



Loanhead Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

**Session 2025/26
Handbook**





**Loanhead Primary School
and
Early Childhood Centre
Loanhead Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 3AU**

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Telephone No: | 01563 522938 |
| HT Email | Kirsty.doncaster@eastayrshire.org.uk |
| School Email: | eaLoanhead.PS@eastayrshire.org.uk |
| School Blog: | https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/LoanheadPrimarySchool/ |
| School App: | Please download the “Safer Schools Scotland App” onto your mobile device and select “Loanhead Primary School” |
| Parent Council Facebook | Friends of Loanhead – Parent Council |
| Denominational Status: | The school is non-denominational and co-educational and provides a 3-12 education within the Early Childhood Centre and Primary School. |
| School & ECC Roll: | Primary 1 to 7 Current Roll: 238 pupils ECC Age 3-5 Current Roll: 34 pupils |
| Further Information: | www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/schoolhandbooks |





Welcome to Loanhead Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

I am delighted to welcome you to Loanhead Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. At Loanhead we strive to create a learning community where every child is inspired, motivated and supported to work hard and try to achieve the very best they can, now and in the future.

This handbook is compiled to give you, as the parent of a new pupil to Loanhead Primary School basic information regarding the school and what we can offer your child. We have a separate handbook for the Early Childhood Centre available on request.

We work hard to provide a high-quality service and wish to work in close partnership with you in preparing your child to be a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor.

We believe that education involves a close partnership between school and home. Our Parent Council (Friends of Loanhead) work alongside us to provide a full, varied and interesting school experience for our children. Many activities are organised throughout the school year, giving parents the opportunity to meet and work with the staff of the school. We look forward to seeing you at various occasions during the session.

Please feel free to make an appointment to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) if you have any worries or concerns about your child's progress or welfare. We will be happy to help at any point in the year and can be contacted through the school office or by email.

The school handbook can be made available on request, in other formats e.g. Braille, large print, recorded on to tape or translated into another language. It is also available on the school blog <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/loanheadprimaryschool/>

Kindest regards,

Kirsty Doncaster
Head Teacher



SECTION 1

Our Vision and Values

Our whole school community worked together during 2024/25 to create our new vision, values and aims for the school.



Our Vision:

Learning at Loanhead Leads to Success

Our Vision Statement:

At Loanhead Primary School and Early Childhood Centre we work together with kindness and respect to create a welcoming, safe, nurturing, and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and supported to reach their fullest potential

Our Values:

Respect · Inclusion · Kindness

Our Aims:

- Create a safe, happy and nurturing environment where people's ideas, feelings and differences are respected
- Foster an ethos of respect, kindness, inclusion and empathy where everyone feels valued and supported
- Provide high-quality learning experiences that encourage positive attitudes and a love of learning
- Work collaboratively to develop confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens, and effective contributors

Our Reminders:

Safety First, Kindness Counts, Manners Matter.



Our School Culture

At Loanhead, we place the highest value on strong relationships across our school community. Working together as a team is central to everything we do, and every voice is heard and respected. Our relationship-based approach fosters an inclusive ethos that involves staff, pupils, and parents and carers in the life of the school. We celebrate diversity and are committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Regular reflection and evaluation help us stay focused on achieving our shared goals.

Loanhead is proud to be an inclusive school. We strive to meet the needs of all learners by providing high-quality teaching and learning experiences that promote attainment and wider achievement. We believe that no barrier should prevent a child from progressing, and we work hard to “Get it right for every child” through a range of supports and flexible pathways.

We recognise the vital role of partnership between parents, carers, teachers, pupils, and the wider community in achieving our aims. Our skills-based curriculum equips children with the tools they need for lifelong learning. We encourage curiosity, resilience, and a willingness to try new things, even when mistakes happen. Our goal is to nurture inquisitive, motivated learners who are engaged with the world around them, their history, and their local community. Learning is rooted in real-life contexts, making it relevant, stimulating, and enjoyable. The campus provides rich opportunities that enhance experiences for both children and adults. By working together, we will deliver a curriculum and create an ethos of the highest quality, developing confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens, and effective contributors.

