



Standards and Quality Report – Summary Version Session 2014/15

The Purpose of a Standards and Quality Report:

To let you know how successful we have been over the last session in implementing the actions in our School Improvement Plan and to highlight our strengths and identify our priorities for next year.

This is a summary version, designed for parents, of the full Standards & Quality Report. If you would like to see the full report, please visit the school website or request a copy from the school office (0141 577 2100).

Our Vision, Values and Aims

Barrhead High will provide a safe environment in which pupils, staff and parents feel valued, respected and included. We aim to deliver a high quality learning experience for all which will motivate pupils to aim for and reach the highest standards of attainment and achievement within their potential.

At the heart of our values lies RESPECT - respect for each other and respect for yourself: **R**esponsibility, **E**xcellence, **S**uccess, **P**erseverance, **E**quality, **C**onfidence, **T**eamwork.

Our Main Priorities for 2014/15

Our development over the session was guided by the 2014/15 School Improvement Plan (SIP), which focussed on the following areas:

- Develop the Curriculum in line with *Curriculum for Excellence*
- Improve the Quality of Teaching and the Learning Experience of Pupils
- Develop an Ethos of Inclusion and Achievement
- Develop Partnerships to Support Learners' Experiences
- Self-Evaluation
- Develop Leadership

Methods of Gathering Evidence:

The judgements made throughout this Report are based on evidence gathered from a number of sources. We have systematically analysed our pupils' performance in external and internal assessment. We have operated a programme of Learning Visits in the school. We have discussed with and considered evaluations from pupils, parents and staff as well as the local authority Education Department and the Education Scotland. The Parent Council has played a significant role in this process.

The Report is structured around **4 Key Questions** about how we have done over last session:

1. How good are we at recognising achievement and raising attainment?
EVALUATION GOOD

We have continued to see similar improvements in SQA results to what we have experienced over the past 4 years. In the 2015 results we again saw very positive results in the S5/6 main indicators: 5+ Highers for S5 and S6, 3+ Highers for S5, 1+ Advanced Highers for S6. However the S4 5+ Nat 5s took a noticeable drop.

Barrhead High School continues to perform above the national average and significantly higher in comparison to its comparator schools within the national context.

- In S4, after last session's best ever results (50.4% attaining 5+ Nat 5s), it was disappointing to see a drop to 39.6%.
- In S5, the school achieved a new high for 5+ Higher passes, at 19.0%; and maintained the increase in 3+ Highers. However only 1 pupil attained 5 A-passes at Higher this session.
- In S6, the number of pupils gaining 5 Higher awards by the time they left school rose significantly to 34.2%.
- Our pupils are still slightly below the ERC average for moving on to positive destinations but are on the national average. The percentage progressing to Higher Education (49.6%) is 11% above the national average this year (Session 2013/14 figures).

We have been very encouraged by the achievements of our pupils and staff this session, as individuals, groups and across the school.

- 2 pupils were selected to receive their Diana Awards at a special ceremony in London – only 3 from Scotland were included.
- The school achieved re-accreditation as a Green Flag School.
- A number of pupils represented the school and/or ERC at home and abroad.
- A number of pupils are achieving in their sporting areas at national levels.

2. How well do we meet the needs of our school community?
EVALUATION **VERY GOOD**

Impact on Learners

We have made significant contributions to the development of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), and in particular the new National exams, in the school, across the authority and at the national level:

- All departments/faculties have developed courses and presented pupils for Nationals 3, 4 & 5. They are continuing to evaluate this session's performance.
- A reading recovery programme achieved some remarkable results and was featured at the Education Committee.
- A "D" (Dyslexic) Team of pupils was formed and they have worked to produce information for staff to help them support pupils with dyslexia.

Significant strategies for supporting pupils in the areas of emotional wellbeing / mental health have been developed this session.

Involving Parents, Carers and Families

We introduced some new events and initiatives for parents this session:

- A PE showcase event for parents was initiated to celebrate the high levels of skills some of our pupils have.

- We have extended the use of Twitter, particularly in relation to school trip and parents have been very positive about the benefits.
- The Parent Council have made significant contributions to support various pupil activities.

Involving Staff

- A significant number of staffing changes have taken place.
- Staff involvement has allowed a wide range of clubs, activities and school trips to take place.
- Interdisciplinary working continues to play a key role in learning with some high impact themes eg WW1 and Rapid Response.

Involving the Local and Wider Community

- Science has been a major emphasis in Cluster working this session with new transition lessons and an exciting robot event.
- The local Rotary Club again sponsored different activities including the Young Linguist event and a pupil attending a leadership course.
- Our charity work involved a couple of focuses which had a major impact on the school and local community eg the joint charity football match with St Luke's and the Nepal Hillwalk.
- The WW1 remembrance event was very powerful and its impact resulted from the joint working of staff and pupils across various subjects.
- There was a higher level of joint working in individual subjects across ERC, and beyond, creating and sharing resources for the new courses.
- A number of staff and pupils were involved in activities in an international context in, for example, Belgium, China and Lithuania.

3. How good is our leadership?

EVALUATION

VERY GOOD

We have worked this session to develop further leadership at all levels.

- Staff and pupils experience many opportunities to develop their leadership skills through taking initiative and being given the freedom and support to develop their plans.
- Our inhouse CPD programme not only develops the skills of the participants in different areas but also develops the staff who lead the sessions.
- The Merit Scheme, nurturing approaches and emphasis on high standards of work, dress, etc, continue to play a vital role in creating and supporting the positive ethos across the school community.
- Our charity involvement supported the RESPECT agenda in our school values.

4. What is our capacity for improvement?
EVALUATION VERY GOOD

The improvements demonstrated over the previous sessions, and again in this session, are testimony to the school's capacity for improvement. The increasing focus on self-evaluation has encouraged staff, pupils and parents to strive for the best. This session again has seen outstanding progress and achievement across many areas of school life and work. However the emphasis on self-evaluation has also prepared the community to recognise and address areas of concern including the drop in the S4 results in particular.

The school community - pupils, staff and parents - remains committed to continuous improvement across all areas of its work.

The Improvement Plan for the coming session again focuses on the same 6 main headings as previously. This session, the plan has been pruned back to allow greater focus on the key items for development.



Andy Sinclair,
Head Teacher

September 2015