



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



ST MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

August 2024

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Strain'.

Gemma Strain, Head Teacher

OUR SCHOOL

St. Mark's Primary School is in the old town area of Irvine. The current school roll is 208 pupils and 16 children in the Early Years class. St Mark's aspires to be a school which provides a happy, safe, challenging, motivational and supportive environment, wherein quality teaching and learning takes place, to ensure that everyone can flourish as an individual, work as part of a team and achieve their potential.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

VISION

HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS, FIT FOR LEARNING, FIT FOR LIFE.

VALUES

Relationships Expectations Achievement Love

AIMS

- Provide a safe and caring environment where staff, pupils, parents/carers and other agencies work together in productive partnerships.
- Support and motivate children to take part in all aspects of school life and become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- Provide challenging and enjoyable teaching and learning experiences that are relevant and enable pupils to achieve success and develop skills for learning, life and work.

ATTAINMENT & ACHIEVEMENT

Raising attainment remains a high priority to all as we work in partnership to ensure children reach their full potential. Through assessment and professional judgement, our children achieved as follows in 2023/24:

	Reading	Writing	Talking and Listening	Numeracy
Primary 1	76%	76%	84%	80%
Primary 4	65%	61%	76%	65%
Primary 7	71%	63%	59%	56%

Key messages:

- Most children at P1 and P7, and the majority of children at P4 achieved the expected Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels in listening and talking. The majority of children at P4 and P7 and most children at P1 achieved the expected Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels in reading.
- Most children at P1, and a majority at P4 and P7, achieved expected CfE levels in writing. Most children who require support with learning are making positive progress towards their own targets.
- The majority of our children are making satisfactory progress in numeracy and mathematics. Most children at P1 and the majority at P4 and P7, achieved expected CfE levels in numeracy.

Next steps:

- Continue with our play pedagogy P1 to P3, with a focus placed on consolidation of sounds, blends and tricky words across Early and First level and we will continue to build writing skills using PM writing.
- Work with cluster schools to moderate teaching and learning of Listening, Talking, Numeracy and Writing.
- Collaborate the Professional Learning Academy to support the teaching and learning of Numeracy and Mathematics.
- Across the stages, children will benefit from consolidation of their knowledge of number bonds, multiplication tables and aspects of time.
- Incorporate numeracy focus weeks across the school year.

Attendance and Exclusion

We follow the process in "Attendance in NAC Educational Establishments: Every School Day Matters" to improve attendance. Our rate for 2023/24 was 90% and there were 5 exclusions.

WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

We have had another successful year with a variety of experiences and activities on offer.



Leadership Opportunities

Our young people are leading our school in many different ways. As well as House Captains and Vice Captains, we have Digital Leaders, buddies, paired reading, Eco Committee, Children's Champions in every class and Sports Leaders. They have arranged fundraisers, supported their peers and led improvement. They were fundamental in achieving our Digital School Award, and gold Sports Award.

Fit Fridays

Our fit Fridays are always a great success with all classes taking part in additional fitness activities on a Friday. Our Sports Committee take responsibility for organising which included planning our Inter-House competitions.

Junior Award Scheme for School

Our P5 and 6 children have continued to achieve bronze, silver and gold awards under the 4 categories of this scheme. As well as gaining achievements at home, the school has provided many opportunities for the children to progress through the scheme.



Quiz Time

Our team of 4 P6 children represented our school very well at the Euro Quiz, as did our team of 4 P7 children in the Irvine Rotary Quiz. We are proud of our children for their confidence, resilience and behaviour at both of these events.

Spring Celebration

In March we invited all families into school for our spring celebration of learning. This was a chance for individuals and every class to showcase what they had been learning to their loved ones. This was very well attended over the two days and our guests got to experience a variety of learning opportunities including music, singing, dancing, Spanish and Scots language.

St Mary's Parish

We are fortunate to have strong links with our parish. We are extremely proud of the children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion this year. Our school will continue to support all children and their families on their journey of Faith and thank the parish of St Mary's for the continued support.

In May we said farewell and thank you to our Chaplain Fr Boyd and welcomed Fr Mark to our community.



Sporting Achievements

There has been a variety of sporting activities on offer to all stages across this year. Clubs are on offer before, during and after school, with staff, members of the community and visiting specialists supporting these. We have participated in athletics, football, basketball, netball and badminton events within the authority and Irvine area. Our children are always a credit to the school and their families.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR ESTABLISHMENT?

QUALITY INDICATORS

Provide your evaluation and summary statement for each of the 4 core QIs

QI 1.3 Leadership of Change	Evaluation 4	Good
Staff have a clear understanding of the social, economic and cultural context of the school community and use this to shape the vision, values and aims for our learners. Staff have shown a commitment to change to improve outcomes for our learners.		
QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Evaluation 3	Satisfactory
School environment is built on positive and nurturing relationships. Teachers are working collegiately to improve outcomes to ensure these are of a high standard. We play an active role within the local community with opportunities for leadership. Staff are further developing leadership opportunities within the classroom.		
QI 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion	Evaluation 4	Good
Staff model behaviour that promotes the health and wellbeing of all. Staff know the children well as individuals and respond to their needs appropriately. The Rights of the Child are at the heart of our school. Children feel respected and listened to.		
QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement	Evaluation 3	Satisfactory
Attainment in literacy and numeracy are a priority for all. There are tracking and monitoring systems in place to review progress of children and ensure interventions are well planned. Teachers use planned assessments and robust conversations to support their professional judgement to ensure progress in attainment. Children are given many opportunities to contribute to the life of the school and local community.		

PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING 2023 - 24

Our Pupil Equity Fund has been used in a variety of ways to improve outcomes for our learners, with a particular focus on tackling the poverty related attainment and experience gap.

- Raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy through digital programmes, and increase skills in digital technologies.
- Provide core Nurture Programme for identified individuals.
- Two Classroom Assistants employed to contribute to raising attainment.
- Principal Teacher costs supported through PEF.
- Employ Class Teacher 0.4 to raise attainment.

IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES 2024 - 25

Based upon self-evaluation, our priorities for this session are:

1. To develop as a community of faith and learning within our school and across the Deanery.
2. To increase pupil participation within and across our schools and Early Years classes.
3. To improve quality and consistency of teaching and learning within our school and Early Years.