During a recent HMle inspection, the following was shared:

Inspectors highlighted that the Head Teacher, together with staff, has now established opportunities for leadership and improvement across the school. Inspectors reported that staff leadership roles are impacting positively on children’s experiences and outcomes.

Inspectors reported that the Head Teacher has established a pupil council to ensure that the views of children from across the school are captured. This is leading to children increasingly influencing improvements in the school.

Inspectors reported that the Head Teacher has a clear vision and ambition for the school to provide high quality learning experiences for all children to fulfil their learning potential and that this is now impacting positively on learning and teaching across the school.

Inspectors have reported positive progress in all areas identified for improvement in the original inspection. As a result of the findings from the inspection, inspectors are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and they will make no more visits in connection with the inspection.

Communication between home and school

The school strives to keep all parents and carers informed in a variety of ways. We make use of the local authority Safer School’s Scotland App for day-to-day information and achievements. The app also includes information sent directly from East Ayrshire Council and our school blog.

Each class issues a termly newsletter which shares what the children are going to be learning about. Primary 4 to 7 make use of Microsoft Teams which is an online way for our children to access learning, work on homework and reinforce class work.

We regularly seek the views of parents on school subjects and do this through the use of online surveys and questionnaires. We encourage parents to be involved in the school development planning and seek the views of the parent council and wider parent forum on a number of initiatives. Our Parent Council (Friends of Loanhead) are very active and supportive. Their main aim is to support the children, parents and staff to ensure we are moving the school forward, continually making improvements and raising funds to ensure the children get the very best they deserve.

Although the school app and school blog are used regularly to keep you up to date, your child may bring information home in their school bag.

Please encourage them to pass these on. REMEMBER TO CHECK BAGS.

Loanhead's school blog can be found at the address below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/loanheadprimaryschool/>

Safer School Scotland App can be downloaded on your phone via the app store. The code is 1540.



Parental Involvement Opportunities

We continually strive to work in partnership with parents and carers. Our website and school blog is updated regularly to provide you with information as well as catching glimpses of your child's learning. Our school app showcases a lot of children's learning. Throughout the year, we like to invite parents into the school to work alongside their child/children and it is lovely to see you all being part of your child's learning. Our Family Fun Night, Christmas Fayres, Prizegiving and Sports Days and Curriculum Workshops are just some of the events we have on offer to support your engagement with the school throughout the year.



Volunteers are always warmly welcomed to come in and support us within the school. We have been very fortunate to have parents and grandparents helping us with a range of activities throughout the year. However, new legislation requires that all adults working with children on a regular basis are Disclosure Scotland checked. The school can arrange for a PVG to be completed if this necessary. We can call on adults to help us supervise walks to the church, parks and our Kilmarnock Town trail. The Kilmarnock Learning Community has one Active School's Co-ordinator who works across the community to provide support to staff and pupils. The children may bring information home in their school bag about after school and holiday activities they can be part of. This information is also provided on the school app. We now use the Parent Pay sign up for after

school clubs and they are on a first come first serve basis so please register your child's interest in the club quickly or they may miss out on a place.

School and Community



As the school is an integral part of the community, children are made aware of the importance of treating the community and those who live in the community with respect and concern. We practice these skills through local history walks, visiting the local church, going to the library and litter picking.

It is hoped that those who live in the community will recognise that the school welcomes participation by parents and friends of the school.



SECTION 2

Enrolment

Enrolment takes place annually in January when exact details are given in the local press and posted in pre-5 establishments as well as on our school app. Children who reach the age of 5 years before 1st March of the following year are eligible for enrolment for the primary class beginning in August.

Parents should have access to their child's birth certificate and proof of address it comes to register their child. All registration processes are now online and can be accessed through the East Ayrshire Council website.

Any parent wishing to come along to view the school and meet us before enrolling their child in January can do so and ask any questions they may have about our provision. Appointments can be made by telephone/letter or email.

Children who live in the catchment area of a particular school are required to enrol at that school. Information regarding placing requests can be found online at [East Ayrshire Council Placing Requests](#)

Transitions

Transfer from Pre-school to Primary

We are committed to ensuring the transition from Early Childhood Centre to school is as smooth as possible. We engage with our new pupils throughout the year before they start school. There are opportunities for school visits, to participate in joint events, to see our class assemblies and meet staff and buddies to start to build our relationships with our new children. After the January enrolment, we organise visits by our Primary 1 class teacher to any children coming to us from other early education establishments. A more detailed calendar of events and visits are introduced in May.

