

Your children and young people have done you all proud by returning to school after a difficult period, and settling in really well. We have been making lots of changes in the Learning Centre and we are looking forward to a time when COVID guidelines allow you back in the building. If you were able to come in just now, you would see lots more class and group teaching going on, more planned lessons and many new curriculum features like outdoor learning.

This term has focussed on supporting the pupils after such a long time off and getting to know where pupils are in their learning and health needs. Overall we would say it has been a positive restart and there has been lots of joint planning/discussions between myself and parents about how pupils would re-engage, for example - reduced timetables / part time attendance. We are pleased to say that for the majority of our pupils, this has been a huge success. We had 4 new pupils join us and despite the unusual circumstances and lack of enhanced transition, they have settled in well.

We continue to follow Scottish Government guidelines around access to the hydrotherapy pool, soft play and visitors to the Learning Centre. As you know, we are keeping all pupils as safe as possible using of masks / PPE, handwashing, and sanitisation. These measures will continue and we will make changes and inform you of those in line with government COVID guidelines.

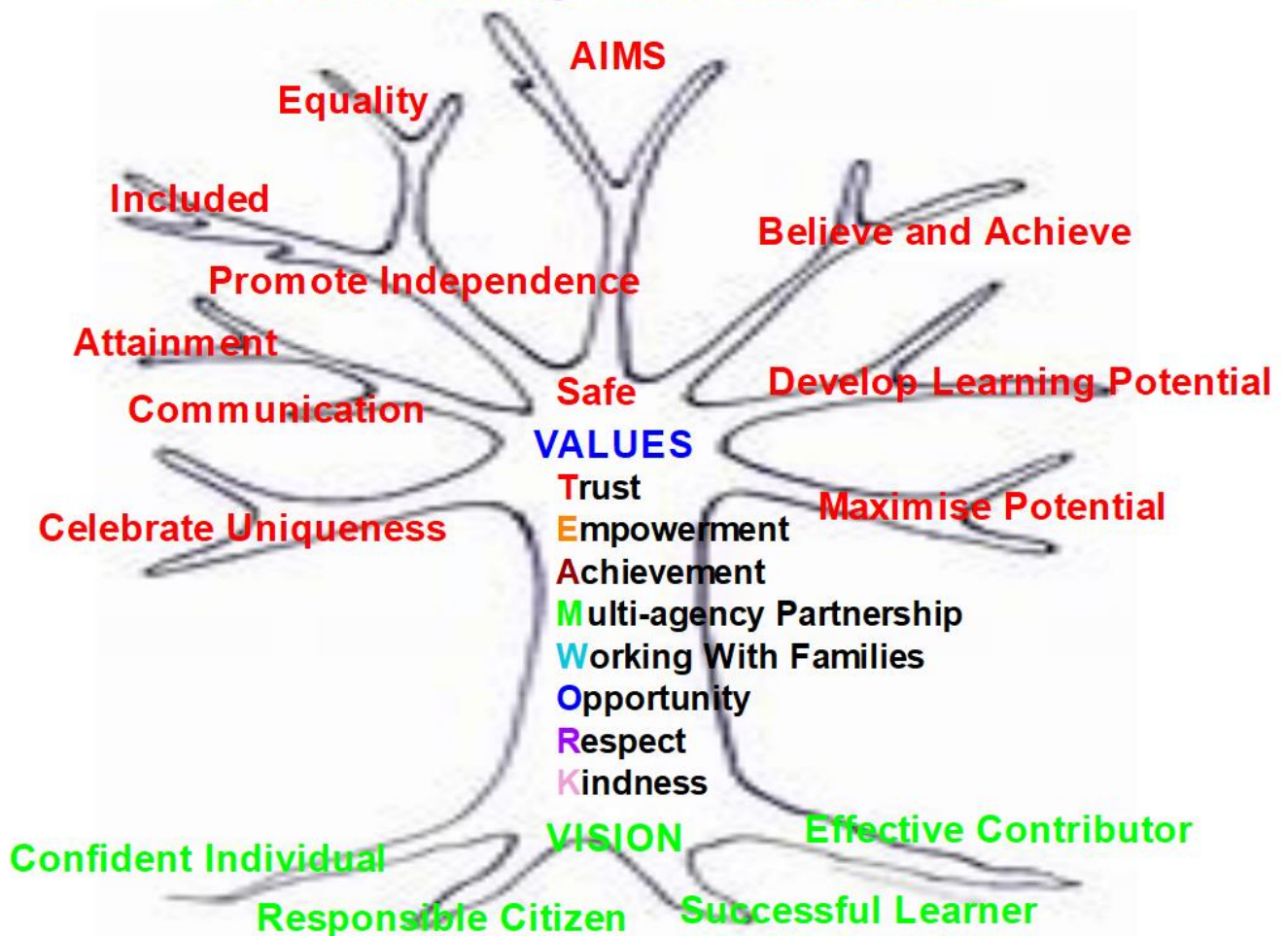
### **Post Inspection Planning**

As you know, Sharron Harper has been leading the team through the post inspection process and our Framework for Improvement plan can be seen on the Learning Centre area of the primary school website. It is attached here. Education Scotland and the authority require regular updates on the progress of our plan. Sharron has completed our first term progress report, and this is also now on the website. It is attached here and though it may seem like a lot of reading, we would encourage you to take time to read it, as it is a summary of all the brilliant work that has been done so far by the whole Learning Centre team this term. It's quite incredible how much progress we are making on the areas highlighted in the inspection report towards more effective learning and teaching experiences for our children and young people.

