

## City of Edinburgh Council Excel Programme **Edinburgh**

The Excel project is a partnership between CEC, Jack Kane Community Centre and St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School. The project aims to deliver both excellence in terms of ensuring children and families acquire a broad range of skills and capacities, whilst delivering equity, so that every child thrives and has the best opportunity to succeed regardless of their social circumstances or additional needs.

The school covers staff costs through PEF and SAC funding, and is actively involved in the design of the programme. The school also supports universal alongside targeted referrals approach, and a joint evaluation at the end of each term. The activities offered through the Excel programme are designed to enable and equip children and families to improve their wellbeing and to improve learning and development outcomes. Participating children, aged 8-12, have access to educational activities during school break and lunchtimes, targeted group work and enhanced transition support in P7. One to one sessions for children and wider family support are also available, where relevant.

### Direct Impact

193 children took part in the programme during 2019-20  
 97% showed improvements in learning engagement  
 73% developed new skills  
 43% showed improvements in health and wellbeing  
 36% improved their literacy and numeracy  
 14% showed improvements in school attendance

### Additional outcomes

Scott Fraser, Lifelong Learning and Development Officer

“As a result of being involved in the Excel programme children were more likely to get involved in other activities at the community centre and in their community more widely. The programme also strengthened family working relationships which proved vital during lockdown and over the summer.”

### Accredited awards

38 young people attained accredited awards

### Children, St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

“I like being part of the pupil focus group that made the film. I interviewed my head teacher and the parent council to hear their views on the 20mph speed limit. It made me think about what I want to do in the future.”

“It’s good to be recognised for the work we carried out and it gave me more confidence.”

### Head Teacher, St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

“Social skills are a huge part of the programme. It is really important to learn to work together through collaboration and communication and a sense of achieving something together is a wonderful outcome. We are also trying to make the programme quite diverse so that children can access a wider range of learning experiences, both in the school and out with.”