A special meeting for parents will be arranged in May/June to provide detailed information about school procedures and to answer queries. Parents will be invited to further meetings to discuss work programmes being used in the school and to discuss how they can help their children with these at home. We want to ensure we are getting it right for your child right from the start so we engage in meetings for children with any additional support need or medical condition that requires support. We ensure that all information is gathered to support an excellent start to the child's journey through school.

Transfer from Primary to Secondary School

Pupils are normally transfer to secondary between the ages of 11 and 12, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Parents will be informed of the arrangements no later than December of the year preceding the date of transfer at the start of the new session.

The children of Loanhead Primary School normally transfer to:

**Kilmarnock Academy,
Sutherland Dr,
Kilmarnock,
KA3 7JL
01563 525509**

**St Joseph's Academy,
Grassyards Road,
Kilmarnock,
KA3 7SL
01563 526144.**

Staff of Loanhead Primary, together with other schools within the Kilmarnock Learning Community, meet regularly with Kilmarnock Academy to discuss pupil progress and to plan programmes of study across the curriculum.

Children from the primary schools, particularly at Primary 7 level are involved with Kilmarnock Academy in a variety of curriculum projects, including in Primary 7 an extended visit to Kilmarnock Academy in June prior to their transfer. Secondary staff also visit Primary 7 pupils. In class. The school is a member of the Kilmarnock Education Group which comprises of the following schools: Whattriggs Primary School, Onthank Primary School, James Hamilton Primary School and Willowbank School which brings together a wide range of services to benefit young people.

The principal purpose of the Learning Community is to:

-Ensure that services are better co-ordinated in order to meet the needs of young people and raise attainment.

-Learning Communities support the government's approach to GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child). This means that if a child/young person needs support then, where possible, there will be one co-ordinated assessment and one plan for that child/young person.

Senior Leadership Team



Mrs K Doncaster
Head Teacher



Ms S McCulloch
Depute Head Teacher



Mr P Devlin
Acting Depute Head Teacher

School Roll

Total Roll: 238

| P1 | P2 | P2/3 | P3 | P4D | P4T | P5 | P5/6 | P6 | P7 |
|----|----|------|----|-----|-----|----|------|----|----|
| 24 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 23 | 21 | 18 | 24 |

Parents should note that the working capacity of the school may vary dependent upon the number of pupils at each stage and the way in which the classes are organised.

ECC

Total Roll Capacity: 42

ECC Staff

| Early Learning and Childcare Practitioners (ELCP) | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Lead Senior ELCP | Laura McPhee (Acting) |
| Blue Group ELCP | Meghan Finlay/Gillian Richmond |
| Red Group ELCP | Emma Docherty |
| Green Group ELCP | Lorna Gilmour |
| Yellow Group ELCP | Stephanie Muldoon |
| Orange Group ELCP | Chloe Flynn |
| Support Assistant | Cheryl Hamilton |

Our Class Structure for 2025/2026

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Head Teacher | Mrs Doncaster |
| Depute Head Teacher | Ms McCulloch |
| Depute Head Teacher (Acting) | Mr Devlin |
| Principal Teacher (Acting) | Mrs Gilmour-McGuire |
| P1 | Mrs Poulter |
| P2 | Miss Hawkshaw (Probationer) / Miss Nelson |
| P2/3 | Mrs Warren / Miss Nelson |
| P3 | Mrs Donnelly / Miss Nelson |
| P4D | Mr de Vry |
| P4T | Mrs Templeman |
| P5 | Mrs Johnston/Mrs Hogarth |
| P5/6 | Mrs Gilmour McGuire/Mrs Hogarth |
| P6 | Miss Wynne (Probationer) / Miss Nelson |
| P7 | Mrs Speirs |
| NCCT | Mrs McGeoch |
| Senior Clerical Assistant | Mrs Bomphray |
| Clerical Assistant | Ms Carter |
| Pupil Support Assistant | Mr Taylor |
| Pupil Support Assistant | Miss Clark |
| Pupil Support Assistant | Miss Hunter |
| Pupil Support Assistant | Mr Daly |
| Janitor | Mr Oliver |

Support for children and young people and parents/carers

Additional Support Needs (ASN)

Within Loanhead Primary and ECC, additional support is first highlighted by the class teacher to the Senior Leadership Team. Following school protocols, we assess the needs of the child and work with the Team With The Family (TWTF) to ensure all supports are in place. Interventions are put in place within the classroom through in class supports. Interventions are evaluated on a termly basis and if no significant impact is evident, the child is then highlighted to the additional support needs co-ordinator.

