



Firpark Secondary School Handbook

2024-2025



Introduction by our Head Teacher

Firpark School is a non-denominational school situated at the upper end of the town of Motherwell, close to Civic Centre, Motherwell Football Club and New College Lanarkshire (Motherwell Campus). It is within walking distance of the main shopping precinct and has good transport links.

The school was purpose built in 1977 to accommodate pupils with additional support needs. It has good access facilities for persons with mobility needs and all the rooms are situated at ground level. The school has been installed with a security entrance system and perimeter fencing.

Within our school building there are three teaching blocks, technical, art, and home economic rooms, computer suite, P.E. Hall, swimming pool, hair and beauty room, bistro and polytunnels.

At present there are 179 children on our roll (age range from 11-18 years) who are mainly drawn from a catchment area within North Lanarkshire with a small percentage of children from South Lanarkshire. The children are transported to school either by local authority buses or taxis. Some of our senior pupils travel independently to school, often on public transport.

There is input from specialist services – speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, school medical officer, psychological services and hearing and visual impairment specialists.

Within Firpark much attention is focused on the local community and pupils throughout the school participate in a wide range of out of school activities. We use our two school mini-buses or NLC busses to enable our pupils to access the local and wider community. We have a supportive Parent Council.

2024-2025

Aspirational Vision and Values

- To provide a happy learning environment where young people are valued and cared for.
- To provide a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their abilities and talents through a range of experiences and certificated courses.
- To support pupils to develop relevant skills for life and skills for work.
- To improve the pupils life chances and employment opportunities.

School Information

Name of school: Firpark Secondary School
Address: Firpark Secondary
Firpark Street
ML1 2PR
Telephone: 01698 522744
Email: enquiries-at-firpark@northlan.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Ian McGurk (Acting)
Depute Head Teacher S1-S3: Mr Brian Gilmour
Depute Head Teacher S4-S6: Miss Toni Harris (Acting)
Principal Teacher S1-S2: Mrs Ireland
Principal Teacher S3 – S4: Miss Finnigan (Acting)
Principal Teacher S4-S6: Mr Dunbar
Principal Teacher General: Mrs Joanna Hughes
Denomination Status: Non-Denominational
Capacity of School: 180
Age Range - 11yrs - 18yrs

Current roll in each year group (Aug 2024)

S1 – 35pupils
S2 – 40pupils
S3 – 30 pupils
S4 – 20 pupils
S5 – 28 pupils
S6 – 26 pupils

School Website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/firparksecondaryblog/>

School Hours

8:55 am 3:30 pm Monday-Thursday
8:55 am 3:00 pm Friday
10:45 am 11:00 am Morning Interval
1:05 pm 1:50 pm Lunch (Monday-Thursday)
12.40pm 1.20pm Lunch (Friday)

Letting Procedures

Any person wishing to hire a community facility within the school should apply to the Department of Community Services at:

Lorna Milligan
Culture NL Ltd
Community Facilities Section
9 Old Monkland Rd
Coatbridge
ML5 5EA
Tel 01236 632778
Fax 01698 302110

School Holidays and term dates 2024-2025

August 2024

Monday 12th August 2024 (Return date for Teachers & In-Service Day)
Tuesday 13th August 2024 (In-Service Day)
Wednesday 14th August 2024 (Return date for Pupils)

September 2024

Friday 27th September and Monday 30th September 2024 (September weekend)

October 2024

Monday 14th to Friday 18th October 2024 (October Week)

November 2024

Monday 18th November 2024 (In-Service Day)

December 2024 - January 2025

Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 20th December 2024
Monday 23rd December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025 (inclusive) (Christmas holidays)
Schools return on Monday, 6th January 2025

February 2025

Monday 17th February and Tuesday 18th February 2025 (Mid-term break)
Wednesday 19th February 2025 (In-service day)

April 2025

Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 4th April 2025
Monday 7th April- Friday 18th April 2025 (Inclusive)* Spring Holiday (Easter)
*Good Friday 18th April and Easter Monday 21st April 2025

May 2025

Monday 5th May 2025 (May Public Holiday)
Tuesday 6th May 2025 (in-service day)
Friday 23rd May 2025 and Monday 26th May 2025 (May Weekend)

June 2025

Schools Close at 1pm on Wednesday 25th June 2025

Transfer/Enrolment

Transition from Primary to Secondary

Opportunities to aid and ensure a smooth transition are provided for both pupils and parents/carers at the Primary 7- S1 transition stage. Official parental/carer tours will be arranged once our intake for the following session has been received by the school. Information regarding these tours will be sent out via the feeder primaries. "Taster Days" are arranged for pupils to experience Secondary classes during this process and an Information Evening is also held for parents/carers. The school works closely with feeder primaries and parents/carers to gather relevant information. A 'Settling-In' review will be arranged with parents/carers and take place before the end of October.

