

# Balmerino Primary School and Nursery Class Report on 2023-24 and Plan for 2024-25 – Summary for Parents and Pupils

**Our School, Our Future** is our vision for Balmerino PS. It is displayed on our school website and around the building. Our School, Our Future gives a picture of what we all want out school to be like. It includes our OWLS which are our school aims: Opportunities, Wellbeing, Learning and Support. It includes our values for learning: Perseverance, Independence, Effort, Curiosity, Enthusiasm, Teamwork. It includes our values for wellbeing: Inclusion, Friendship, Respect and Personal achievement.

**A Success in 2023/4: Attendance** Children at Balmerino Primary School attend very well. Attendance is important to us because we want children to have as many learning days at school as they can. If we are worried about a child's attendance, we speak to their parents (and sometimes to them) about what we can do to help.

**A Success in 2023/24: Writing** We have developed a writing strategy to start using from August 2024. This will help make sure all children make good progress in learning. Teachers have learnt new techniques for teaching writing. Good writing lessons are taking place and more children are doing as well in writing as they do in reading and listening and talking. When the learning partners visited, they were able to see that children were working hard on writing,

**A Success in 2023/24: Development of a P1-7 Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Programme of Study** Teachers report that almost all children can tell about ways to keep themselves safe, hygienic and healthy in relationships and as they get older as well as displaying knowledge of how new life starts (plants, animals and humans) and how to be a parent (age and stage appropriate). We can also see this in the end of year reports across the school. In the parentwise survey the majority of parents agreed with the statement that the school teaches their child to make healthy life choices – relationships, sexual health and parenthood, no one responded negatively. A few parents have come to us to discuss concerns and in almost all cases have been reassured and satisfied that the programme meets the needs of children at the correct age and stage.

## Raising Attainment in 2023/24

Attainment at key stages in June 2024

Stage	Listening and Talking	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
P1	All	All	All	All
P4	Most	Most	Most	Majority
P7	Most	Majority	Majority	Majority

As we are a small school, it is not appropriate to share more specific data than this publicly as it risks identifying specific pupils. A close analysis of SNSA over time for the June 2024 P7 cohorts shows a 2.8 average gain in reading between P4 and P7 whereas 2 would be the expectation. It shows a 2.7 average gain for numeracy. A close analysis of P1 BASE and P4 SNSA shows all pupils within the June 2024 P4 cohort have made the expected progress in reading with 45% having made better than expected progress. The same close analysis showed the majority of pupils to have made the expected progress in Numeracy. Looking at data over time suggests that pupils are making faster progress in Literacy than in Numeracy and this has led to us deciding to include Conceptual Understanding of Numeracy as an improvement priority in 2024-25.

## Progress Report on Work in 2023/24: Further Development of a positive Relationships and Behaviour and Rights Respecting Ethos

in the parentwise survey, few parents told us that the school does not listen to bullying concerns and no parent responded negatively to a question asking if the school takes action on bullying. This matches responses within a school survey where all parents responding agreed that children learn about their rights in school and that the school has high standards of behaviour expectations. Almost all agreed that children are treated fairly and that the school promotes positive behaviour. In the pupilwise survey, most children report feeling safe at school and that they know who they can go to if they need help. Only a few children felt they aren't listened to about bullying and disagreed that the school takes action on bullying. Our aim has to be that no children feel like this but given the otherwise good feedback and the good feedback on this area within the Education Scotland report on the inspection of March 2023, this will now become part of the life and work of the school, not an improvement priority.

**A Success in 2023/24: Sign A-Long in Nursery** This area will be carried into next session as we have not yet developed it to the point that we can evidence impact. Signing is in regular use in Nursery by staff and children and is displayed in the environment as appropriate. Most children know that some people use signing to communicate. Next Steps are to further embed and make opportunities for children to lead learning at assemblies by sharing signs learnt with older children.

## 1. Improvement Priority in 2024-5: Conceptual Understanding of Numeracy – P1-P7

What we will do: All the staff will work together to learn about the best ways to help children understand numbers and make progress in maths. They will make plans together so that the learning in one year at school carries on into the next year and that maths is explained in the same way by each teacher and that the same supports will be used through the school.

Our Aim: Children will succeed in Numeracy and well as they do in Literacy at our school. Children will have access to the same supports across the school and maths will be explained in the same way.

## 2. Improvement Priority in 2024-25: Pupil's Progress

What we will do: All the staff will work together to make sure children understand their point in learning and can help plan their next steps. This will start with Literacy and Numeracy but later will be true to all areas of the curriculum.

Our Aim: Children will be given feedback which will help them to identify and achieve their next steps in Literacy and Numeracy.

## 3. Improvement Priority in 2024-25: Pupil Voice, Leadership of Learning and Wider Achievement Nursery-P7

What we will do: Set up committees so that everyone can be involved in leading a project to help the school. Continue to celebrate wider achievement and provide opportunities and make sure all children have as many opportunities to succeed as possible.

Our Aim: All children will have had the opportunity to take on a leadership role and we will have a clear picture of their wider achievements to inform planning of opportunities. All nursery children will have had the opportunity to lead learning at assembly.

## 4. Improvement Priority in 2024/25: Sign-a-long

What we will do: Nursery children will share Sign-a-long at assembly so that everyone can learn some ways to help people who find communication hard. Children in the upper school will keep learning British Sign Language and they will also share at assembly. They will be able to explain the difference between sign-a-long and BSL.

Our Aim: sign-a-long will be in regular use in our nursery and understood through the school with appropriate links made to BSL in the upper school.



The full versions of these documents are available on the School Website.