

Dumfries Academy



Standards and Quality Report August 2025

Our Context

Dumfries Academy is a comprehensive school with approximately 550 pupils. Although we have 5 associated primary schools, we attract a significant number of pupils from outwith our cluster and catchment area. We have a higher-than-average number of pupils entitled to free school meals (28%) and higher than average number of pupils with a recognised additional need (52%). However, in session 2023-2024, we had a higher-than-average percentage of pupils achieving 5 Higher qualifications by the end of S5 (21%) and above average percentage of pupils securing positive destinations on leaving school (97%).

Around the school we strive to develop a learning environment where pupils feel safe, there is mutual respect and there is a culture of being ready to learn. This includes removing barriers that may prevent pupils from learning (social, economic, emotional) and a strong focus on ensuring that our lesson model is consistent, relevant, challenging and understood by all.

Our vision is:

“Learning Together for a Better Future”

We believe that success is derived through collaboration and support. We also believe that all of our learners should be able to access the same opportunities to learn and to influence their future pathways.

Our Curriculum Rationale is focused on skills for life, learning and work (meta-skills). This means that we recognise and value that pupils’ learning needs to take account of our school context but also link to the skills that are required to ensure a positive transition to life beyond school and to become a compassionate and responsible adult.

We have an active and committed Parent Council, a well-informed and active Pupil Council and a Rights Respecting School Group, who have contributed to the school’s success in achieving Silver Rights Respecting School status.

We are also proud of our caring and committed staff and partners including our Care Experienced Officer, our Careers Officer, our School Nurse, our Home Link Worker, our Community Police Officer, our Army Officer and our Youth Worker. All of these staff have dedicated time with our pupils in school each week. We also have a range of other partners who work with us on projects to support wellbeing and learning.








Priority 1


Improve Experiences and Outcomes for S1-3 Pupils by developing and embedding a clear curriculum rationale and plan




DUMFRIES ACADEMY CURRICULUM RATIONALE
Learning together for a better future - *Doctrina Promovet*

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE	SELF-MANAGEMENT	INNOVATION
<p>Our school is a safe, nurturing environment for all</p>  <p>Our curriculum supports learners to collaborate; to communicate feelings, ideas and opinions and to lead their learning</p>	<p>Our pupils care about their learning and want to achieve</p>  <p>Our curriculum motivates learners to focus, adapt to new ideas and use their initiative. Our values define our learners' attitudes and experiences</p>	<p>Our pupils develop skills for life, learning and work</p>  <p>Our curriculum design is innovative and develops curious, creative learners who can solve problems and make sense of new concepts.</p>

 With others, our school creates a community we can be proud of



We developed a clear Curriculum Rationale that is linked to our school's Aims, Values and Vision

Progress

Our Curriculum is Innovative



Making Sense of new Concepts



Motivated to Learn



Our Values in Action



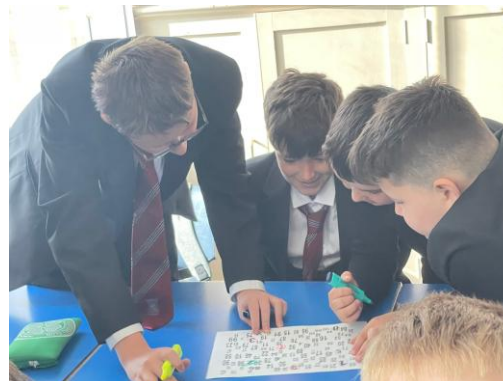
Supporting our Learners to Collaborate and Communicate



Curious and Creative



Focusing and Adapting



Solving Problems



Using our Initiative



Leading our Learning

Priority 2

Improve Attainment in
Literacy and Numeracy

- We have a clear focus on improving pupils' literacy and numeracy from S1 - S6
- We work together to moderate (agree) pupils' levels of literacy and numeracy based on evidence from a range of subjects
- We have developed new programmes of study for some pupils in S3 and S4 that allow them to improve literacy and numeracy, whilst achieving a range of qualifications at levels 3, 4 and 5
- We have developed a strategy to improve attainment in Maths and Numeracy and have seen improvements in attainment in these areas.



