

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2024-2025. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Paula Dickson

Mrs Paula Dickson

Head Teacher

Pennyburn Primary School

Our School



Pennyburn Primary School is situated in the Pennyburn area of Kilwinning and has 183 children from P1-7. We are proud of our nurturing relationships with children, parents, carers and families as well as our links with the local community. We hope that you find our school to be a positive, nurturing place where your child can experience success. We value the education we provide and strive to promote and instil values of Respect, Responsibility and Ambition within our Pennyburn Primary School community.

Our Vision, Values and Aims

Our Vision: A School in the Community, a Community in the School



Our Values:



Our Aim: Using GIRFEC principles to underpin all teaching & learning in Pennyburn, we will ensure that all children will have the support and opportunity to reach their potential.

Attainment and Achievement

Throughout the year we gather lots of information on how our children are progressing in their learning. To monitor their progress we watch children working through tasks, listen to what they say, ask important questions, set challenges and use some standardised assessments. We get together and look carefully at the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes to ensure children are making progress. North Ayrshire Council also ask us to summarise our children's progress in reading, writing, listening and talking as well as numeracy and maths. They ask us to look particularly at children who have reached the end of the Early, First and Second Levels: P.1, P.4 and P.7. Our attainment this session is as follows:

- Majority of our children in Primary 1 are making good progress through early level Reading, Writing, Talking & Listening. Just less than half are making good progress through Numeracy at Early Level
- Majority of children in Primary 4 are making good progress through first level Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Most children are making good progress in Listening and Talking
- Most children in Primary 7 are making good progress through second level Reading, Talking & Listening and Numeracy. The majority are making good progress in Writing

We continually monitor attendance. Attendance for the whole school this session 2023-2024 is 88% (correct at time of publication).

Wider Achievements

Our achievements and strengths last session included:

- An extremely positive North Ayrshire Council School Review
- Kilwinning Early Years becoming part of Pennyburn Primary School – A Care Inspectorate visit confirmed the areas for improvement that had already been identified. The improvement journey is well underway with improvements to the playroom environment
- Our approach to supporting children with their Mental Health and Wellbeing has been extremely successful with the introduction of our sensory room 'The Nest' and 'the Hive' targeted support resource run by our Principal Teacher
- Raising attainment provision has gone from strength to strength and deployment of targeted support staff seen as a model of good practice in the authority
- The introduction of 'Learning Cafes' for families to share in their child's learning in an informal and fun way have been extremely well received by the whole school community
- Gaining our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award
- Being part of the 'Active Play' Initiative, purchasing resources to support this and encouraging regular active play outdoors each day
- Our P1 and P2 Play has gone from strength to strength and we have welcomed visitors from across the authority to see the good practice taking place at Pennyburn
- P7 were able to take part in a two night, three day residential trip to Inverclyde, this was heavily subsidised by the school in order to reduce the cost for our families.
- The introduction of our fully funded breakfast club has meant that on average 60 children per day are provided with a nutritious breakfast in school

How successful have we been in improving Pennyburn Primary School this session?

In session 2023-2024 we have been focussing on:

- 2.3 Teaching and Learning
- Working collegiately with colleagues from across the Kilwinning Academy Cluster
- Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing

Progress to date:

Staff Training in Teaching and Learning: Outstanding Teacher Intervention Training for all staff and intensive intervention for 4 members of teaching staff; Stephen Graham Approaches to the literacy block in particular creating the balanced reader

Cluster Collaborative sessions on: Staff wellbeing; Digital Learning; Creativity; Additional Support Needs

Self-evaluation activities: These have allowed staff team to evaluate school performance in specific areas, following this we were able to formulate our priorities for session 2024/2025. Leadership of change questionnaires for parents and carers were extremely positive with 'almost all' strongly agreeing that we are making positive improvements to the school at a pace that is sustainable. Annual questionnaires for all stakeholders were extremely positive with almost all agreeing or strongly agreeing with positive statements in relation to their child's schooling at Pennyburn Primary School

