and understanding of an area of work or study to enable the formulation of solutions and responses to complex problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the demonstration of high levels of knowledge, a high level of work expertise in job roles and competence in managing and training others. Qualifications at this level are appropriate for people working as higher grade technicians, professionals or managers. Level 5 qualifications are at a level equivalent to intermediate Higher Education qualifications such as Diplomas of Higher Education, Foundation and other degrees that do not typically provide access to postgraduate programmes.
Level 6	<div>Degree with Honours</div> <div>Degree Apprenticeship</div> <div>Graduate Certificate</div> <div>Graduate Diploma</div> <div>Ordinary Degree</div>	Level 6 qualifications recognise a specialist high level knowledge of an area of work or study to enable the use of an individual's own ideas and research in response to complex problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the achievement of a high level of professional knowledge and is appropriate for people working as knowledge-based professionals or in professional management positions. Level 6 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Bachelor's degrees with honours, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas.
Level 7	<div>Postgraduate Certificate</div> <div>Postgraduate Diploma</div> <div>Master's Degree</div> <div>NVQ</div> <div>Postgraduate Certificate in Education</div> <div>Integrated Master's Degree</div>	Level 7 qualifications recognise highly developed, advanced and complex levels of knowledge which enable the development of in-depth and original responses to complicated and unpredictable problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the demonstration of high level specialist professional knowledge. Level 7 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Master's degrees, postgraduate certificates and postgraduate diplomas.

Issues

- **BSL Certificate Courses:** Not designed for Schools.
- **Lack of Teachers:** Not enough qualified BSL teachers to teach in schools.
- **Examinations:** Fixed structure that requires speaking, listening, reading and writing elements.
- **MFL:** BSL is not a foreign language, however could be accepted as a 2nd language to English.
- **Audience:** BSL Curriculum for who?
- **Governmental Support:** Currently, the BSL GCSE is on hold due to no plans to add another GCSE to the current list of GCSEs on offer.

Pilot BSL GCSE (Signature)

Deaf Awareness

History of BSL

Productive Skills

Receptive Skills

Schools' Minister, Nick Gibb, said: "At present, there are no plans to introduce any further GCSEs beyond those to which the Government has already committed."

BSL Level 1 (Signature)

Introduction to BSL

Productive Skills

Receptive Skills

BSL Level 3 (Signature)

Receptive Skills

Productive Skills

Conversational Skills

BSL Level 1 (iBSL)

Receptive Skills in BSL

Descriptive Skills in
BSL

Conversational Skills in
BSL

BSL Level 2 (iBSL)

Receptive Skills
in BSL

Developing
Presentation
Skills in BSL

Conversational
Skills in BSL

Everyday
Contexts in BSL

Modern Foreign Language

Understanding Language

Listening

Reading

Using Language

Speaking

Writing

Curriculum Examples

American Sign Language Curriculum

- Communication
- Cultures
- Connections
- Comparisons
- Communities

Curriculum Examples

New Zealand Sign Language Curriculum

- Language Skills
- Communication Functions
- Sociocultural Contexts

Auslan Curriculum

- Communicating
- Understanding

Group Discussion

- In BSL, can we meet each unit requirements?
 - Speaking
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Writing
- Or, focus on the 'teaching' itself and leave the 4 units to the assessment part at the end of the curriculum stage in KS4?
- Or, have 2 units focusing on Productive & Receptive Skills only?
- Or, have 3 units: Productive, Receptive and Community?
- Or, create new units?

Creating a Curriculum

Primary Education

- **EYFS**
- Nursery & Reception
- **Key Stage 1**
- Year 1, 2
- **Key Stage 2**
- Year 3, 4, 5, 6

Secondary Education

- **Key Stage 3**
- Year 7, 8, 9
- **Key Stage 4**
- Year 10, 11

BSL Curriculum – What should we include?

- Linguistics of BSL
- Deaf History
- Deaf Community
- Culture
- Poetry
- Storytelling
- Deaf Awareness
- Deafblind Awareness
- Regional Variation

Group Discussion

- Creating a Curriculum for what age should we create for?
- What should we include in a BSL Curriculum?

Involvement

- Who should be involved in:
 - Creating the Primary BSL Curriculum
 - Creating the Secondary BSL Curriculum
 - Writing the Curriculum on the whole
 - Deciding Levels
 - Assessment / Verification
 - Teaching Resources
- Thoughts?

Future Meetings

- 2 Monthly Meetings throughout the year.
- 1 year = 6 Meetings.
- Fridays.
- Dates for the year to be agreed.
- Information dissemination: email update?