Senior Phase Transition

Transition meetings are held for all pupils 24 and 12 months prior to the pupil's school leaving date, and a further meeting is held approximately 4 months before the pupil is due to leave school. Update meetings are arranged by the Principal Teacher S4 – S6 and in attendance are:- pupil, parents/carers, careers service, psychologist if appropriate, therapists and any agencies that may be involved with the present or future placement of the pupil. The Principal Teacher S4-S6 will be in attendance at these meetings.

School leaving dates

Pupils who reach the age of 16 on or between the 1st of March and the 30th of September can leave school on the 31st of May.

Pupils who reach the age of 16 on or between the 1st of October and the 28th of February can leave school at the start of the Christmas holidays in that school year.

Many of our pupils will remain in full time education until the end of their 6th year of Secondary Education.

Pastoral Support

All staff are committed to the pastoral element of teaching within Firpark Secondary, the aim of which is to provide a caring, supportive and friendly environment which encourages pupils' educational, social and personal development. We work together with parents/carers and partners to ensure our pupils have the best wellbeing and educational outcomes. Your key contacts in the school are the Principal Teacher's and the Senior Leadership Team. In addition to building strong relationships with parents/carers, our key staff liaise with our partners to provide additional support to our pupils and their families as required. These include Psychological services, Youth Counsellor, Social Work, Skills Development Scotland, Health professionals and the local community. Together we ensure a positive, happy and safe environment and ethos where all are valued and cared for.

Equal opportunities

It is an aim of the school to promote equal opportunities for all pupils and eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equal opportunity for all and between different groups of people in line with the Equality Act 2010, the Service's Promoting Equality and Diversity Circular and the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and Equality Strategy.

The school is committed to ensuring its policies and practices do not impact adversely on any particular group(s) of people and opportunities to promote equality are actively pursued.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's Technical Guidance for Schools in Scotland is the essential guide for the school community to promote equality. This can be accessed at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/technical-guidance-schools-scotland>

What is Curriculum for Excellence?

Curriculum for Excellence is Scotland's national curriculum. It provides a coherent and inclusive curriculum from 3-18 years wherever learning is taking place, including early learning childhood centres, schools, colleges and community learning. It places children and young people at the heart of Scottish Education.

The purpose of Curriculum for Excellence is encapsulated in the four capacities – to enable each child or young person to be

- a successful learner,
- a confident individual,
- a responsible citizen and
- an effective contributor.

These four capacities govern the entire curriculum from age 3 to 18 and aim to raise the standards of achievement for all learners.

Curriculum for Excellence is underpinned by the values inscribed on the mace of the Scottish Parliament – wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity.

Throughout Curriculum for Excellence there is a strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing across all aspects of learning and every teacher will support learners with the development of these, including digital literacy skills.

Curriculum for Excellence is defined as:

The totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education.

The opportunities for learning and teaching are governed by the Four Contexts for Learning, which ensure that the education your child receives is informative, interesting, relevant and fun.

These contexts are:

- Ethos and life of the school as a community
- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Opportunities for personal achievement.

What are the Curriculum for Excellence levels?

There are five levels and these are flexible depending on pupils' needs and abilities (some children and young people may achieve these levels earlier or later dependent on ability):

- Early level pre-school to P1
- First level to the end of P4
- Second level to the end of P7
- Third and fourth levels S1 to S3
- Senior phase S4 to S6 and other forms of study.

What is the Broad General Education?

The Broad General Education (BGE) is the first phase of two closely connected phases of education. The BGE phase stretches from age 3 until the end of S3 after which learners move into the Senior Phase which starts in S4.

Curriculum Areas and subjects

The BGE is delivered via 8 curricular areas which, in secondary school cover years S1 to S3, and may be subdivided further into individual subjects.

The 8 curricular areas are:

- Expressive Arts
- Languages and Literacy
- Health and Well Being
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies.

