

Our Vision based on National guidance



Relationships and Connection



Purpose and Relevance



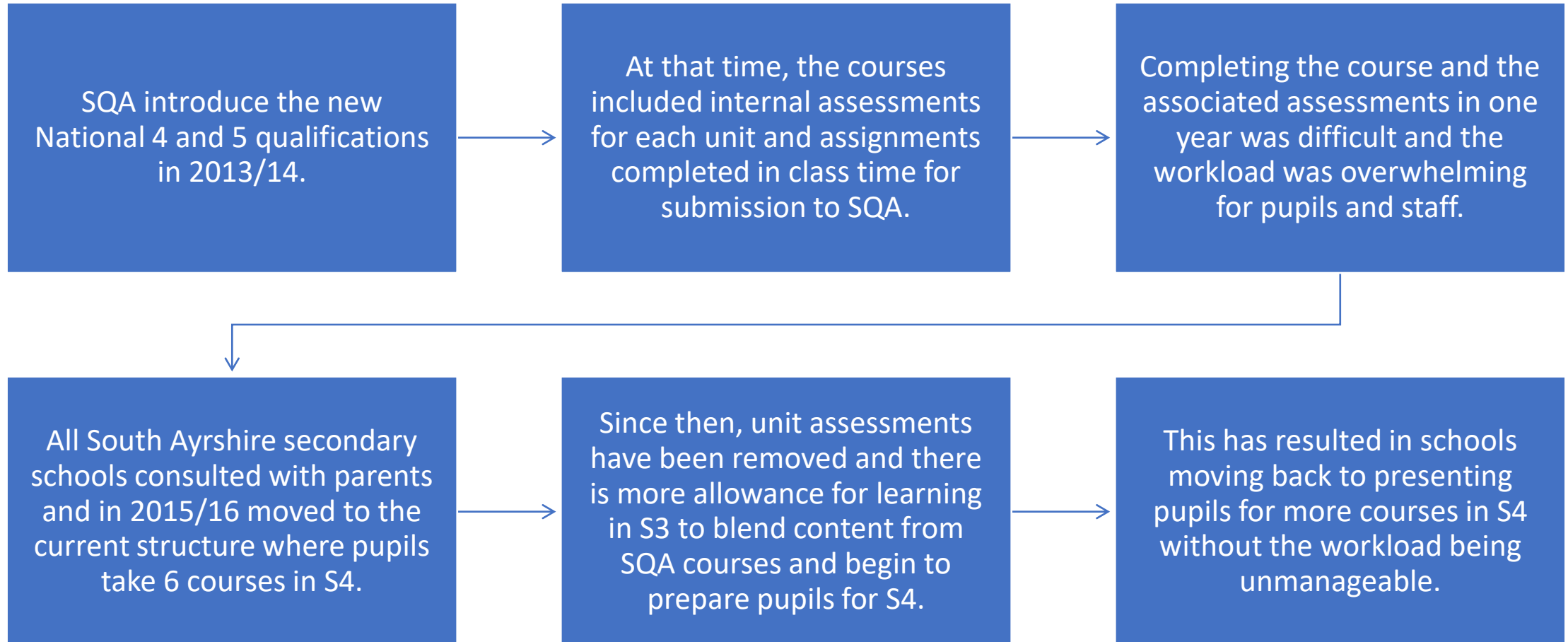
Motivation and Success

Why are we proposing a change?

- Nationally, there is a move to reimagine the curriculum in S1 to S3 to increase pace and align it better with the Senior Phase.
- Attendance in S3 is lower than in other years. We have identified a need for S3 to be less fragmented, more focused and purposeful with clear end goals.
- Many pupils are already achieving 4th CfE level in S3 and need further stretch and challenge – they are ready to begin N5s
- Learning in S4 is rushed with little time for enrichment or achievement beyond SQA courses.
- The curriculum in S4/5/6 has narrowed as an unintentional consequence of the 6-6-6 model. Pupils going on to study 4 or 5 Highers have fewer subjects to choose from.
- In S6, pupils often have to pick up learning they have not done at N5 level which makes it harder to achieve the Higher.

