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## Primary pupils to learn life saving skills

Primary schools across Scotland are being encouraged to teach first aid with the rollout of a national training scheme.

The programme, launched by St Andrew's First Aid, provides free and easy online access for teachers to download and teach first aid in their class. The initiative was proposed in 2018 due to research which showed children as young as five were able to play a lifesaving role.

A training programme for teachers was created to enable them to teach first aid to pupils from P1 to P7, with the objective of having young people across Scotland skilled and confident in first aid. A pilot with Stirling Council was launched in 2021, which trained 56 teachers from 31 of the 40 primary schools in the region.

The charity is encouraging teachers to find out more and to register to receive access to its online learning platform and comprehensive suite of digital teaching resources.

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

The charity is also set to launch Safe: St Andrew's Framework for Education ahead of the new academic session in August, with four banded levels, bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth 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."

Jim Dorman of St Andrew's First Aid, said: "This project is about giving teachers the confidence and resources to introduce first aid into their classrooms, helping to ensure children across Scotland gain the knowledge and skills they need to act in an emergency."

■ Teaching materials and more about St Andrew's First Aid can be found at [www.firstaid.org.uk](http://www.firstaid.org.uk)



Primary pupils will be taught first aid in the scheme