The Senior Phase

The senior phase curriculum, from S4 to S6, follows a young person's broad general education, building firmly on the experiences and outcomes they will have experienced and achieved by the end of S3. It enables them to extend and deepen their learning and continue to develop skills for learning, life and work through qualifications and through a range of opportunities for personal development such as awards and wider achievements. It is designed to support young people in moving on to positive sustained destinations, whether that is college, university, training or employment. In the Senior Phase, schools and their partners (such as colleges, employers or community learning and development providers) now have flexibility to offer a range of pathways that meet the needs and raise the attainment levels of all learners – including pupils who might previously have become disengaged from education.

Personal Support/Career Planning

From 3-18 years, learners are supported to achieve their full potential and, as they progress through broad general education into the senior phase, to plan and prepare for further learning, training or employment. All schools and nurseries in North Lanarkshire are working hard to raise standards so that children and young people will develop all of the skills necessary to continue to be successful when leaving school and entering the world of higher education, training or work. As part of developing skills for learning, life and work, young people will be offered careers information advice and guidance to ensure they leave school and enter a positive post-school destination of higher education, further education, pre-employment training, employment (including modern apprenticeships), activity agreement or volunteering.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is an important part of the Curriculum for Excellence and, at all levels, pupils' progress is closely monitored by teachers and staff.

In turn, teachers and staff work with pupils to reflect on their results, looking at their strengths and learning needs, agreeing next steps and action based on these. As they progress, pupils become more involved in this process, as they develop the skills to make effective judgments on their own learning, developing personal expertise that will be important to them throughout life. Assessment also helps teachers plan learning experiences which are motivating and challenging. Children who may have additional support needs will be assessed using methods best suited to their individual requirements.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are informed of pupil progress by means of parents' evenings, reviews, end of term reports and Evisense.

Skills Development Scotland – My World of Work

My World of Work is a web service for people to plan, build and direct their career throughout their lives.

Customers can see jobs in action; build their CVs; search for vacancies and explore training opportunities in a way that's personal to them. There are video clips of people explaining their job roles and a news magazine cover with some great up-to-the-minute tips on how to get a job or train for one. Delivered by Skills Development Scotland, it provides information on the jobs market as well as offering help with things like tackling tough interview questions.

My World of Work complements SDS's current face to face and telephone services, as well as those provided to be partners, so customers have access to a range of channels depending on the level of support they need.

To explore My World of Work and the range of tools on offer, visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Additional Support Needs

Firpark School complies with the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended by the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Additional Support for Learning: Statutory Guidance 2017.

Through a process of assessment Firpark School will work towards providing these supports as identified whether internal, with the assistance of the education department or external, in conjunction with appropriately identified agencies. These supports may include psychological, medical, and social interventions.

All of our pupils have additional support needs. Assessment, planning and provision is under continual review. Assistance given to pupils reflects Education and Families staged intervention process, that is:

Internal support, where education staff identify that a child or young person needs support or planning which can be met within the school using classroom and whole school resources.

Requesting support from within Education and Families (services / resources out with school) e.g. Educational Psychologist, Community Learning and Development.

Requesting support from another agency (Joint working with partner agency/ agencies including 3rd sector).

Integrated and Compulsory working with other agency/ agencies. Targeted intervention(s) required to promote the wellbeing of the child would be identified by relevant agencies (child's Network of Support) and included in the Child's Plan. A Lead Professional would be identified. There would be an expectation that a statutory Child's Plan with integrated assessment, integrated chronology and Lead Professional be in place.

For pupils with English as an additional language we will seek support advice from the local authority.

Care experienced children i.e. children who are cared for directly or whose care is supervised by the local authority are deemed to have Additional Support Needs unless assessment determines otherwise.

Parents/carers and young people can request an assessment at any time to establish whether a child or young person has additional needs and/or requires a Co-ordinated Support Plan.

Getting it Right for Me Plans

(GIRFMe) plans enable staff to plan effectively for children and young people when interventions are required to support their learning and improve outcomes. Parents/carers and pupils are an essential part of the assessment; planning and review processes and their views will be actively sought.

Some children and young people may require significant support from education and at least one other agency, such as health, social work and/or a voluntary agency to help them meet their learning targets. Where this support requires a high level of co-ordination the opening of a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) may be considered. A CSP may be initiated by the school or another agency.

Parents/carers and young people can, if they wish, request that a CSP be considered and would be involved in the process.

Parents/carers will receive letters from the Education Authority throughout the CSP process.