## Vision, Values and Aims

One of the key items in our framework for improvement is establishing our Vision, Values and Aims for the Learning Centre. Staff have been working on this together and as a team have created what you see below:

### Lockerbie Learning Centre Teamwork Tree



By using a holistic approach we will develop every young person's learning potential and experiences within the wider community by facilitating independence and developing the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence.

It is important for us that we hear your views on whether we have our vision, values and aims right. Please let us know:

- if you feel the words on our tree are the words we should have there
- whether our vision is one you agree with
- if our values are ones you would associate with LLC
- whether you agree with our aims, and, finally
- any other suggestions or additions or questions

Please send your views directly to Sharron on [sharron.harper@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:sharron.harper@dumgal.gov.uk)

Some time was spent with some of the pupils asking them what they thought key words such as Equality, Included, and Achieve (and others) meant to them.



We then put together a display of this which all pupils in all rooms were part of – we used a variety of textiles and resources to create their own version of the tree. If you are able to zoom into the photo then you will see some of the comments more clearly.

## **Training**

During lockdown many of our staff undertook various online training programmes and upskilled their knowledge in certain areas such as ASD and learning difficulties. We have continued with our online training, as initially we have not been able to have specialists into the learning centre. Recently our suctioning and gastronomy training has been completed and we are working through the epilepsy training. We are hoping after the October holidays to have specialists visit us again, though under strict health and safety guidelines and as restrictions allow us. We are really pleased that a new Epilepsy specialists nurse has been appointed to Dumfries and Galloway - Sarah Gemmell. We look forward to meeting Sarah (hopefully face to face) and working with her and the medical team to plan further training as and when is needed and for support in working with our pupils in the LC. Please be assured that we are (and have been) in regular discussions with the specialists - even though we haven't been able to have them in the centre physically.

## **Child's Plan meetings / CSP's**

Emma will be in contact - if not already, to try and get these all planned and carried out, asap. Unfortunately, these will for the foreseeable, need to be online.

## **Outdoor Learning and Vote For Us**

Plans are at an early stage for the development of an accessible outdoor learning area for use by primary and Learning Centre children. This would offer a wider range of exciting opportunities for learning and teaching outdoors. Confirmation of the logistics around this in respect of our PPP school status is needed and the Parent Council, Emma and I are involved in these discussions. As we value the importance of play in developing learning, we have proposed that a play area is included too. To help with funding this, we are excited to tell you that we submitted a bid for £5000 for outdoor play equipment and the Learning Centre has been shortlisted for the D&G Youth Work 10,000 Voices Fund. It's a public vote which is live from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Young people aged 12-25 from the North Annandale Ward are eligible to vote so we will be trying to canvass for as many votes as we can. Please register your secondary aged children and vote for us, and please tell as many other Lockerbie youngsters in this age range to vote for us too.



Here is the link and look out for it on Facebook from Monday too.

<https://dga.communitychoices.scot/>

Here are some of our wonderful secondary pupils with the posters they made:



**YOUTHWORK**  
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY



### **Catherine St Playpark Trip: proposed date Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

We want to hear your views and the views of the children about the type of play equipment we could purchase if we win the public vote. To do this, we thought it would be a good idea to all go together to Catherine St Playpark in Dumfries to play on the equipment and we will find out which areas the children liked best. We would be delighted if parents are able to join us. We are hoping to be able to visit on the morning of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and include a visit to the Usual Place too. We will confirm this date and all the practical arrangements as soon as possible after the October break.

## Virtual Pentathlon

A huge thank you to Ling who has helped to organise our virtual pentathlon through Dumfries and Galloway Disability Sports and Scottish Disability Sport. This would normally have taken place over 1 day held within the region, meeting up with other schools / pupils. By completing this in school it has allowed us to turn it into a much bigger event - including staff members, being creative with the set-up of each event and has been a great success. It has really been a whole learning centre team effort and we have enjoyed it thoroughly. As a small bonus -we raised £17 (a small donation from staff participating) to go towards our sensory / messy play items. Our pupils helped to set up the equipment, measured distances, timed staff and even created their own medals. This has been a great success and has given us some ideas about some future events.







## **Next Term**

Our next term is a very busy jam packed one with Halloween, Bonfire night, St. Andrew's day and Christmas. We will celebrate Halloween with a small party on Friday 30th October. Pupils can come dressed in an outfit (or we can change them for the party) but can we ask that there are no weapons or things brought in that can be broken (fake axes, wands etc.) we will let you know nearer the time about our plans for Christmas. Due to the current situation, we believe there will be no Christmas party this year, held at the Cairndale Hotel and run by the Rotary. If there is an alternative, we will be in touch with details. We return to school on Monday 26th October and finish on Friday 18th December.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy holiday, Emma and Sharron.