



Glasgow City Council
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Supporting Improvement: **Standards and Quality Report**



The summary report is provided for parents/carers and partners to outline our achievements this session and our priorities for next session. Throughout this session we have taken forward our priorities as detailed in our school improvement plan. Through our processes of self-evaluation, we have identified how we can improve outcomes for our children and young people.

Our achievements and improvements this year.

We would like to highlight the following improvements/achievements:

A welcoming, inclusive and nurturing ethos is evident throughout the school. All stakeholders were involved in reviewing our school vision, values and aims. We launched these at a special assembly in June and we focused on a different value each day during that week. Almost all children demonstrate our refreshed values in school every day, we encourage children to be **kind, honest, responsible and hard working**.

Pupil Attendance at Blairdardie is 90.1%, it has continued to fall by 0.5% despite being a focus on our School Improvement Plan last session. Our Walking Bus followed two different routes in Term 1 and Term 4 last session. This session the Walking Bus will run four days a week all year, it continues to grow in numbers and supports children into school on time. Children are offered a cereal bar each morning, these are kindly donated by our Parent Council. We have a Blairdardie breakfast club, and 'Toast and a Tale' available from 9am led by support staff, this provides a soft start for children who require it and ensures that everyone has eaten before starting their learning every day.

Last session we had a staggered start time from, 8.55am until 9.05am this ensured a quieter and more settled start to the day for all children. This will continue this session along with our successful soft/smart start in the classroom.

In June we employed a new Learning Community 'Attendance Officer' who will attend Blairdardie one day a fortnight. He will review our attendance data with the Depute Head Teacher then send letters to relevant families and make home visits, where necessary. Good attendance will be a focus each term at assemblies. A new Learning Community Attendance Policy has been created by all schools in the learning community, this will ensure a consistent approach to managing pupil attendance. We hope that these strategies will lead to improvements in school attendance over time.

Leadership of Change

Staff, pupils and parents/carers were invited to a consultation about our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Scottish Government Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). This was well attended. Following the consultation, it was agreed that PEF would fund an additional teacher, two Principal Teachers and a shared Attendance Officer. Following the success of employing a Home School Support Worker from Barnardo's last session, it was agreed to continue this for a further year, one day per week. This session the Barnardo's worker, Anna, will be funded from a grant from the local 'Area Forum'. Anna will work with small groups of children at Blairdardie every Friday. There will be a strong focus on building resilience, transitions, outdoor learning, developing life skills and promoting regular Friday attendance.

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Last session we introduced weekly 'Masterclass' sessions. These sessions were skills based and children had the opportunity to learn to bake, sew, create, construct, play and make new friends across year groups, among many other opportunities. Masterclasses will continue on Fridays this session.

In previous years a small number of children attended councils and it was often the same children in leadership roles. Last session all children were all involved in a pupil participation group. These councils met once a term, this session they will meet once a month. This ensures that all children are involved in decisions about their learning and school. Councils include Eco Committee, Children's Rights and Digital Leaders.

Pupil Council members have been voted in by peers and will meet after school this session due to reduced staffing. House Captains have also been voted into their roles following excellent presentations from Primary 7 pupils. Captains will be involved in leading assemblies, organising and leading House Events.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Our recent Quality Improvement Questionnaire indicated that almost all children enjoy learning at Blairdardie. Our staff questionnaires demonstrated again that all staff enjoy working at the school too. Feedback from questionnaires was shared with staff and parents/carers. We produced and shared a 'you said....we did' to capture and action suggestions from families.

We invited children, staff and parents/carers to contribute to a consultation on 'homework'. This suggested mixed views on the subject. Most parents/carers asked for a return to traditional homework rather than digital homework. A few parents/carers requested that no homework be sent home. A few parents/carers requested more homework. It was agreed that teachers would send homework on Mondays to be returned on Fridays, this would include spelling words, a reading book and numeracy on Sumdog. A large number of reading books have not been returned since the new homework was introduced. As a result, this session a new order has been made to replace lost books. This is being funded through the PEF budget.

Last year our Attainment Focus was reading, with Mrs Dolan and Miss Hicks taking on the role of CLOL – Leaders of Learning. Unfortunately, due to staff absence it was only Miss Hicks who worked with small groups of children to improve their reading skills, this was successful for the children who attended almost all of the sessions. Less progress was made with the children with lower attendance. Staff engaged in training to further improve their knowledge and skills in the teaching of reading.

We assess children in different ways throughout the year. Our data shows that almost all learners have made progress in literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. This session we plan to review numeracy assessments. Last session, staff updated our Teaching and Learning Strategy, which will be implemented this term.

Staff are implementing the new Glasgow City Council Planning and Tracking tool.

Progress in improving outcomes for children in attainment and achievement

Staff engaged in moderation training sessions throughout the year and visited other classrooms within the Learning Community, to share best practice. Attainment was tracked over time and every child was discussed with the leadership team to review progress and ensure challenge & progression. Achievement data was sent to the Scottish Government and shared with parents/carers through report cards and progress meetings. Achievements were celebrated online and at our weekly assemblies. Every child was recognised at our Values Award Assembly in June.

We celebrated children's 'Wider Achievements' at a special assembly in June 2024. This session staff will digitally track children's wider achievements out of school, these will also be celebrated more regularly at assemblies.