Parents/carers and young people will be invited to take part in multiagency meetings and their views will be recorded in the plan.

Where more intensive support for a child or young person needs to be planned for, usually when a number of agencies are involved in supporting their wellbeing then a Child's Plan may be developed. The plan will tell you what actions need to be taken and who will help with each action. It will usually be someone called a 'Lead Professional' who will have the job of making sure that the actions outlined in the plan take place and things get better for the child or young person.

Dispute Resolution

North Lanarkshire Council is committed to resolving any differences of views through discussion, dialogue and building on common ground.

If the matter cannot be resolved with the Education Authority you have the right to request mediation. An independent mediation service is available to parents/carers and young people through Resolve (see contact details at the back of this handbook). Mediation is free through Resolve and independent of the Education Authority.

In the event that a disagreement cannot be resolved through mediation, then an application for Independent Adjudication (see contact details at the back of this handbook) can be made by parents/carers free of charge. The Independent Adjudicator will make recommendations to the Education Authority about how the dispute should be resolved.

The Additional Support Needs Tribunal has been set up to hear appeals made by parents/carers or young people on the decisions made by the Education Authority relating to Co-ordinated Support Plans, placing requests and post school transition. If you disagree with any decision relating to your child's Co-ordinated Support Plan, either the creation of a CSP, or the content of it, you may be entitled to refer to the Tribunal.

The Annual Improvement Plan (AIP)

Copies of the Annual Improvement Priorities are issued annually to parents/carers. The school priorities will reflect local and national priorities in education.

Firpark Annual Improvement Plan proposed priorities for 2024-25 will be as outlined below:

- 1 Review planning and processes to ensure that practice reflects local and national priorities (GIRFEC).
- 2 We will undertake a S4/S5 Curricular Review. We will ensure the needs of the learners are at the centre of the curriculum design and development which takes account of local and national circumstances. The curriculum is the totality of learning experiences across the four contexts as delivered by the school and its partners. The curriculum will result in strong outcomes for all learners (Year 1).

Homework

We encourage our parents/carers to promote the importance of literacy and numeracy.

Reading is a key skill to accessing the school curriculum, we encourage our parents to promote the value of reading at home. Reading to your child is a hugely valuable activity. Look for opportunities for them to use their reading in real life situations road signs, menus, television listings are ideal. Further information on the development of literacy skills is available on the school website.

In maths we promote the use of "Sumdog". This is a maths programme that the pupils can access from mobile devices. Pupils can access this at home from a computer or mobile device and work at their own pace, their work can be monitored by the class teacher.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural values

The school is committed to supporting the development of pupils as rounded, secure individuals and therefore encourages their development in spiritual, moral, social and cultural terms.

It is recognised that the Education Act allows parents/carers to withdraw their children from any instruction in religious subjects and any religious observance. Any parent/carer who wishes to exercise this right should inform the Head Teacher by letter/email.

Parents/carers from ethnic minority religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written/email requests will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted on not more than three occasions in any one school session and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.

Extra-curricular activities:

The school offers a range of clubs including:

- School Choir
- Dance
- She Bot
- Multi Sports
- Football

The school offers a range of swimming and athletic opportunities at local and national level.

Freedom of information

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 came into force in 2005. The Act allows anyone to ask for information from the Council – and imposes a very tight time-scale for the Council to respond. To deal with Freedom of Information requests, the Council has appointed a Corporate Freedom of Information Officer with the support of an officer in each Service. The Freedom of Information and Records Management Officer can be contacted by telephone on 01698 302484

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Statement for Education

What is this statement?

This statement explains when and why we collect personal information about you, your child or young person and how this information is used, the conditions under which it may be disclosed to others and how it is kept secure.

Who are we?

North Lanarkshire Council is a Local Authority established under the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. Education, and Families is located in Civic Centre, Motherwell ML1 1AB.

Why do we need your personal information and that of your child or young person?

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver an effective education service to all children and young people in North Lanarkshire. In order to do this we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

Legal basis for using your information

We provide this service as part of our statutory function as your Local Authority. Processing your personal information is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest by the Council. If the information we have asked for is not provided, then we will not be able to provide this service to your child or young person.

Your personal information

Education uses the national IT system, SEEMiS, to store personal information electronically. We ask parents/carers during registration and enrolment to provide us with their child's name, date of birth, gender, address, family contact details (phone/email). We will also ask you to update this information annually.

