The Scottish SPCA’s free Prevention through Education workshops tie in with many areas of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Pupils are made aware of the laws surrounding animal welfare in Scotland and thus the consequences of the various stories they see, hear or read regarding cruelty towards animals. The information that pupils learn in our workshops will hopefully influence their choices and decisions towards the treatment of animals.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION

One of the main aims of our workshops is to get pupils to identify who the Scottish SPCA are and how we can help their communities. Emphasis is placed on how the pupils themselves can become responsible animal friendly citizens around their school and in their communities and help us help look after all of the animals in Scotland.

SCIENCE

We raise issues such as what animals depend on to survive thus giving examples of food chains. We also look at the adaptations that some animals have had to take, in order to survive in their present environment.

TECHNOLOGIES

Pupils will work in small groups to build and code animal robots.

They will follow verbal and written instructions and use guides on tablets.

Through teamwork they can discuss how they want their animal to react to situations they are likely to encounter in their environment.

The robots can be programmed to produce numerous reactions to scenarios that the pupils are given, for example reacting to the sound of a car horn. Through feedback from peers and education officers they can develop on their coding skills throughout the course of the workshop.

THE SCOTTISH SPCA AND THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

We focus on the diversity of Scottish wildlife that we help and introduces ideas of how children can help protect these animals.

The risks involved with coming into contact with wild animals are highlighted, and emphasis is placed on pupils not touching any animal they come across. In particular if it is a wild animal awareness is raised that this animal could inflict an injury or they could pass on a disease. The issue surrounding human scent being left on young animals is also discussed. When coding the robotic animals the children are asked to think about how animals use their senses to keep them safe in their environment.

During Animal Guardians children are taught to think about how animals are dependent on them and how their actions can affect the lives of animals.