



**Education and
Families**

Continuous Improvement Service

Validated Self-Evaluation Visit

Establishment: Balmalloch Primary and Nursery Class

Date: 15th/16th May 2019

Activity: Validated Self-Evaluation

Team Members: Jane Stocks (HT- Abronhill Primary), Mark Cairns (HT- Cumbernauld Academy), Catherine Kay (DHT – Kilsyth Academy), Robert Dalzell (CIO), Margaret Hunter (CIO), Craig Barnstaple (CIO), Therese Henery (CIO), Lynsey Malley (ASN Manager)

Balmalloch Primary has 341 pupils with a 40/40 Nursery. The Head Teacher has been in post since August 2018 and a Depute Head and Principal Teacher ably support her in driving forward change in the school. There are 13 classes with ASNs and Classroom assistants to support. There are 42 children in SIMD 1-2 (125 SIMD 3&4). Within the staff team there are 3 new staff members. There are 36 GIRFMe plans across the school including 11 children in the nursery class. Within the nursery there are temporary staff members and an ASNA. The school was awarded £56,400 in PEF.

Strengths:

- The Head Teacher has been in place since August 2018 and has settled the staff, children and parents/carers. She is driven and able to share her vision across the school community. This vision should continue to be shared with all stakeholders over time and more focussed.
- Staff are willing to work collegiately to support the emotional, social and academic needs of the children and each other.
- Parents speak very highly of the staff in the school and the communication that takes place. They welcome the range of information coming out on a regular basis. The use of Twitter was commented on favourably.

- Parents also speak very highly of the transition programmes that are in place from Nursery to Primary 1 and P5 to Kilsyth Academy.
- Pupils are confident and well-mannered with a pride in their school and have supported the refresh of the school's vision and values. They speak highly of the support provided by staff.
- Staff now have a variety of opportunities to develop leadership rolls which will lead to a more consistent approach.
- Introduction of a new tracking and monitoring system is now in place and this will continue to develop. This will lead to robust dialogue between SMT with staff around progress and achievement of a level.
- The nursery is a welcoming, positive and nurturing ethos and practitioners have built warm, positive relationships with their children and families.
- The nursery environment provides rich opportunities for children to access spontaneous and responsive play experiences both indoors and outside.
- Nursery practitioners listen to and respond to children's interests.

Areas for further development:

- Pace is variable across the school and often children are not being challenged enough to extend their learning. The school should look to develop consistent approaches across the school.
- There is a varied approach to differentiation - all classes could have Task Boards to drive forward independent learning, pace and challenge. This could promote a range of say, make, write and do activities. All children need to know where they are in their learning with a focus on where they are going next.
- The school should now revise, "What Makes a Great Lesson," as lesson formats are too varied. All staff should agree what an excellent lesson looks like in Balmalloch Primary. Classroom environment is not ideal – and the design of the open plan area lends itself to significant noise.
- Work in jotters is also very varied and often lacks feedback. AiFL strategies and children leading their learning are not consistent across the school. There needs to be agreed consistent approaches and resources used throughout the school in the use of formative assessment
- Although nursery profiles are in place, the observations need to be more evaluative about what children are learning about. A clear focus should be placed in recording significant information about literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

Next Steps:

(Signature)

Head Teacher/Head of Establishment

Date: _____

(Signature)

Education Officer (Continuous Improvement)

Date: _____