We may also ask you for information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion, and ethnicity. We may also record information you might wish to provide about your family circumstances.

We require this information to ensure children and young people are educated appropriately, supported, and that we take account of their health and wellbeing.

During a child's journey through education a pupil's record is kept, this core record is mainly paper based and is stored securely in the child or young person's establishment. If the establishment has requested assistance from educational staff out with the nursery or school, key staff from these services may also store information securely about your child or young person.

How will we use this information?

Your personal information will be used:

- to enrol your child or young person in nursery or school
- to provide your child or young person with an appropriate education
- for teaching, assessment and planning purposes and to monitor educational progress of children and young people
- to support pupil learning, improve outcomes and identify where additional support is needed to help children and young people
- to provide appropriate pastoral care to support health and wellbeing of children and young people
- to keep children and young people safe
- to maintain records e.g. of attendance, absence, attainment and behaviour of children and young people (including exclusions)
- to support children and young people during transitions when moving on each year from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and when they move or leave school
- to enable schools and establishments to process personal data in support of SQA and Further Education
- to allow us to process Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) applications
- to monitor and report on pupil attainment and achievement in relation to the national improvement framework issued by the Scottish Government
- to assure the quality of our education services in line with national expectations from Education Scotland
- when we require to contact you by post, email, telephone or text.

Who do we share information with?

To support your child or young person's access to appropriate education and meet our legal obligation, personal information may be shared internally between services of the Council. From time to time, education staff may also need to share information about you, your child or young person with another person from another agency or service, e.g. Social Work, Health.

We also share information with Scottish Government and bodies such as Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Skills Development Scotland and other organisations that support children and young people's learning.

When a child or young person moves or transfers to another school the Council has an obligation to pass on information with regards to pupil records to the new school.

Only identified staff and those who require to have the information to enable them to carry out their job, will have access to you, your child or young person's information. We care about the information we hold in respect to the education of children and young people. We will keep this information safe and secure.

How long do we keep your information for?

We only keep personal information for the minimum period of time necessary. Sometimes this is set out in law, but in most cases, it is based on what we need to fulfil our function. We maintain a 'records retention and disposal schedule' which sets out how long we hold different types of information for.

You can View this on our website at our website at <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15003> or you can request a hardcopy of this from Education, and Families, Civic Centre, Motherwell, ML1 1AB

Your rights under GDPR

You can:

- Request access to your information – you have the right to request a copy of the personal information that we hold about you, your child or young person. You can ask us to confirm what personal information is being used and with whom it has been shared with.
- Request a correction to your information – we want to make sure that all personal information is accurate, complete and up to date. Therefore, you may ask us to correct any personal information that you believe does not meet these standards.
- Request the restriction of processing – this enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of personal information about you, your child or young person, for example if you want us to establish its accuracy or clarify the reason for processing it.
- Request the transfer – you can request the transfer of your information to another party.
- Deletion of your information – you have the right to ask us to delete personal information about you, your child or young person where:
 - a) you think that we no longer need to hold the information for the purposes for which it was originally obtained.
 - b) you have a genuine objection to our use of personal information.
 - c) or use of personal information is contrary to law or our legal obligations.

If you wish to update any personal information, retrieve it, or have it removed from records please contact your child or young person's head teacher or head of establishment in the first instance.

The Council's Data Protection Officer

If you have any questions or are unhappy about the way that we use the personal information of your child, young person or yourself you can contact the Data Protection Officer.

Data Protection Officer (DPO)
Civic Centre,
Windmillhill Street,
Motherwell ML1 1AB
or by email to AITeam@northlan.gov.uk

The Information Commissioner

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner about the way the Council has handled your rights, to enquire about any exercise of these rights or to complain about the way the Council has dealt with your rights (or any other aspect of data protection law).

Information Commissioner's Office,
45 Melville Street,
Edinburgh, EH3 7HL
or by e-mail to
casework@ico.org.uk

Transferring educational data about pupils

Education authorities and the Scottish Government

Education Portfolio (SGEP) exchange data about pupils either on paper or electronically through the ScotXed Programme.

The data collected and transferred covers areas such as date of birth, postcode, and registration for free meals and whether a pupil is looked after by his/her local authority, additional support needs including disability, attendance, absence and exclusions from school. Pupil names and addresses are collected by their school and the council but they are not passed to SGEP. The postcode is the only part of the address that is transferred. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can be published by SGEP.

