

Media outlet: Metro (print)

Circulation: 41,545

Date: 23 June 2025

Charity drives first aid skills for primary pupils

by Sarah Ward

PRIMARY schools are being encouraged to teach first aid, with the roll-out of a national training scheme.

The Scottish Primary School First Aid Programme, launched by St Andrew's First Aid, provides free online access for teachers to download first aid teaching materials.

The initiative was proposed in 2018 due to research which showed children as young as five were able to play a life-saving role.

A training programme for primary teachers was created and a pilot with Stirling Council was launched in 2021, which trained 56 teachers from primary schools in the region.

The charity is now encouraging teachers to register for its online learning platform.

Training days will be made available to support staff, helping them feel confident in the delivery of the programme.

Sessions are designed to be



Life-saver: Kids can learn first aid

delivered to pupils in short, age-appropriate lessons, either over seven years or as one full four-hour course.

Schools will be able to apply for certificates for every pupil who has completed the course.

Education secretary Jenny Gilruth, who visited the training centre in Glenrothes, Fife, last year, said: 'This initiative from St Andrew's First Aid will help equip primary pupils with potentially life-saving skills, benefiting them and our wider society.'

■ A TEENAGER has been arrested following a fire at a disused primary school building in Perth.

The old Balhousie Primary School on Muirton Place caught fire around midnight yesterday, with crews working during the early hours to bring the flames under control.

It came less than a week after a serious fire at Scott Street in Perth left one man dead.

No injuries were reported at the Balhousie Primary fire, although several people living nearby were evacuated as a precaution.

They have since returned to their homes.

On Sunday, Police Scotland said an 18-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the incident and released pending further inquiries.

The fire is being treated as unexplained.