Progress

Literacy - Reading	CfE Level achieved in June 2023	CfE Level achieved in June 2024	CfE Level achieved in June 2025
CfE level Achieved	Stage – S3	Stage – S3	Stage – S3
Percentage achieving/or above expected level by stage	80.8%	84.4%	84.49%

Literacy - Writing	CfE Level achieved in June 2023	CfE Level achieved in June 2024	CfE Level achieved in June 2025
CfE level Achieved	Stage – S3	Stage – S3	Stage – S3
Percentage achieving/or above expected level by stage	78.8%	84.4%	81.03%

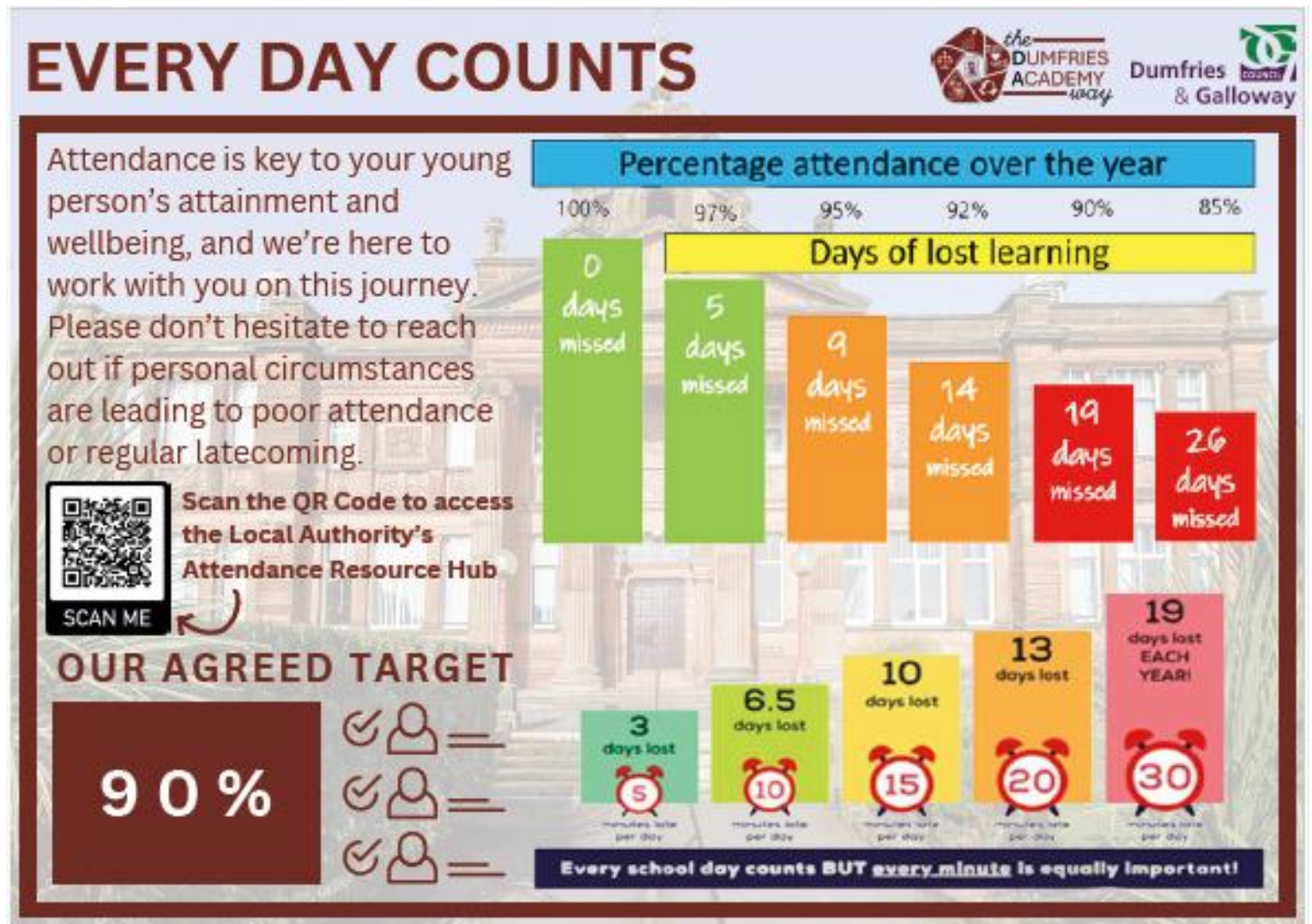
Literacy - Listening and Talking	CfE Level achieved in June 2023	CfE Level achieved in June 2024	CfE Level achieved in June 2025
CfE level Achieved	Stage – S3	Stage – S3	Stage – S3
Percentage achieving/or above expected level by stage	87.9%	86.2%	87.07%

Numeracy	CfE Level achieved in June 2023	CfE Level achieved in June 2024	CfE Level achieved in June 2025
CfE level Achieved	Stage – S3	Stage – S3	Stage – S3
Percentage achieving/or above expected level by stage	80.8%	81.9%	74.04%

We have maintained levels in Reading in S3 and, to an extent, in Writing, Listening and Talking, with slight increases as decreases. In Numeracy, we have seen a decrease this year and this is an area we are working on. It should be noted that we often have pupils move into our school mid-way through the school session from outwith our authority and this affects our data.