Providing national identity and ethnic background data is entirely voluntary. You can choose the 'not disclosed' option if you do not want to provide this data. However, we hope that the explanations contained in this message and on our website will help you understand the importance of providing the data.

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, SGEP and education authorities need accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better exam results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows SGEP, education authorities and schools to:

- Plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all our pupils,
- Plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils,
- Better understand some of the factors that influence pupil attainment and achievement,
- Target resources better.

Your GDPR rights

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with the GDPR. We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. GDPR gives you the right to know how we will use your data. This message can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of the uses of pupil data can be found on the ScotXed website (www.scotxed.net).

SGEP works with a range of partners including Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. On occasion, we will make individual data available to partners and also academic institutions to carry out research and statistical analysis. In addition, we will provide our partners with information they need in order to fulfil their official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control and prior agreement of the Data Access Panel in SGEP, which will ensure that no subject specific data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that such data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Further details are available on

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/PrivacyInformation>

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email school.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to

The ScotXed Support Office, SGEP, Area 1B, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ.

Alternative versions of this page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, braille and large print.

Want more information?

Further details about ScotXed data exchanges are available on the ScotXed website, www.scotxed.net.

Child protection

Every adult in Scotland has a role in ensuring all our children and young people are safe and protected from harm at all times and in all situations. The Head Teacher is responsible for the schools' actions in response to Child Protection concerns.

If there are any Child Protection concerns the Head Teacher or the Child Protection Co-ordinator will follow North Lanarkshire Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines.

Child Protection Co-ordinator is: Mr I McGurk HT (Acting)
Telephone Number: 01698 522744

Adult protection

The Council has responsibility under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 for the protection and support of adults at risk of harm within North Lanarkshire. Its employees therefore have the responsibility to ensure the welfare of all adults at risk of harm with whom they come into contact, as well as providing the highest possible standard of care for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. If there are any Adult Protection concerns the Head Teacher or the Adult Protection Co-ordinator will follow North Lanarkshire Adult Protection Procedures and Guidelines

Adult Protection Co-ordinator is: Mr I McGurk HT (Acting)
Telephone Number: 01698 522744

School discipline

Firpark Secondary School promotes positive relationships and behaviour across the whole school community. We work together with parents/carers, families and partners to create a safe and welcoming ethos with mutual respect. Our whole school staff take time to explain and reinforce our high expectations of positive relationships and behaviour, providing opportunities for our pupils to discuss behaviours and a clearer understanding of the impact on themselves and others. We have a clear understanding of distressed and condition related behaviours and provide appropriate support for pupils who display this. The support of our parents/carers, families, partners and the wider community is key to maintaining a positive safe environment and ethos for all in Firpark Secondary School.

Together we aim to provide a happy learning environment where young people are valued and cared for.

In any instance of a pupil breaching our expected behaviour, the Senior Leadership Team work closely with the pupil and their parents/carers to take appropriate action and supportive steps to prevent the circumstances happening again.

Anti-bullying

The school recognises that bullying is a complex and widespread problem throughout society and consequently has an anti-bullying policy which promotes a positive behaviour ethos and is in line with North Lanarkshire Council's Anti-bullying policy guidance.

Supervision in non class time

An adult presence is provided in playgrounds at break times in terms of the schools (Safety and Supervision of Pupils) (Scotland) Regulations 1990.

Breaks and lunchtimes are supervised by SLT/PT and non-teaching staff.

External Provider Staff

School disciplinary policy and procedures should be invoked when there is an incident involving any member of external staff (not employed by NLC) within an NLC establishment.

External staff within allocated classes in schools should be met by a school senior manager before the first lesson to confirm the policy and procedures on how disruptive behaviour will be managed.

Any misconduct should be reported to a member of the school SLT/PT before the close of the business day.

Home and School Links

Parents/carers are invited to attend all parents' evenings throughout the year to discuss their child's progress.

Parents/carers are also invited to an annual review where progress and targets are discussed. If for any reason a parent/carer is unable to attend they are invited to telephone the appropriate D.H.T. or P.T. to arrange another meeting at a mutually agreed time.

Parents/carers are sent an annual report towards the end of the academic session to update them on the progress of their son / daughter. This report also highlights appropriate next steps within individual subjects and includes an overview from the pupil's PLP teacher.