ASN Co-ordinator ECC - P3 Mr Devlin

ASN Co-ordinator P4 - 7 Ms McCulloch

A meeting with the teacher and parents is set up to identify whether an action plan, Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or a *Co-ordinated Support Plan* is needed to support the young person's learning. Action plans are reviewed annually and are in addition to parents evening appointments. ILPs are reviewed as and when required. Additional and more specific information on Additional Support Needs can be found on our website:

www.eastayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/SupportForPupils/AdditionalSupportforLearning.aspx

SECTION 3

Our School Day

Start: 9:00 am

Interval: 10:30am - 10:45 am

Lunch: 12:15 - 1:00 pm

Finish: 3:00pm

At the beginning of each new session in August, we have alternative arrangements for our new Primary

1 pupils. This information will be found on our school app and will be emailed to parents prior to them starting school.



School holidays 2025/26

Please note that all dates are inclusive.

| Date | Holiday |
|--|--|
| August | |
| Monday 18 August 2025 | In-service day |
| Tuesday 19 August 2025 | In-service day |
| Wednesday 20 August 2025 | Pupils return |
| September | |
| Friday 19 September to Monday 22 September 2025 | Local holidays (Ayr Gold Cup weekend) |
| Tuesday 23 September 2025 | Pupils return |
| October | |
| Monday 13 October to Friday 17 October 2025 | October holidays |
| Monday 20 October 2025 | In-service day |
| Tuesday 21 October 2025 | Pupils return |
| December/January | |
| Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026 | Christmas and New Year |
| Monday 5 January 2026 | Pupils return |
| February | |
| Monday 9 February 2026 | Local holiday |
| Tuesday 10 February 2026 | In-service day |
| Wednesday 11 February 2026 | Pupils return |
| April | |
| Friday 3 April to Friday 17 April 2026 | Easter holidays (Good Friday – 3 April 2026) |
| Monday 20 April 2026 | Pupils return |
| May | |
| Monday 4 May 2026 | Local holiday (May Day) |
| Tuesday 5 May 2026 | Pupils return |
| Thursday 7 May 2026 | In-service day |
| Friday 8 May 2026 | Pupils return |
| June/July/August | |
| Monday 29 June to Friday 14 August 2026 | Summer holidays |
| Monday 17 August 2026 | In-service day |
| Tuesday 18 August 2026 | In-service day |
| Wednesday 19 August 2026 | Pupils return |

Attendance and Time Keeping/Reporting an Absence

Attendance at school is of a paramount importance to ensure opportunities for learning are maximised. If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason you must telephone the school landline on 01563 522938 and select leave an absence message or log the absence using the Safer School's Scotland App, giving the reason for absence. Under Child Protection Procedures any absences not reported to the school must be followed up by the school with a text or phone call home.

The school SEEMIS messaging system holds one main contact and will send attendance notifications to the main contact only. It is not possible to generate the automated message necessary to inform all parents/carers. However, should a parent/carer have a significant concern that the main contact is not sharing key information regarding attendance, they should contact the school to discuss possible alternative solutions.

Attendance and time keeping are monitored by our SLT and will be followed up with parents should any difficulties emerge. Holidays are not authorised absences. We keep a track of your children's attendance data and if it falls below

90% we will send you a letter to make you aware of this.

Anti-Bullying Policy/ Positive Relationships

East Ayrshire Council is committed to creating and sustaining a safe, positive and inclusive environment, where respect is shown to and is given by all of its children, young people, staff and parents/carers. We aim as a school to show kindness, care and connectedness. A number of initiatives and policy documents are in place to support, protect and encourage children and young people to lead happy and successful lives. At Loanhead we have recently updated our Respectful Relationship Policy.

