



Standards and Quality Report – Summary Version Session 2015/16

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 2015/16

Our development over the session was guided by the 2015/16 School Improvement Plan (SIP), which focussed on the following areas:

- Develop the Curriculum in line with *Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)*
- 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 and their views informed the report, as did the views of pupils through focus groups. We were involved in an ERC review of CfE and a review of Community Learning & Development.

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 VERY GOOD

We have continued to see similar improvements in SQA results to those experienced over the past 5 years. In the 2016 results we reversed the drop we experienced last year in S4 5+ Nat 5 results. Following the dip in S4 last year, we worked to avoid a follow-on dip in S5 results. Although we did have a drop in S5 5+ Highers, we saw significant increases in the other S5 statistics.

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 drop to 39.6%, 48.0% of pupils attained 5+ Nat 5 awards.
- In S5, the number of 5+ Higher passes dropped to 9.0%; however the number attaining 3+ Highers rose to 34.2% (0.1% below our best ever) and 4 pupils attained 5 A-passes at Higher this session.
- In S6, the number of pupils gaining 5 Higher awards by the time they left school dropped to 29.8% but still our second best ever.
- Our pupils are still slightly below the ERC average for moving on to positive destinations (95.5%) but are above the national average of 92.9%. The percentage progressing to Higher Education dropped to 42.3% but is still 4% above the national average this year (Session 2014/15 figures).

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

- We introduced a Dux and Runner-Up award for S5 pupils this session as well as individual subject prizes for best SQA performances in S4 Nat 5s and S5 Highers.
- 4 pupils travelled to Malawi with the ERC group, 2 went to China and 2 were part of the ERC Morocco Challenge.
- A group of S6 pupils led the Anthony Nolan Trust appeal for donors and gained over 70 staff and pupils signing up
- A number of pupils represented the school and/or ERC at home and abroad in a variety of competitions and activities.
- A number of pupils are achieving in their sporting areas at national levels.
- We introduced 2 PE showcase events highlighting the skills of our pupils and also of pupils from our associated primaries.

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

Impact on Learners

- The main focus this session was on presenting pupils for the new Higher and Advanced Higher courses, as well as consolidating the introduction of Nat 3, 4 and 5 courses. Various departments have reported positive developments and achievements this session.
- The Reading Recovery programme has been widened in scope to involve more pupils.
- The number of pupils attending Easter School has risen significantly over each of the past few years.
- We continue to use a variety of strategies to support vulnerable pupils.

Involving Parents, Carers and Families

- We continue to use a variety of media to improve communication with pupils and parents and to support learning – Twitter, GLOW and the website. Some departments now issue their homework through these media.
- Parents have identified the need for more consistent updating of the website.
- The pupil, staff and parent hillwalk was repeated this year and looks like becoming an annual fixture. It has helped build a greater sense of community, as have joint pupil-staff events like the Muddy Run.

Involving Staff

- A number of longer-term staff absences / vacancies affected different subjects this session and we were assisted by staff from other ERC schools.
- Some new activities like the Ghost Tour involved staff and pupils working together.
- Staff involvement has again allowed a wide range of clubs, activities and school trips to take place, including our first venture to the USA.
- Pupils speak appreciatively of the support and relationships they experience with staff.

Involving the Local and Wider Community

- Access to Education funding allowed us to extend the transition work with activity days and a residential experience being offered to P7 pupils prior to starting at Barrhead High.
- The PE dept introduced 2 Celebrating Achievement events highlighting the skills of High School and Primary School pupils. A clever opening video, with staff and pupils working together, was used to set the scene.
- Young people from Barrhead High played a key role at some community events like the ERC Refugees Event and their contribution was noted and appreciated by many people, including the Provost of ERC.
- A number of our senior pupils took part in international trips with other ERC pupils to Malawi, China and Morocco. This allowed them not only to develop their personal skills but also in some cases offer help to others in more need.
- Members of our staff continue to play key roles at both ERC and National levels.

3. How good is our leadership?

EVALUATION

VERY GOOD

- Pupils share our school values and classroom charter but have encouraged staff to promote these more consistently across all classes.
- Charity work plays an important role in the school and a new development this session was the work with the Anthony Nolan Trust. This was seen as setting a standard for other schools.
- Our Pupil Support staff were responsible for trialling the new procedures in relation to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.
- Pupil leadership is encouraged through a number of activities with S1 pupils mentoring P7 pupils in robotics and other young people working as Sports Leaders