Resources: Development of the upper open area environment to support STEM afternoons; PEF funded Early Years Practitioners to support development of literacy and Numeracy at the Early Years; improvement in the early years playroom environment

Interventions: Use of additional targeted support teacher to deploy pupil support assistants across the whole school in timely raising attainment interventions in literacy and numeracy; Boosted Reading P3 onwards; Clicker 7 to support writing across the school; Daily Big Maths across the whole school to improve basic numeracy skills; LIAM training for those children dealing with issues related to anxiety; HWB support for groups and individuals at the right time provided by our Area Inclusion Worker and Principal Teacher

When surveyed almost all of our learners felt safe in school, that they had someone they could talk to and felt comfortable approaching staff. They felt respected by staff in school. Almost all said that they felt encouraged to do the best they can and are happy with the quality of teaching in our school.

Quality Indicators from HGIOS4 2023-2024

QI 1.3 Leadership of change – 'Good' working towards 'Very Good'

An evaluation of good means that there are important strengths within the school's work yet there remains some aspects which require improvement. The strengths have a significantly positive impact on almost all children and young people.

QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment – 'Good' working towards 'Very Good'

Strengths have a positive impact on learners' experiences, the school must work hard to build on its strengths in order to improve.

QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion – 'Very Good' working towards 'Excellent'

An evaluation of 'very good' means that there are major strengths in this aspect of the school's work. There are very few areas for improvement and any that do exist do not significantly diminish learners' experiences.

QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement – 'Good' working towards 'Very Good'

An evaluation of 'very good' means that there are major strengths in this aspect of the school's work. There are very few areas for improvement and any that do exist do not significantly diminish learners' experiences.

Pupil Equity Funding

Each year some schools are provided additional funding from the Scottish Government. This is allocated in response to SIMD Data and Free School Meal Entitlement for the school. This year we have spent our additional funding on the following staff, interventions and reducing the cost of the school day initiatives:

- Nurture Teacher and Practitioner for part of the year – this has allowed us to provide nurture support for those learners who benefit from this full time intervention for half of the year. We have also been able to meet the shorter term needs of some of our learners who require support at challenging times of their lives.
- Two Early Years Practitioners for P1 and P2 classes – our EYPs have been able to support effective transition from Early Years to P1 and from P1 into P2; they have continued to work collegiately with teaching staff to develop our play environment and practices across P1 and P2. Our EYPs build positive and effective relationships with our youngest learners and their families, building trust and effective communication between home and school.
- Whole School Pantomime – for the first time we were able to take the whole school to the pantomime, a great time was had by all!!
- Subsidy of P7 residential trip to Inverclyde – through PEF we again managed to pay half of our P7 residential. Our P7 children were able to experience a jam packed few days of sporting activity in an Olympic standard facility whilst having the valuable experience of staying away from home.
- Development of Upper Area Environment – this has allowed us to provide our older children with a calm and engaging space in which to develop their creativity skills

Improvement Plan Priorities 2024/2025

Through consultation with staff, learners and parents/carers we have prioritised the following themes for improvement in session 2024-2025:

- Continued focus on 2.3 Teaching and Learning – Building capacity in our staff team through Cluster Collegiate sessions; training in questioning techniques and coaching and continuing our work with Stephen Graham with a focus on guided reading skills; Play pedagogy in P3 and P4; working parties driving forward improvements across the whole school
- Development of reading and writing processes in response to Stephen Graham training in session 2022/2023 and 2023/2024
- Focus on positive Mental Health and Wellbeing in particular 'Building Resilience' through the 'My Happy Mind' resource
- Learner Participation will continue to be a theme crossing all priorities

What do our learners think?

In a recent survey learners commented that they would like more challenge in their work and to be consulted on what and how they learn. They would like their views taken into account more regularly.

What do our parents and carers think?

From those surveyed almost all parents and carers said they are satisfied with the school and would recommend the school to other parents. Most parents feel the school is well led and managed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. If you have any further suggestions or comments please do not hesitate to get in touch.