

Bellahouston Academy Parent Council

Headteacher Q and A

What are our priorities for this year?

- Last session, we made a number of significant changes in the school which were important steps in our improvement journey. These included:
 - The introduction of a revised Curriculum Rationale (what our pupil learn and how they learn);
 - The introduction of a new Learning and Teaching Strategy;
 - The introduction of a revised House System;
 - The introduction of a new Pupil Empowerment Strategy;
 - The introduction of revised self-evaluation and quality assurance procedures

This session, to help us manage the pace of change, we will focus on embedding these new initiatives; there may be smaller number of changes this session, but those we pursue will be equally significant.

What are our priorities for this year?

- This session, our School Improvement Plan has 3 Missions:

1. To raise attainment by embedding the equity-focused principles of our revised Curriculum Rationale and LEARN policy into our BGE and Senior Phase curricular offer and its delivery.

This means that the courses we deliver and the way in which we deliver them will meet the diverse needs of all pupils, so that they can achieve their best potential.

What are our priorities for this year?

- To help us overtake this mission, we will make the following commitments:
 - To **raise attainment** at all levels
 - To improve classroom **pace and challenge**, and **assessment approaches**
 - To consult with stakeholders regarding our **curriculum and the arrangement of the school day**
 - To develop **interdisciplinary learning** input within the BGE curriculum
 - To develop the **Developing the Young Workforce** agenda
 - To create opportunities within the curriculum for themes such **equalities, equity, social justice, and sustainability** to be explored

What are our priorities for this year?

- This session, our School Improvement Plan has 3 Missions:

2. To better meet needs by embedding our revised Vision, Values and Aims, LEARN Policy and Rights Respecting Schools Charter into all practice, so that we may deliver learning, wellbeing and inclusivity provision which is contextually-responsive.

This means that we will support the learning and wellbeing of all pupils, in a way which reflects the unique character of our school and the community it serves.

What are our priorities for this year?

- **To help us overtake this mission, we will make the following commitments:**
 - To **empower parents and carers** from all demographics to support learning at home
 - To improve the **school environment and social time experience**
 - To **achieve Language and Communication Friendly Establishment status** to support and develop the language and communication skills of all children
 - To develop a more coherent and holistic **Faculty of Inclusion offer**.
 - To use **classroom routines** which foster a safe, calm, positive and purposeful learning environment.
 - To improve attendance, punctuality and engagement through our **revised Attendance Policy**
 - To improve processes for the **recognition and celebration of success**.
 - To embed our **Pupil Empowerment Strategy**.
 - To safeguard pupil and staff welfare, by **supporting positive mental health**

What are our priorities for this year?

- This session, our School Improvement Plan has 3 Missions:

3. To develop - in a manner reflecting the key principles of the School as a Learning Organisation (OECD, 2016) - an increasingly consistent, collegiate and collaborative approach to quality assurance, self-evaluation and school improvement, and evaluate the impact of these approaches on the experiences of young people.

This means that all of those involved with the school will work together to make sure the support we offer makes a positive difference; we will offer the highest-quality professional learning to staff.

What are our priorities for this year?

- **To help us overtake this mission, we will make the following commitments:**
 - To involve all of those connected to our school in our **Quality Assurance and Self-Evaluation processes**.
 - To track how **effectively Self-Evaluation and Quality Assurance evidence is improving practice**.
 - To offer **high-quality professional learning and leadership development** to our staff.
 - To work with **other schools in our Learning Community** to improve our attendance, transitions and moderation

How parents and carers can support the school and their young people?

One of the best ways in which we can help parents engage with the school is by communicating important information to them about the work of the school and their child's learning. This session we will focus on:

- The publication of a **Parental Involvement/Engagement calendar**, in order to highlight the range, variety and scope of Parental/Engagement activities offered, promote attendance or engagement with these, and clarify the purpose of each activity.
- The provision of **Parental Information Evenings** (including input from all depts/faculties) relevant to Transitions and Pathways;
- The issuing of **Subject Course Outlines and Department/Faculty Curricular Rationale for S1 and S2**, including subject-specific advice on supporting learning at home and family learning.
- The **re-development of the school website**, in order to ensure that information most relevant to parents is more easily accessible and that related information is collated in a way which illustrates coherence and context.

How parents and carers can support the school and their young people?

Another way in which we can help parents engage with the school is by giving them opportunities to share their views with us, so that their voice is heard in matters relating to school improvement. This session we will focus on:

- Engagement with **new Parent Council processes** (e.g. HT Q and A Parent Forum; Consultation and Workshop Timeline; HT Monthly Update Sway presentation);
- The further development of our **Parent Partnership model** (bi-annual survey and follow-up focus groups) to include targeted focus groups for parents in specific demographics (EAL, GSOS, etc.);
- The piloting and subsequent review of **online booking arrangements for Parents' Consultation Evenings**
- **Satisfaction surveys** issued at all school events so that arrangements can be continuously adapted and improved.