Well-being, Equality and Inclusion

Class teachers met with the leadership team to discuss support for all pupils in their class. Groups and individuals who require additional support were identified. Our 'Zen Den' supported a range of children last session, including young people who had experienced trauma as well as children with additional support needs. Almost all children in the Zen Den groups benefitted from a few months of intensive support and then were able to return to class with an increased confidence and resilience. Mrs McMaster and Mrs Pearson led our 'Seasons for Growth' sessions. These sessions were very successful for supporting children who have experienced a bereavement or loss, these will continue this session. A small group of Primary 6 & 7 children participated in one to one counselling sessions, this was funded by the Scottish Government. The 'Lego Therapy' sessions were very positive at the beginning of last session. Lunch Club has been very popular for children who find the noisy/busy dinner school overwhelming. Our 'Retreat Room' has been in high demand, our sensory lights, bubble tube, dark den and weighted blankets are very calming for learners. We have worked closely with our Educational Psychologists, school nurse and CAMHS to offer support with children's mental health. We have created individual plans (WAPs) and set targets for young people who require additional support. We were successful in gaining funding to provide parent/carer-child fitness sessions to support family's physical and mental wellbeing. We also worked with partners including Kooth, to support and promote positive mental health and wellbeing with Primary 7 and their families. Lastly, two staff were trained in 'Families Connect', which was successfully delivered to our Primary 1 families in Term 3 and was very well attended.

Last session we continued on our journey to become a Language and Communication Friendly Establishment. Our main focus was implementing consistent communication strategies throughout the school, including consistent use of visuals and wall displays in every classroom.

We were successful with a grant application to the 'Scottish Government's Early Childcare' fund and were able to purchase a new wooden boat, spinning chairs, seesaw, water tables and play house with outdoor musical instruments for the playground. These have been a positive addition for playtimes and are very well used.

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Transitions

Our transition programme from Primary 7 to Secondary School was successful, with 60% of our Primary 7s going to Knightswood Secondary School. The remaining children transitioned to seven other Secondary Schools in Glasgow and the wider area. We facilitated an enhanced transition for 48% of our Primary 7s.

A group of Primary 7s attended an outdoor residential trip to Blairvadach, taking part in water sports, climbing and team building activities. A large group of Primary 7s attended a trip to Paris, enjoying sightseeing, Disneyland, tasting French food and using their new French language skills. Our new partnership with a school in Nice was a fantastic learning experience for all Primary 7s. Communicating in French with new friends has been exciting and highly motivating. We were fortunate to secure a large 'Turing' grant to take sixteen children to Nice for a week to spend time in school, fully immersed in French language and culture. The P7 Leavers' Assembly was a great opportunity to celebrate success with children and families. We presented children with a lovely leavers' gift from the Parent Council.

We have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition for Primary 1 children as they moved from early years establishments. This included a shared transition story programme (The Colour Monster) and two well-planned transition visits. Enhanced transition visits were offered to children with additional support needs. Our youngest children continue to benefit from a soft start in the morning and a phased end to their day, with a strong focus on learning through play. Pupil passports were very useful as staff got to know children better. Children were well supported by school staff and the leadership team, who have helped them all to settle.

Here is what we plan to improve next...

- Attendance officer will work with staff and families to improve children's attendance at school, this will include inviting families to join our new Walking Bus and/or breakfast club. Our Parent Council have offered their full support. Staff strive to find creative ways to encourage children to attend school every day. Staff are kind, nurturing and make learning fun!
- Staff will improve the consistency of teaching and learning at Blairdardie by implementing a new policy/strategy on Teaching and Learning. Staff will use the new Glasgow Planning and Tracking tools.
- We are focusing on raising attainment in writing. Staff will engage in training to support the teaching of writing. There will be after school homework and support groups for those who require additional support. Targeted groups in P1 will work with Mrs McCallum on phonics and initial sounds. Targeted groups in P7 will work with Mr Young, when possible. Our 'Reading with Dogs' Therapet programme will continue, this helps improve children's confidence in literacy.
- We have relocated our school library to a more suitable space on the second floor. This session, we plan to purchase more books and reorganise them to make it easier for children to find. We hope to start 'Paired Reading' with the support of parent helpers this session.
- Numeracy assessments will be reviewed this session.
- A new Health and Wellbeing programme will be implemented this session.
- We hope to achieve our Language and Communication Friendly Establishment status this session. We will continue to introduce a new Makaton sign every week at assembly and encourage children to use these throughout the school day.
- We will continue to promote Digital Literacy in line with Glasgow's Digital Learning Strategy, including distributing individual iPads to Primary 5 - 7 pupils and shared iPads in P1-4. One of our staff working parties will focus specifically on using technology to support inclusion. We hope to make use of the 'Showbie' app this session to share learning with families.

We will continue to strive for excellence and equity at Blairdardie Primary School.

How can you find out more information about our school?

Please contact us directly if you require further information or if you wish to comment on the report.

The contact e-mail address is: headteacher@blairdardie-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Our telephone number is: 0141 944 2864 – *please note our new phone number.*

Our school address is: 50 Kearn Avenue, Glasgow, G15 6HL

Further information is available in newsletters, our school website and school handbook.

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