

Saint Ninian's High School

“There is a climate of aspiration in the school, which promotes that there is no limit to what can be achieved for the young people of St. Ninian's High School. This is underpinned by gospel values, the Catholic faith, mutual respect and nurturing relationships. Young people feel they have extensive opportunities to achieve their potential, and develop their wellbeing”. Inspection of Saint Ninian's, Education Scotland, 4 June 2019



Saint Ninian's High School is a six year comprehensive Roman Catholic School with a pupil population drawn from a large area on the south side of Glasgow. The school offers a vibrant environment for learning and teaching and seeks to develop the highest standards for all students. We are committed to developing young people within the distinctive ethos of a Roman Catholic School.

Our aim is to assist all students to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their development – personal, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual, and in doing so inspire all our students to become the very best they can be.

We seek to promote Gospel values as a way of life. It is our belief that these should be experienced in the daily life of the school – in the classroom, in the corridor, in the extra-curricular life of the school, in the relationships between pupils and staff and between pupil and pupil. The success of that education is measured not simply in terms of academic performance but in terms of the depth and quality of the formation of our young people ensuring the fullest possible development of each person's individual capacities at each stage of their journey through school, joined to the willingness of our students to continue this development throughout their life and the



motivation to use those developed gifts for the common good, transforming the culture in which they live, learn and work, putting their faith into action for social justice.

The pursuit of academic excellence remains a key dimension within the framework of human excellence. We do not define excellence within the narrow context of examination results or fit for economic activity. If we did we would be unfaithful to the Gospel which provides the *raison d'être* for the catholic ethos of our school. This narrow perspective reduces the 'fullness' of education to only one part.

This vision for all provides a framework for our teaching with due weight given to religious, academic, pastoral, and vocational education.



Excellence and Equity are at the heart of our work. The current School Plan sets targets for a number of priorities, linked to the national improvement framework and local improvement plan, with an emphasis on everyone attaining, everyone achieving through excellent experiences and with an emphasis on excellence and equity for all and service to others. Our pupils are very involved in fund-raising for a wide range of charitable causes and contribute to an extensive community service programme.

Pupils travel to work overseas on the Lasallian World Development Projects each summer. Others travel to Malawi and Lourdes.

Beyond the formal school day, our staff offer a wide range of co-curricular activities and pupils are able to enjoy and to participate in sport, arts and cultural events. These activities give an added dimension to the pupils' education and do much to create good relationships between pupils and staff.

On the sports and fitness fronts the activities include basketball, netball, badminton, volleyball, gymnastics, skiing, football, athletics and dance. Each year we have a gymnastics and dance show. In recent years, our teams have achieved national renown and titles in football, dance, gymnastics, skiing, and athletics and cross country.





The Performing and Expressive Arts are flourishing in our school, with many students involved in vocal ensembles, junior and senior orchestras, the jazz band and concert band. Many of our young people participate in ERC schools' bands, orchestras, vocal groups, and in Scottish and UK national orchestras, recognising the outstanding provision and standards across music. Teachers and instrumentalists organise concerts which are performed through the year.

There is also a bi-annual School Show. The Art & Design Faculty organise a stunning annual Fashion Show and Art Exhibition.

A number of departments organise regular enrichment excursions both at home and abroad. Trips are organised each year to destinations including Millport, Whithorn, Carfin, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, and the ski slopes of the Alps.

Our building is equipped to the highest specification throughout and maintained to an excellent standard. This ranges from excellent IT facilities, a very well equipped and resourced Performing Arts Faculty, and very good indoor and outdoor PE facilities.

There are approximately 132 FTE teachers on the staff of the school.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Head Teacher and six Depute Head Teachers.

The school currently has fourteen Principal Teachers, Curriculum, and two Principal Teachers, Development.

The Pastoral Support Team is co-ordinated by a Depute Head Teacher and organised in a vertical structure. There are eight Principal Teachers of Pastoral Support and a Principal Teacher of Support for Learning. Our School Chaplain is Canon Stephen Baillie. We also receive significant support from the clergy of our local parishes.



A wide range of staff provide support for learning, technician support, and business and administrative support. There is a School Librarian. Further support is offered by our janitorial, cleaning, and catering staff.

Every year teachers lead their pupils through upcoming challenges and in doing so make an impact to guide and inspire them long after ceasing to teach them. They witness to teachings and values our students can carry with them into the future, creating a palpable sense of purpose and meaning for the pupils they teach.



The role of the teacher is one that is well respected and honoured in our school community. What teachers pass on to young people throughout their school lives has the most powerful impact, and can span across generations. Our young people recognise the importance of good teachers in their lives and the indelible impact they make to their wellbeing and development. In all likelihood, they will each have a number of teachers whose influence they will carry with them through their lives.

The best teachers plant a vision in the minds of their students, hope in their hearts, a discipline in their actions, and a strength in their soul that never fades. They teach young people to see, feel, and act differently, and enlarge their moral horizons. They want everyone associated with our school to see what they have and what, with the right teaching, learning and love, they are capable of giving. All young people are created for a purpose, and they all have their own unique constellation of gifts and talents.



Parents are formally involved in the life of the school through the Parent Council and through the *Friends of Saint Ninian's*. Both work in close partnership with staff. *The Friends of Saint Ninian's* is a vibrant group of committed and dedicated parents and staff who organise a wide range of events to support fund raising activities on behalf of the young people of our school.

On an individual basis parents are encouraged to play a full part in decisions affecting their child's education and welfare. Their views are sought on important aspects of school life. Curricular evenings are organised and online information is posted on a regular basis keeping parents fully informed about the wide range of school events and activities and about ways in which they can assist their child's progress. We engage the support of parents for home learning and go to great lengths to explain to them the approaches which underpin the teaching and learning at the various stages of the school. We also value greatly the contribution which parents make to our programme of careers education and the spiritual life of our school. Parents fully support the maxim that the school community we build for our young people is a school community we build together.



