



School of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS SCOTLAND



Whinhill Primary School

Family Friendly School Improvement Plan

2023-2024

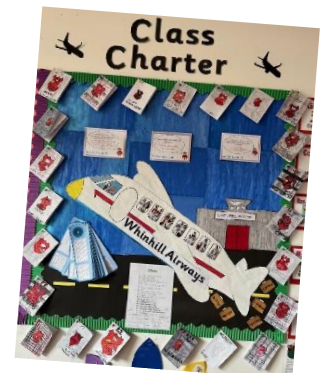
What is a School Improvement Plan?

Our School Improvement Plan identifies the main priorities for the year ahead. It includes things that we want to develop and focus on throughout the session. Whilst we are always striving to improve many different aspects in Whinhill, we have four main priorities for session 2023 -24.

These are:

- **Improvements in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy**
- **Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children**
- **Improvement in children’s health and wellbeing**
- **Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive school leaver destinations for all young people**

As always, we will place the human rights and needs of every child at the centre of our education. Throughout the year we will continue to focus on maintaining our Rights Respecting School Gold Award accreditation.





Priority 1 - Improvements in Attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Within this priority we will be focusing on continuing to increase pupil attainment across the curriculum.

We will continue to focus on further embedding learning through play in P1 and P2. This will develop children's imagination and creativity, increase language skills and improve concentration.

Feedback from the implementation of play in P1 and P2 in the last school year was very positive. This will now be developed more thoroughly in P2 and in to P3. A playful approach to learning across other stages in the school will also be a key aspect for staff this year.

To develop our teaching of reading across the school, we will review the key areas of focus and upskill teacher knowledge and understanding of the implementation of this. Reading comprehension strategies will be evaluated and refreshed. We will continue to review the approaches to the teaching of writing with a particular focus on the tools for writing.

Building on the success of our new school library 'The Book Nook' last year, we will review materials in the school library to ensure they reflect the diversity and interest of our children. As our library was received so positively by the children, we will review our reading areas around the school to ensure they are welcoming, comfortable and attractive. We will also support the children's understanding of the identification of the different sections of the library and the process by which books are borrowed and returned.

It is important that as a school we continue to refresh the all curricular areas on offer in our school and nursery to keep it fresh, relevant and appropriate for our children. We will continue to review curricular areas on a rolling programme.

Within Gaelic, we will develop a progressive Gaelic spelling programme for P1-7 and look at our existing Gaelic literacy pathways to ensure they are clear and progressive from Early to Second level. A progression pathway for Gaelic literacy at Third level will also be created. We will also continue to promote parental involvement in Gaelic and support our parent's understanding of GME.

Our nursery will continue with the implementation of Story Grammar and will continue to develop early reading skills through the continued development of the word aware programme. There will also be the introduction of woodworking.





Priority 2



Priority 2 - Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children.

Within this priority we will strive to increase the number of pupils making progress in reading, writing and numeracy who live within SIMD 1 and 2. This includes identifying strategies to remove barriers to learning. To do this, we will continue to support families to increase their child's attendance and identify how we can remove barriers to attending school.

We will continue to develop our approach to raising attainment by supporting children's understanding of literacy and numeracy. Identified children (living in SIMD 1 and 2) will be given targeted support and interventions to support their learning, for example using literacy toolbox and having access to small group working with our attainment staff.

A continued focus will be on the 'Cost of the School Day' where we will aim to reduce costs for our families. This includes promoting our free Pre-loved School Uniform and the introduction of various pop-up shops e.g. Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers. We also plan to develop an informative framework showing parents what benefits can be applied for and grants that can be obtained.

Our new Health and Wellbeing Coach, Miss Hamilton will support children by offering a range of after school clubs, lunch time clubs and sporting activities. This will ensure all children have the opportunity to access clubs that will support their physical and mental health.





Priority 3 - Improvement in children's health and wellbeing.

To meet this priority, we continue to be aware of the need for a rigorous focus on our children's health and wellbeing. The demographic of our school has changed in the last few years with children from many nationalities being part of our school community. While they have settled extremely well in our school and nursery it is important that we ensure that our school operates showing the highest level of welcome and understanding of cultural differences.

Our whole staff team will take a nurturing approach at all times and engage with Trauma Informed training provided by Inverclyde Council. This will ensure that our children experience appropriate interventions in response to their wellbeing needs.

Using the principles of GIRFEC, children will receive appropriate support for all their universal and targeted wellbeing needs.

Staff will deepen their knowledge of racial literacy and will continue to develop our approach when dealing with racism. Staff will feel confident in leading anti-racism within the school and learn about forced migration and issues facing refugee and displaced families. We will look closely at our curriculum to include aspects of anti-racism and racial diversity. All children in the school and nursery will be aware of and use the appropriate language with regards to racism.

With the success of achieving our School of Sanctuary award, we will develop a Schools of Sanctuary Ambassadors pupil group. We will continue to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for refugees and those seeking asylum.

We will use the GIRFEC (getting it right for every child) approach to ensure all our children receive the support they need to meet their wellbeing needs. We will continue to have a focus on our children's understanding of the wellbeing indicators - Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.

Our Health and Wellbeing coach, Miss Hamilton's planned interventions will make a positive difference to playground experiences. This involves working closely with our Active Schools coordinator, Ryan Borland to develop our P7 Playmakers programme. We will also refresh our loose parts play resources in the playground. P6 pupils will also be trained in being a 'Peer Mediator'.

As always, we are keen to fully involve our pupils in decision making processes. This involves our Whinhill Leadership Team evaluating what we do well in Whinhill and leading positive change. Teaching staff will also support pupils to have a say within their classrooms about what and how they learn. Our pupils will feel valued through their involvement in school and nursery decision making processes.





Priority 4 - Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people.

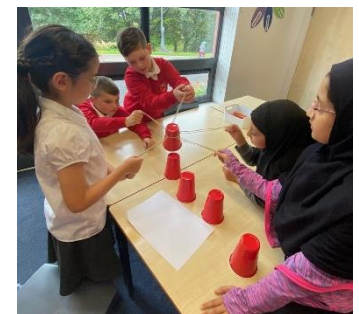
To achieve this priority we will look at how we currently promote pupil skill development and prepare our children for the skills needed in the world of work.

This year we will engage in the Young Leaders of Learning programme where our children will continue to be central to our self-evaluation process. Children will demonstrate a variety of leadership skills through participation and responsibility for tasks at class, whole school, cluster and nursery level.

We will continue to work on the Digital Wellbeing Award for Cyber resilience and Internet Safety. Children from P4 – 7 classes will show an increasing understanding of cyber resilience and internet safety and this will be evident in increased safety in their online usage. Our P7 classes will build on the cyber safety online training tool created by our pupils with the support of CLD to develop our parent/carer knowledge and understanding of cyber safety.

A focus will be on linking with a variety of community and business partners and include a focus on the importance of digital literacy and its links to employability skills.

We will give pupils experiences where they can participate in a range of activities to identify their skills development to help them in their future career journeys. We will work with Inverclyde Academy to establish 'World of Work' ambassadors.



Meet our Whinhill Leadership Team

Our House Captains and Vice Captains are Whinhill's Leadership Team! They are responsible for gathering views about how pupils feel about our school. It is important that our pupils have a say in how well their school is doing and how it can be improved.

Self-evaluation is how schools decide what is going well and what could be better. Our leadership team help pupils identify the actions we need to take to keep Whinhill improving. Our pupil's contribution to this is very important.

We hope that by having a family friendly improvement plan, our whole school community will have a better understanding of what we are working on in Whinhill this year. This will help us to achieve our targets together!