Curricular and school information can be found within the school website as well as through the school App. Parents/carers will also receive regular news, diary dates and alerts through the App which will keep them up to date with relevant school information.

Please ensure the school has the most up to date mobile phone number for the main contact(s) as text messages are regularly sent to parents/carers regarding information and attendance.

Attendance at School

If your child is going to be absent, it is important to inform the school as soon as possible by letter, email or telephone. If your son / daughter is transported to school by bus or taxi it is important that you contact the relevant transport to inform them that they are not required that day. If the duration of the absence is already known this should be passed on but if not, it would be expected that the pupil will not be picked up until the parent / carer calls back to inform the transport that they are well enough to return.

Section 30 of the 1980 Education Act lays a duty on every parent of a child of 'school age' to ensure that their child attends school regularly.

Attendance must be recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon.

Regulation 7 of The Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Amendment, Etc, Regulations 1993 requires each child's absence from school to be recorded in the school register as authorised: As defined by the Scottish Government.

At the start of each school session, parents/carers will be asked to provide contact details including at least one emergency contact number. Parents/carers are required to inform the school if these contact details change during the course of the school year.

Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if a pupil is unable to attend from the start of the school day on the first day of absence. Failure to do so will result in school staff accessing all contact numbers provided for the school. In terms of child safety, the police will be contacted if all attempts to locate the child have been exhausted.

Parents/carers should inform the school by letter, email or telephone if their child is likely to be absent for some time and give the child a note on his or her return to school, confirming the reason for absence.

Family Holidays During Term Time

Every effort should be made to avoid family holidays during term time as this both disrupts the child's education and reduces learning time. Parents/carers should inform the school by letter of the dates before going on holiday.

Absences will be classified as authorised only in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances may include:

A family holiday judged to be important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events.

A family holiday classified under the 'authorised absence' category will not include such reasons as:

- The availability of cheap holidays
- The availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experience during school holidays
- Holidays which overlap the beginning or end of term
- Parental/carer difficulty obtaining leave (except in cases where evidence is provided by the employer that it cannot accommodate leave during school holidays without serious consequences)

Family holidays with the above similar characteristics will be classified as unauthorised absence. Where the head teacher's prior agreement has not been sought the absence will automatically be classed as unauthorised.

Extended leave with parental/carer consent

Where most family holidays will be recorded as unauthorised absence (see above) extended leave with parent/carer consent will not be considered the same as a family holiday. Leave in such circumstances will be authorised under circumstances such as.

- Extended overseas educational trips not organised by the school
- Short-term parental placement abroad
- Family returning to its country of origin (to care for a relative, or for cultural reasons)
- Leave in relation to the children of travelling families

Exceptional Domestic Circumstances

Parents/carers may request permission for such leave in writing, email and the school may authorise such requests under the following:

- The period immediately after an accident or illness
- A period of serious or critical illness of a close relative
- A domestic crisis which causes serious disruption to the family home, causing temporary relocation.

It should be emphasised that the school investigates unexplained absence, and that the authority has the power to write to, interview or prosecute parents/carers, or to refer pupils to the Reporter of the Children's Panel, if necessary.

Clothing and Uniform

Firpark School uniform is black trousers or skirt and a white shirt and school tie. Some pupils prefer to wear a white polo shirt and a black jumper.

All North Lanarkshire schools must have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way which is appropriate to attendance at school. This dress code must not lead to direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability. Prior to drawing up the dress code the parents/carers, pupils and staff were fully consulted.

It is the expectation of Education and Families that parents/carers will be keen to support the dress code and written agreement may be sought.

Clothing which is unacceptable in school under any circumstances includes items which:

- could potentially encourage factions (e.g. FOOTBALL COLOURS) could cause offence (e.g. anti-religious symbolism or political slogans)
- could cause health and safety difficulties such as loose-fitting clothing, dangling earrings and other potentially dangerous jewellery
- are of flammable materials which may be a danger in certain classes (e.g. shell suits)
- could cause damage to flooring
- carry advertising in particular for alcohol or tobacco, and
- could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or to be used by others to do so.

Parents/carers in receipt of a clothing grant from the Council will be encouraged to purchase items which are in accordance with the school dress code. Approval of any requests for such grants in other circumstances are at the discretion of the Executive Director of Education and Families. Information and application forms may be obtained from any school or First Stop Shop. Parents/carers are entitled to receive a clothing grant if they are in receipt of any of the following benefits: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Employment & Support Allowance (income related), Universal Credit (with an income below £660 per month), housing benefit, council tax reduction.