Why do we offer 6 SQA courses in S4?

The Background



What will be different?

	Current Model	Proposed Model
Which subjects are compulsory in S3?	English, Maths, French PE, RME, PSE	English, Maths, French or Spanish PE, RME, PSE
How many other subjects can pupils choose in S3?	They choose 6 other subjects which are organised so that they continue to study across a range of curriculum areas	They have free choice of 5 other subjects (although we would encourage breadth across curriculum areas) To add enjoyment and enrichment pupils will also select 2 enrichment electives (half a year each)
How many SQA Qualifications do they take in S4	Narrow to 6 subjects – 5 periods/week	Narrow to 7 subjects – 4 periods/week
Can they pick up a new subject in S4 if they haven't studied it in S3?	Only in exceptional circumstances	Only in exceptional circumstances – we would encourage all changes to have been made by Christmas of S3
What support is there for option choices?	Guidance teacher in S2 1:1 careers interview in S3	1:1 careers interview in S2 Guidance teacher in S3

Current Model

S3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
old	Option 1 English				Option 2 Maths				Opt 3 French		Option 4 Social Subject			Option 5 Science and Technology			Option 6 Business and Technology			Option 7 Creative Arts			Option 8 Free choice			Option 9 Free choice		PE		RME	PSE	

New Model

S3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
New	Option 1 English				Option 2 Maths				Option 3 French or Spanish		Option 4			Option 5			Option 6			Option 7			Option 8			Elective (2 per year)		PE		RME	PSE	

S4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
New	Option 1 English				Option 2 Maths				Option 3				Option 4				Option 5				Option 6				Option 7				PE		RME	PSE

S4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
old	Option 1 English				Option 2 Maths				Option 3				Option 4				Option 5				Option 6				PE		RME	PSE				

Desired Outcomes

- S3 will have more purpose and rigour and pupils will attain more highly. This will be achieved by focusing learning on key subjects that they intend to continue study.
- Enrichment electives will provide engaging learning that will add enjoyment and personalisation at a stage when some young people become disengaged from school. It is an opportunity to develop skills, interests and achieve in a different way.
- There will be more flexibility across S3 and S4 for learning such as our Skills Academy, work experience and personal achievement opportunities – not just SQA qualifications.
- Pupils will know their strongest subjects as a result of our new Working Grades in S1 to S3 which will make option choices easier.
- Our Careers Adviser will work with S2 instead of S3 in group and 1:1 settings so that all pupils make informed decisions.
- There will be greater options to enhance qualifications and experiences for pupils staying on to S6

What are pupils saying?

- Pupils in S5 were positive about doing 7 courses over 2 years. They felt it would give them more choice for further study and they would not have to crash as many Highers in S6.
- Pupils in S4 were more concerned about the workload involved in 7 courses but felt if they could start them in S3 to spread the learning it would be manageable.
- Almost all S4 pupils kept the same courses from S2 to S4. A few picked up a subject not studied in S3. They liked the option to do this, if necessary, but had to catch up on learning missed in S3.
- Pupils in S3 consulted were all intending to select from the 9 they had studied in S3. They were positive about the option to have more breadth in S4.

What are parents/carers saying?

Our recent survey had 56 responses.

Almost all were in agreement about widening to 7 courses. The most common reasons were:

- More time to prepare for SQA courses
- More choice for Highers in S5 and S6
- Better engagement in learning in S3 because pupils see the purpose of learning

Other comments were about the enrichment options which would bring enjoyment and engagement

Comments/Concerns

S2 is too early to pick subjects as most don't know what they want to do yet

Pupils may not like a course and want to change it

If choosing in S2, parents need to be involved in option interviews and pathways planning

Studying fewer subjects in S3 may limit choices in the longer term for Highers

What will be the impact if the exam system changes as a result of the ongoing review of qualifications?