[Respect for All – The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People](#) – was introduced by the Scottish Government in 2010, refreshed in 2017, and updated in November 2024.

The National Approach communicates and promotes a common vision and aims, to ensure that work across all agencies and communities, locally and nationally, is consistently and coherently contributing to a holistic approach to anti-bullying in Scotland, including prejudice-based bullying.

Promoting Positive Relationships

At Loanhead we aim to create an atmosphere in which all pupils and staff can work, learn and play safely. A variety of resources and strategies are in place to promote positive behaviour. Loanhead Primary's main means of managing behaviour is through a positive relationships approach in line with East Ayrshire's Relationship Policy and Loanhead Primary's Respectful Relationship Policy and Child Friendly Anti-Bullying Policy. This is achieved by recognising that children and young people are still developing and displays of "inappropriate" behaviour are a sign of an unmet need, difficulty coping or lack of knowledge. As a staff we take time to deal with behaviours ensuring we consider what the behaviour is telling us so that we can respond accordingly.

As discussed in the Relationships Policy all children grow and develop best in the context of safe and secure relationships. Our inclusive approach to supporting pupils provides a solid foundation to building positive relationships and managing positive behaviours across the school. We ask parents/carers to support us in this and if there are any concerns we work together as a team to support our children the best way we can.

Dress Code

We are very proud that our children wear school uniform and firmly believe that it helps them to feel part of the school community. This uniform is generally:

- Grey or black trousers/skirt/pinafore or tartan skirt/pinafore
- White polo shirt/shirt
- Purple and silver tie
- Purple sweatshirt/cardigan with school name & logo
- Plain tops without the school logo can also be worn



Security and Visitors

For safety and security reasons it is essential that we know who is in the building at any point of the day. To this end all visitors, including parents/carers, are asked to use only the main entrance to the school to enter the building. We ask parents not to enter with the children through the school playground doors. If parents wish to speak with the teacher please enter through the main entrance and speak to the office staff or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will make an appointment for you to meet with the teacher at a suitable time.

All visitors and tradespeople are asked to sign the register at the front of the school and sign out as they leave. All visitors are made aware of our Child Protection Procedures and have a copy of this on the back of their visitors' badge.

Our Child Protection Coordinator is Mrs K Doncaster, Head Teacher.

In the interests of your child's safety, if a different adult is collecting him/her from school that the identity of this person is made known to the school. We will not allow your child to leave the school with an unknown adult, please do not be offended if you are asked to verify who the adult is.

We ask that after the September holidays no parent or carer from our Primary 1 classes access the playground.

Our Senior Leadership Team are in the playground each day from 8:45am until 9.00am and class teachers dismiss children at 3.00pm.

Homework

Loanhead Primary School encourages children to take responsibility for their own learning. It is our aim to make homework more active, manageable and enjoyable for the children. Homework should take a maximum of 20 minutes to complete.

Homework should enable children to:

- Practice skills and to consolidate learning
- Take responsibility for their learning and work independently
- Demonstrate to parents the type of learning they are doing at school

Types of Homework

The type of tasks undertaken as homework is up to the individual teacher. The main areas of the curriculum in which homework is issued from will be:

- Spelling
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Social Subjects

School Meals

The schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) Act 2007 sets out in detail the National Nutritional Food Standards. School meals in East Ayrshire offer nutritionally balanced well, presented food in an environment that is sensitive to the needs of pupils. It offers a good lunchtime experience with an important break in the day away from the classroom, while still being in the safety of the school. Currently pupils in P1-7 are now entitled to a free school meal. All other pupils can either purchase a school dinner or bring a healthy packed lunch.

Cashless Catering - We operate a cashless catering system. Money is paid either online or via Pay Point stores. Parents must order their children's meals using ParentPay this can be done up to 8am on the day or three weeks in advance.

Complaints Handling

Parents should not hesitate to contact the school about any matter concerning their children. Small problems can often be prevented from becoming major ones if prompt action and cooperation is sought by teacher and parent.