Staff are committed to fostering a spirit of partnership between home, school and the parish. This partnership is a strength of the school. It is based on the Catholic faith, mutual trust and respect. The school chaplains provide very strong support for all in the school community. Family members are regular attendees at Mass held within the school. Young people contribute to the life and work of their community through their faith, for example through the Caritas Award. This helps to embed the importance of giving back to the community through charity work. Inspection of Saint Ninian's, Education Scotland, 4 June 2019



We recognise that it is essential to forge strong links with the community we serve. At a very simple level this entails developing good relations with neighbours and helping to keep Eastwood Park tidy and litter free. Rouken Glen Park is increasingly

used as a valuable educational hub supporting a number of SCQF Courses such as Beekeeping, Photography, Sport, Biology, and outdoor learning.

At another level we draw on the support of local employers for mentoring, work experience programmes and the like. Visiting speakers contribute to courses in several subjects, including Religious Education, and to our personal and social education programme.

The school has four associated primary schools: Saint Cadoc's, Saint Joseph's, Our Lady of the Missions, and Saint Clare's. It also attracts placing requests from a wide area. Saint Ninian's along with our Primary Schools and Glenwood Family Centre form the Saint Ninian's Cluster.



The roll for August 2021 is 1840. Approximately 99% of our pupils return for a Fifth Year and almost 96% stay on into Sixth Year. 3% of our pupils reside within SIMD 1-3, 23% within 4-7, and 74% within 8-10. 4% of pupils are in receipt of free school meal entitlement. 26% have an additional need. 21% are from a BAME background. There are a number of young people who are care experienced and looked after.

Senior and middle leaders, and staff have a very effective focus on using information on young people's progress to develop a wide range of learning pathways. They have used the national programme, Developing the Young Workforce in an excellent way to prepare young people for employment. Partners such as parents, the church, employers, Skills Development Scotland, former pupils, colleges, universities and associated primary schools are integral to developing the curriculum. Inspection of Saint Ninian's, Education Scotland, 4 June 2019

The curriculum offered is vibrant, coherent, and flexible. It promotes breadth, choice, depth, and progression at all stages. Our pupils should find their learning challenging and motivating, encouraging high aspirations and ambition for all. Approximately 98% of leavers enter a positive destination. Further information is available at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/>



From the BGE through to the Senior Phase our young people have access to a rich suite of National Qualifications offered through to Advanced Higher and SCQF 8.

Young people are very successful in securing outstanding outcomes in attainment and achievement. They show a great respect for learning, with a high level of motivation and determination to flourish in a wide range of situations. Inspection of Saint Ninian's, Education Scotland, 4 June 2019

We have placed learning, teaching and assessment at the heart of our School Plan, for it is in the classroom that teachers make the difference. Within our classes we aspire to offer a curriculum that is characterised by the highest standards of learning and teaching and a search for continuous improvement.

Our academic performance across all national benchmarks is of a very high standard in terms of equity and the quality of examination results and post-16 destination outcomes speak for themselves. An ever increasing range of SCQF Awards are being offered through our innovative vocational, wellbeing and leadership programmes. Pupil attainment has been improving in literacy and numeracy.

However the challenge remains: we need to keep a clear focus on improving the life chances of all young people. We are taking forward several initiatives – each designed to overcome barriers to learning encountered by our young people through the social and economic disadvantages experienced by their families.

The curriculum reflects the needs and aspirations of all. There is a focus on the development of skills of literacy, numeracy, curiosity and independent learning, digital competence, health and wellbeing, creativity, employability, and leadership.

Our school focus on providing professional learning and leadership opportunities for teachers at all levels reflects our belief in the primacy of the classroom and the importance of the teaching and learning process.

All pupils should experience an education that is challenging, enjoyable and which leads to successful learning. Teachers are at the heart of achieving this aim.

Staff as a team are very effective leaders of continuous improvement. They are committed to undertaking a range of professional learning, much of which is based on them learning with, and from, each other. Senior leaders are adept at recognising how staff's skills can contribute effectively to the leadership of the school. Inspection of Saint Ninian's, Education Scotland, 4 June 2019

The highest quality of education provision is our aim for all pupils and we expect all teachers to participate fully in our improvement agenda. The school places immense importance on the professionalism of staff. The quality of the service we provide is

entirely dependent on the contribution that all our staff have to make. Support for teachers and the teaching process is therefore crucial in our efforts to raise standards.

As a teacher in Saint Ninian's High School you will enjoy teaching in a school that is at the forefront of educational development and where high priority is accorded to the professional development of teachers and staff. Our work is recognised nationally as a high quality programme. We have extended considerably the opportunities for teachers to access high quality and relevant professional development. Our prime focus is on teaching and learning and the support we offer our pupils. Teachers are assisted to meet the challenge of social inclusion within our clearly defined professional development and leadership framework.

Outward facing in all that we do, our professional learning and leadership programmes open up opportunities for teachers who wish to achieve career satisfaction and progression through their leadership of learning. Staff are encouraged to extend their expertise by keeping the quality of their teaching under regular review, by attendance at in-service courses, by contributing to discussion & development within their department or within school, and by taking on responsibility for aspects of work in their departments. Our Senior Leadership Team and Principal Teachers offer extensive support to their colleagues, both teaching and ancillary.

Finally, Catholic education in Saint Ninian's High School aims to plant a seed of true wisdom, knowledge and goodness in the hearts and minds of our young people. Our vision and prayer is that this seed will fall on the rich soil of their intelligence, talents, gifts, generosity and compassion, and that it will produce its crop a hundredfold in the way they live and in what they achieve in the future.

