

# WHITEHIRST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



## STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

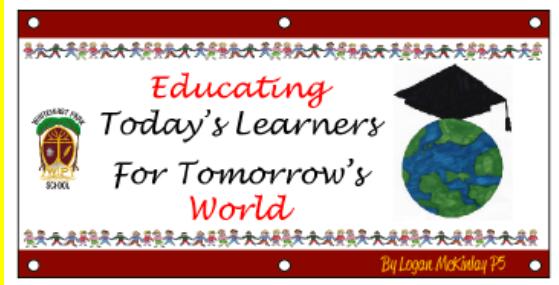
September 2020

This guide has been prepared to give you information about our school's progress and achievements as well as our plans for 2020-21.



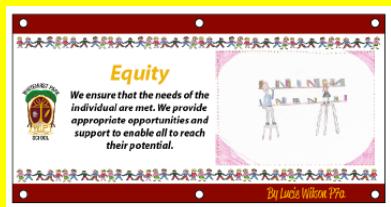
*Lynn Robertson*  
Head Teacher

# Our School



Whitehirst Park Primary School is a non-denominational school with a roll of 269 pupils in 11 classes. In August 2020 we welcomed a Gaelic Medium Primary 1/2 class to the school. The school is situated in the Whitehirst Park area of Kilwinning and opened in 1975. The current staff structure consists of 1 Head Teacher, 1 Depute Head Teacher, 2 Principal Teachers, 12 Teachers (including one Music Teacher), 4 Classroom Assistants, 0.6 Pupil Support Teacher, 2 Education Support Assistants and 1 janitor. Working in partnership, within a caring and stimulating environment, we aim to provide quality learning experiences which will encourage positive attitudes, enabling pupils to achieve their potential as valued members of the community.

## Our values



Our values were created in partnership with our pupils, staff and parents and underpin all that we do at Whitehirst Park.

# LOOKING BACK - SESSION 2019-20

Last year we worked hard to improve our work in the following areas.

Ensuring high quality learning experiences for all children, incorporating the effective use of assessment by staff and learners through focussing on:



- ❖ Learning and Engagement
- ❖ Quality of Teaching
- ❖ Effective use of Assessment and
- ❖ Planning, tracking and monitoring



Unfortunately, due to school closure a number of the interventions we were due to have, led by North Ayrshire Professional Learning Academy, did not happen:

- ❖ P3 staff have taken part in a professional learning programme around Non-fiction writing.
- ❖ P2, 3 and 3/4 staff have taken part in a professional learning programme around Attention and Listening.
- ❖ The Non-fiction writing and Attention and Listening strategies are being used successfully with pupils at First Level and we hope to share this practice across the school as was originally planned.
- ❖ Teaching staff have also taken part in learning trios across the cluster schools in Kilwinning, where they plan, observe and evaluate lessons together.
- ❖ In August 2019 all staff benefitted from a professional learning programme 'Changing Mindsets and Building Resilience in Pupils and Staff.' Most classes are embracing growth mindset work and pupils can discuss how mindset affects them.
- ❖ Teaching staff and classroom assistants have taken part in professional learning around the Early and First Level Numeracy Framework, ensuring consistent practice across the levels.
- ❖ Teaching staff at Second Level started to take part in a pilot for the Second Level Numeracy Framework. Before school closure strategies were being used in Second Level, building on the work pupils had been doing at First Level
- ❖ We reviewed our interdisciplinary topics at the start of Session 2019-20, ensuring there were clear links to the 17 Sustainable Global Goals. Assemblies were also planned around the sustainable goals, raising awareness among pupils and staff.
- ❖ Classroom Assistants took part in 'Talk Boost' and 'Boosting Reading' professional learning which we started to use prior to school closure.



# Self Evaluation



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 as a staff and look carefully at the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence to ensure children are making progress.

Each session all schools use a six point scale from the 'How Good Is Our School?' document to evaluate the life and work of the school. The grades are excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory and weak.

The box below illustrates how we have graded our school for 2019-20.

Leadership of Change: Very Good
Learning, Teaching and Assessment: Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion : Good
Raising Attainment and Achievement : Good

Our focus on education recovery, assessment and rigorous analysis of our attainment data means we are very aware of where we need to improve and we are fully committed to improving attainment for all, in all areas of the curriculum.

Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

John W. Gardner

# OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



The School Improvement Plan is a document which sets out the activities we will be undertaking as a school over the coming session. When writing this document we take into account a number of factors:

- \*National Priorities and directives as set out by the Scottish Government.
- \*Local Priorities and directives as set out by North Ayrshire Council.
- \* Our self-evaluation procedures and development needs of our own school.

This document is continually reviewed and evaluated by school staff and the Senior Leadership Team. We focus on evidence based evaluations from all stakeholders and use these to inform our next steps. At Authority Level we are supported by the Head of Schools and our Senior Manager.

In Session 2020-21 we are focusing on School Recovery following school closure. Our two priorities are to:

❖ Focus on school recovery through approaches to assessing and supporting wellbeing and attainment:

We will build on our well established wellbeing programmes and nurturing approaches to support staff, pupils and parents.

We will identify gaps in learning through rigorous assessment and improve the attainment and achievement of our children and young people through high quality learning and teaching.

❖ Establish Gaelic Medium Education for Primary 1 and 2 pupils:

We will ensure all pupils in the Gaelic Medium class experience high quality learning experiences.

We will ensure the pupils, parents and staff in the Gaelic Medium class are fully involved in all aspects of school and community life.



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Just a few of our achievements in 2019-20 include:

- \* Our P7 Football team won almost all games played in the Kilwinning Champions League, winning most games, but more importantly were fantastic sports!
- \* Our Charities Committee organised a number of successful collections for Poppy Scotland and NA Foodbank. The generosity of our school community is to be commended.
- \* We had record numbers participating in the NA Schools Cross Country.
- \* Our Junior Road Safety Officers attended a JRSO training event and passed on tips to the school community at Assembly. We were also Travel Smart Competition winners and got to watch an amazing bicycle stunt show!
- \* Our P2-7 Carols Around the Tree concert was a huge success!
- \* Our P1 classes performed 'Our First Nativity' to rapturous applause!
- \* Our wonderful Parent Council Fundraising Sub Committee helped us to raise thousands in Session 2019-20! They paid for the Pantomime buses and subsidised website subscriptions.
- \* We took part in a World Books Day book swap in partnership with Mansfield Trinity Church.
- \* We had a very successful Family Fun Quiz Night with amazing food donated by community partners.
- \* P6 and P7 pupils took part in Glasgow University Scottish Maths Challenge. We had a record amount of certificate winners this session.

Our School closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 but this didn't stop us coming together as a school community!

- \* We had an amazing Virtual Sports Day in our own gardens!
- \* We came together as a school virtually by wearing our uniforms on School Uniform Day
- \* We celebrated VE Day by making bunting and having tea parties.

And so far in Session 2020-21:

- \* Our pupils and staff have returned to school and shown remarkable resilience under new routines and ways of working.
- \* We have opened North Ayrshire's Gaelic Medium Provision and have welcomed a Primary 1/2 class to our community.

For more of our achievements follow us on Twitter @WhitehirstPS

# Overall capacity For Improvement – Strengths and Next steps

The capacity for improvement at Whitehirst Park Primary is very good. The commitment of staff, support from parents and the confident pupils, ensures there is capacity for continuous growth and development. The school community has a clear vision. Our purpose is to ensure that every child is given the opportunity and support to be the best that they can be and develop the four capacities, supported by the nurturing ethos of the Whitehirst Park Primary School community. This will continue to be improved through cultivating positive relationships with all stakeholders, collegiate working and developing effective leadership at all levels.

The improvement plan for 2020 – 2021 focuses directly on school recovery, nurturing relationships, rigorous assessment of pupil wellbeing and progress and ensuring high quality learning experiences for all pupils.

Our clear focus on school recovery will enable us to continue to develop effective approaches to moderation, assessment, self-evaluation and improvement by developing staff skills, knowledge and understanding. We will continue to have high expectations of the performance of all staff and thoroughly plan Career-Long Professional Learning opportunities linked to the Professional Review and Development process and the School Improvement Plan.

We will continue to review and develop our procedures for formal and informal approaches to monitoring the quality of learning and teaching as part of the schools quality assurance procedures. This will ensure consistent, quality learning experiences for pupils. We will continue to rigorously track pupils' progress through analysing all available data. This process will include regular meetings involving teaching staff, support staff and the leadership team so that prompt action can be taken and we can continue to celebrate areas where improvements have been made.