Should you wish to contact the school to discuss any issue you should phone 01563 522938 or email the school mailbox eaLoanhead.PS@eastayrshire.org.uk. Our clerical staff will then forward your concerns to the relevant member of the SLT who will return your call/email as soon as possible.

You have the right to contact the Care Inspectorate with any complaint that you have about an Early Childhood Centre and you can make a complaint:

- online at www.careinspectorate.com
- by email enquiries@careinspectorate.com
- by phone on 0845 600 9527
- by letter, or by visiting any of their offices – a list is here:

<https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/our-offices>

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency affecting your child's school or centre, we have well-established procedures in place.

Group texts

Group texts are sent out to parents to advise of an emergency. Parents should provide the Head of Establishment or school office with an up-to-date mobile phone number to enable automatic contact via text messaging.

Website and social media

In the event of an emergency, East Ayrshire's communications team work quickly to update the website, Facebook and Twitter with the latest developments and advice on what to do.

Radio

The communications team also work closely with Westsound Radio (DAB 11B, MW 1035) and West FM (96.7, 97.5 and 106.7) with statements and updates issued frequently.

We understand an emergency can be a very stressful time and phone lines are often used by emergency services, so it's important that we try and keep lines clear.

Where to check for updates

As parents, you are advised that before telephoning your child's educational establishment for news and announcements, you should first check:

Council website <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

Administration of Medicine

The administration of prescribed medicines in an educational establishment is a matter for the discretion of the Head Teacher. If the Head Teacher agrees to administer medicine at the establishment, the member of staff administering the medication is legally required to exercise reasonable care to avoid injury. The Head Teacher is entitled to the full cooperation of the parents in helping to observe safe practices.

The only medicines allowed to be prescribed are those issued by a doctor or pharmacist – a prescribing label must be present and full administration details provided. Parents will be required to complete a form before medicines can be administered. You can obtain a copy of this from the school office.

In the instance of ongoing medication, a Health Care Plan will be formulated by the SLT, school nurse and parent/carer to ensure consistency of administration.

Data Protection

The school will handle all data in relation to children as per Data Protection Act 2018. There are a number of ways we like to communicate with you about your child's learning and social media has become more popular over the past few years. At the beginning of every new school year in August, you will be provided with an Annual Data form that give us the information about what your child can and can't access or be photographed for. This form must be completed and returned to school or your child will not have access to the internet for school studies. If at any time you would like to change the access your child can have please update the school teacher/office by letter or email.

Parent Council

As a parent/carer of a child in attendance at the school, you are automatically part of the Parent Forum of the school. The membership of the Parent Forum is made up of all parents/carers who have a child at the school. The Parent Forum can decide to form a smaller body called the Parent Council. The Parent Council is a group of parents selected by members of the Parent Forum to represent them. This is a very active group in the school who aim to provide the best support for our pupils, staff and parents.

The Parent Council meets regularly in the school and focusses on school planning issues, resources, health and safety, experiences for children and fundraising.

Parent Council Office Bearers

Chairperson - Jennifer Steven

Deputy Chairperson - Deborah Alexander

Co - Treasurers - Nichola Hill & Martin McMullen

Secretary - Susan McMullen



Meetings are held every two months or more regularly if planning for an event. The Parent Council meet in the gym hall and have a tea/coffee and discuss the school's successes, achievements and any problems that required to be worked on as a group.

A big part of the Parent Council is the hard work they put into raising funds for the school. The Parent Council have funded trips, Panto and ICT equipment and other resources. The parent Council are a group of volunteers who aim to get the best experiences for the children of Loanhead. They are extremely supportive of the school and engage fully as members of the whole school team.

SECTION 4

Curriculum

At Loanhead Primary we follow A Curriculum for Excellence which is the education system in Scotland. It includes early childhood centre, schools colleges and community learning from 3-18 and beyond.

The table overpage matches the five curriculum levels to stages of learning generally applicable, with flexibility (for example, for young people who are particularly able and/or have additional support needs).



| Level | Stage |
|------------------|--|
| Early | The pre-school years and P1, or later for some. |
| First | To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some. |
| Second | To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some. |
| Third and Fourth | S1 to S3, but earlier for some. The fourth level broadly equates to Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4. The fourth level experiences and outcomes are intended to provide possibilities for choice and young people's programmes will not include all the fourth level outcomes. |
| Senior phase | S4 to S6 and college or other means of study. |

Loanhead is currently reviewing our Curriculum Rationale in line with Curriculum for Excellence embedding the key curricular areas of: Health and Wellbeing, Literacy, Numeracy, French and a range of Interdisciplinary Studies that provide a context for Science, History, ICT and Geography.