Priority 3 Improve Pupils' Average Attendance by 4.4 % to 90%



This year, our average pupil attendance was 86.25%. This is a 0.65% increase on session 2023/2024. Our target is 90%.

Progress



Being Ready to Learn



Building Positive Relationships

We have supported pupils and their families to improve attendance in the following ways:

Home Link Worker – visits, tracks attendance, helps families access support, works with pupils to help them attend classes when in school

Breakfast Bar/Equity Boxes – Help remove barriers to learning by providing free breakfast and essential items to foster a positive start

Nurture Support – Helps support families to ensure a safe space, promoting wellbeing and relationships (all data shows improved attendance and engagement for supported pupils)

Celebrating Attendance Texts: We sent termly texts to congratulate and motivate pupils who met or exceeded attendance targets and there was a slight increase in attendance data overall

Priority 4
Develop a Greater Sense of
Belonging/Build
Community



We have embedded our revised Vision, Values and Aims and these are informing our pupils' learning and experiences to help create a clear sense of belonging and pride in our community

Progress



19 families attended our Family Cooking Event



Our school show, Mary Poppins, was attended by nearly 500 people and involved over 50 staff and pupils



We achieved Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award



Our Parent/Player Netball Event was well received and raised £112 for netball



Over 70 people attended our Burns Night, organised in partnership with our Parent Council

Our School Attainment Profile



School Summary of Attainment for 2025

Overview

This report provides the summary of attainment for **Dumfries Academy** for the 2024-25 academic year. This data is pre-appeal change as a result of appeals submitted in August 2025. A further update will be released prior to the October Break, which will include successes in short courses and courses accredited by other providers.

Breadth and depth, % Attained

	Based on S4 cohort 2025	S4 - 2025			Based on S4 Cohort 2024	S5 - 2025			Based on S4 cohort 2023	S6 – 2025		
		5+ at L3+	5+ at L4+	5+ at L5+		5+ at L3+	5+ at L4+	5+ at L5+		5+ at L3+	5+ at L4+	5+ at L5+
Dumfries Ac	97	57.7	57.7	44.3	99	65.7	62.6	51.5	110	73.6	73.6	60.9
D&G	1612	66.7	64.8	41.4	1562	72.5	70.4	50.5	1645	78.8	77.9	57.1

	Based on S4 Cohort 2024	S5 - 2025			Based on S4 cohort 2023	S6 – 2025			
		1+ @ L6	3+ @ L6	5+ @ L6		1+ @ L6	3+ @ L6	5+ @ L6	1+ @ L7
Dumfries Ac	99	50.5	33.3	14.1	110	78.2	45.5	29.1	18.0
D&G	1562	46.6	28	11.5	1645	58.8	38.5	26.5	18.9



Raising Attainment



There has been an increase of 4% over the last 3 years in the number of pupils attaining 5 or more qualifications at L5 level in S4 and – we are above D and G average



We are above D&G average in all L6 Measures in S5



We are above D&G average in all L6 measures in S6 (almost 20% above in some areas)



We have introduced a significant number of new courses at Levels 4 and 5 in S4-6 and these are supporting pupils to achieve positive destinations – 97% (above D&G average)

Further Evidence



We have developed a lesson model and carry out termly learning walks to evaluate pupils' experiences in classes



We have surveyed pupils to gather their views on learning and teaching, and their wellbeing; we have used these views to make improvements to our PHSE programme



We have carried out reviews of learning and teaching in Science and Social Subjects and used our finding to improve learning and teaching



We continue to provide a wide range of opportunities for pupils to develop skills for life, learning and work including - YPI, Heritage Heroes, Rights respecting Schools, Volunteering, Work Experience, Leadership, MVP

Next Steps



Continue to improve our curriculum to ensure that there are more opportunities for pupils to develop the skills and knowledge needed to learn successfully and attain relevant qualifications



Continue to improve pupils' literacy and numeracy skills from S1-6 so that they are progress in line with expectations



Continue to work with pupils, partners and parents to increase opportunities for engagement and involvement, to build a community we are proud of



Ensure that we improve pupils' average attendance by at least 2%