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SCOTLAND's education system has been branded a "throwback to the 1960s" by a former education adviser to the UK Government.

By SVAR NANAN-SEN

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SNP's curriculum for excellence is 'throwback to 60s' says expert

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Dr Stephen Curran, who advised David Cameron's Government on education curriculums, told the BBC's Politics Scotland that the Curriculum for Excellence used by Scottish schools endorsed by Nicola Sturgeon's SNP was largely similar to curriculums used 60 years ago. Dr Curran also called for politicians to "acknowledge" Scotland's failures in education instead of continuing to "hide".

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The BBC's Gordon Brewer said: "You're not a fan of the curriculum for excellence, to put it mildly."

Dr Stephen Curran replied: "No I am not. I see it as a curriculum that is largely a throwback to the 1960s.

"There are real problems of this because there isn't really core teaching of a traditional kind.

"Take for example maths, children are not really learning clear technique and it is really important in primary school to equip children with key skills in numeracy and literacy.

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Dr Stephen Curran advised David Cameron's Government on education curriculums, (Image: BBC)

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Dr Stephen Curran praised the improvements made in English education (Image: BBC)

"I think we see in the PISA ratings a clear indication in a fall in performance.

"It is easy for politicians to try and shoot the messenger and not listen to the message.

"I think if we look at what has happened in England since the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014 which was more traditional.

"I advised on that curriculum."

Nicola Sturgeon heckled for defending education failures

He added: "We have seen a rise in children's performance.

"We can see from 2015 where England was pitched at 26th on the PISA ratings in maths, it is now up to 17th.

"Whereas Scotland is languishing in exactly the same place it was in 2015.

"Something is clearly going wrong and I think the politicians need to acknowledge this rather than hide."

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Nicola Sturgeon was jeered as she praised the improvements made in Scottish education (Image: SPTV)

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Last week during First Minister's questions Nicola Sturgeon was jeered as she praised the improvements made in Scottish education.

Ms Sturgeon said: "I am patting on the back the young people of Scotland who are delivering improvements.

"Let's look at figures published just this week on Tuesday.

"The gap between the most and least deprived communities in a positive destination is now at a record low.

"It is less than half of what it used to be."

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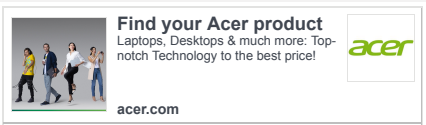

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