Furthermore, pupils have the opportunity to extend their learning and have their voice heard through involvement in a wide range of activities such as school captains, pupil council and buddies. All pupils are champions in a leadership group across the school: Digital Champions, Sports Champions, Events Champions, Gardening Champions, Eco Champions, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM) Champions, Inclusion and Wellbeing Champions, UNCRC Champions and Community Champions



There are a range of sporting activities such as football training, cross country, athletics, cycling, annual performances, residential experience and active school activities.

Health & Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is a crucial part of your child's education. We teach all Health and Wellbeing in line with East Ayrshire guidance and authority wide planners. Please contact the school if you require further information about sensitive aspects of learning such as sexual health, relationships, parenthood and drugs awareness. We share information leaflets for parents on these areas on the school app. We have information sessions where we encourage parents to see the resources and discuss the lessons planned for the more sensitive aspects of health lessons.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Young people in Loanhead have 2 hours of P.E. per week. Children will know their days for P.E. and these will be on the app and by their class teacher at the beginning of a new session. P.E. kits are usually kept in school. We do follow the Council's Health and Safety plan and insist that jewellery including earrings cannot be worn for P.E. However, if parents are insistent on their child taking part in PE whilst wearing earrings, written authority must be provided by the parents with an awareness that this can increase the risk of injury. Consent letters available from the school.

Religious & Moral Education

This forms an important part of social education, assisting pupils towards a consistent set of values, attitudes and practices arising out of experience. Religious Education will encourage children to become aware of religious interpretations of personal experience and to appreciate dangers of prejudice. Our arrangements for pupil assemblies afford opportunities for gathering as a community and sharing information about various religious celebrations throughout the year. Parents/carers from ethnic minority religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the arrangements will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted not more than three occasions in any one session and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register. If you do not wish your child to take part in religious activities, please notify the Head Teacher who will make any necessary arrangements.

Outdoor Learning

At Loanhead all children will have opportunities to learn outdoors both in the establishment grounds and in the local community. We are developing a school garden which will allow us to develop aspects of the curriculum. Parents/carers will consent to this regular localised outdoor learning once at the beginning of session in the Annual Data forms, with medical and emergency contacts being requested. Thereafter, parents will be notified of the venues and dates of off-site visits, in order that pupils come adequately prepared. However, it is the parents' responsibility to inform the establishment if emergency contacts or medical conditions change or they don't wish their child to participate in a visit.

SECTION 5

Achievement and Improvement

At Loanhead we celebrate attainment and achievement within the school through individual certificates, class successes and whole school achievement. This can be in class, playground, at assemblies, through newsletters, our blog and in local newspapers and social media. Our annual prize giving ceremony recognises attainment, achievement, citizenship, sportsmanship and resilience. We welcome information from home about involvement in other activities out with the school.



How do we know our children are attaining and achieving?



Article 28 and 29: All children have the right to an education that nurtures, talents and interests



Our Vision

Learning at Loanhead Leads to Success

Our Values

Respect
Inclusion
Kindness

Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance Calendar
Classroom Observations
Pupil Focus Groups
Jotter Monitoring
Consultations
Moderation
Assessment
Professional Discussion

Tracking and Monitoring

Tracking discussion x3 per year with SLT
Online tracking system tracks pupil attainment, progress and attainment over time
Absence monitoring
Monitoring of specific pupil groups at tracking discussions (Care experienced, SIMD 1&2, ASN)

Pupil Targets

Jotters show pupil targets to show what has been achieved and what is being worked on

Leadership and Responsibilities

Pupil leadership groups and their progress shared at assemblies, online and in class
Accreditations
Primary Engineer
ECO schools
Rights Respecting Schools
Sports Ambassadors
Prefects
House captains
Buddies
Pupil Champions

Wider Achievements

Celebrating success assemblies
Certificates
Writing Award
Numeracy Award
Pupil of the week
Group awards
School Values Champion



Loanhead Primary & ECC: Key Progress 2024–25

We are delighted to share the fantastic progress made this year. Here are the highlights:

- New Vision and Values embedded across the school: Respect, Inclusion, Kindness.
- Every child involved in leadership groups, influencing school improvements.
- Consistent, high-quality teaching through 'Excellent Lesson' and 'Fantastic Five' frameworks.
- Improved attainment in literacy and numeracy, with strong results in P1, P4, and P7.
- Shared assessment calendar and data-driven tracking to support learning.
- Enhanced support for Additional Needs with clear plans and inclusive practices.
- Health & Wellbeing initiatives, including Friendship Stops and Rights Respecting work.
- Expanded digital learning with new iPads and Chromebooks.
- Staff professional development through leadership roles and specialist training.
- Early Childhood Centre improvements in play, wellbeing, and parent engagement.

| Our Leadership | Teaching and Learning Together |
|---|---|
| <p>SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new vision statement that reflects the new vision and values. Continue to provide leadership opportunities for all children across all stages Continue to embed robust quality assurance processes <p>ECC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for pre-school children to experience leadership roles Create specific champion roles within our entire staff team | <p>SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create child friendly version of the "Excellent Lesson" and "Fantastic Five Further develop a curriculum rationale Further develop learning through play in P1 and P2 incorporating play-based learning activities Further develop the use of meta skills across the curriculum To make the best use of 'Learning Intentions and Success Criteria' Develop digital literacy skills across <p>ECC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the learning environment to ensure children can consistently engage with high-quality resources and activities. |
| Our wellbeing and belonging | Our Attainment, Destinations and Achievements |
| <p>SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to embed robust ASN procedures and supports for all pupils Improve the understanding and implementation of our respectful relationships policy To improve inclusive practices and create inclusive learning environments for all pupils in every classroom Increase attendance of all pupils with a key focus on pupils with an attendance below 80%. To continue developing the implementation and use of GMWP To work towards gaining the UNRC (United Nations Rights of the Child) Silver Award <p>ECC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new Values & Vision Extend the transition period for all pre-school children | <p>SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise attainment in Numeracy To raise attainment in Writing <p>ECC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support children to have a clear understanding of their learning targets Develop how we record and recognise children's achievements |

SECTION 6

Assessment

Curriculum for Excellence emphasises that assessment is an integral part of day to day teaching and learning. Learners' progress will be closely monitored by staff, who reflect with them on their strengths, learning needs and next steps and will act based on this.

Learners themselves will be increasingly involved in this process, as they develop the skills needed to be able to make effective judgements on their own learning; skills that will be important to them throughout life. Testing will continue to be part of the framework of assessment, providing additional evidence of what learners know, understand and are able to do and helping teachers plan learning experiences which are motivating and challenging.

Assessment is the means of obtaining information which allows teachers, pupils and parents/carers to make judgements about pupil's progress and identify where we go next.

We do this in a variety of ways:

- day to day observations
- ongoing assessments such as end of topic activities
- teacher devised tests
- set tasks
- self-assessment
- homework opportunities
- standardised and diagnostic testing, for example P1 ELLAT, P3 Quest and SNSA testing for P1,4 and 7

All assessments will generally be carried out by the class teacher. Information gathered from all assessments will be used to assist the school in reporting to pupils, parents/carers, colleagues and other agencies. Feedback from class-based assessment is given to the children to assist with their targets and next steps in learning. The percentage given in a test is not reflective of a child's ability it is dependent on what is being assessed at the time and their journey across the CfE levels. We triangulate our assessment data with teacher's professional judgements and a child's class work or observations. All of this information formulates the children's levels of attainment and what their next steps and learning are.

Reporting To Parents

Formal parents' evenings are held twice a year. Following recent parental engagement our parents/carers have asked for more regular updates about the child's progress and this school session we are piloting three tracking reports throughout the session instead of one end of term report. . Communication about children's learning will be added to the school app. Each class teacher shares a termly class newsletter on the school app of what learning is planned and what the class have been learning about.

SECTION 7

Further Information

For any further information please contact eaLoanhead.PS@eastayrshire.org.uk