Whilst in general terms it would not normally be the policy of the authority to exclude a pupil from school solely on the basis of his attire, persistent refusal to respond to a reasonable dress code might be deemed to be a serious challenge to the head teacher's authority and be detrimental to the well

being of the whole school community. In such circumstances a head teacher could justify the use of the school discipline procedure.

The Council wishes to minimise claims arising from the loss of pupils' clothing and/or personal belongings. Parents/carers are asked to assist in this area by ensuring that valuable items and unnecessarily expensive items of clothing are not brought to school. Parents/carers should note that any claims submitted to cover the loss of such things are likely to be met only where the authority can be shown to have been negligent.

Meals

School meals are prepared on the premises. Parents/carers wishing to provide their child with a packed lunch may do so. Lunch breaks are supervised by SLT and Additional Support Needs Staff.

The availability of special diets.

Diets required as a result of a medical condition (a medically prescribed diet e.g. coeliac disease, diabetes, PKU, food allergy or intolerance) can be provided in school by our catering staff. A medically prescribed diet form 1a must be completed by the child's Registered Dietician or General Practitioner. Procedures and forms can be accessed online through North Lanarkshire Council's website, by the school, the catering service or also in some cases by the child's dietician or doctor. For some conditions (PKU, coeliac) parents/carers may be asked to supply prescription foods or attend a meeting to discuss the child's dietary requirements.

For information a vegetarian meal option is offered daily.

Some children with additional support needs may require food to be adapted to an appropriate texture and consistency. In this instance the child's Registered Dietician or Speech and Language Therapist will liaise with the Head Teacher and school catering service including the nutritionist to ensure appropriate food provision. In this case a form will still need to be signed by a medical professional including a Speech and Language Therapist.

It is important that the Head Teacher is aware of any medically prescribed diets within the school and on occasion may be asked to attend a meeting

Forms that have not been signed by a medical professional will be rejected. The form will be returned to the parent/carer along with a letter stating the reason for the refusal and also, they will be issued with a new form.

Any change in the child's dietary requirements must be advised through a Registered Dietitian or Medical Practitioner to the Facilities Support Services (FSS) Nutritionist. When children move to a High School or change schools FSS will need to be informed as soon as possible. Special Diets such as Vegan and ethnic diets can also be accommodated. In this case a form b should be completed and can be signed by the parent.

All completed forms should be returned to the email specialdiet@northlan.gov.uk

Presently in Firpark Secondary all pupils receive a free school meal.

Parents/carers are entitled to receive a clothing grant if they are in receipt of any of the following benefits: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Employment & Support Allowance (income related), Universal Credit (income below £660 per month), housing benefit (please note that the housing element of Universal Credit is not housing benefit), council tax reduction (please note lease note that single person's discounted/council tax exemption is not council tax reduction). The deadline for school clothing grant's is 31st March 2024.

Free milk is not provided for secondary pupils. Milk may, however, be available for purchase in the school during the lunch period.

Lunch Arrangements

S1 – S6 participate in our cafeteria-style facilities within Block 4 at 1.05 p.m. Due to larger numbers at lunches are served in two sittings. This is done on a weekly rotational basis S1/S3 and S4/S6.

Pupils choose from a range of options and sit in their own social groupings. Pupils who have been identified as requiring closer supervision are assigned ASNA support. A timetable for ASNAs is drawn up and a member of SLT supports in the cafeteria during the busiest period before supporting another member of SLT in the playground. Some of our Post 16 pupils use their own base at lunchtime as we try to encourage their independence.

If you have any concerns regarding our lunchtime arrangements, please contact the school.

Placing Requests

You have the right to make a placing request for your child to be educated in a school other than the local school.

In December each year, the authority will advertise its arrangements for placing requests.

There are sound educational reasons for trying to ensure that the transfer or admission of children to a school takes place at the start of a school session. Other than those who are moving home to a new area, parents are advised to time any placing requests so that they take effect from the beginning of the new school session.

Every effort will be made to try to meet the parental/carer wishes, but you should note that it is not always possible to grant every placing request to a particular school.

Once a pupil has reached the school leaving age the pupil, not the pupil's parents/carers may choose which school to go to.

Placing requests to primary school does not necessarily ensure that your child will have a direct entry to the associated secondary. Advice on this must be sought from the primary school Head Teacher.

Further information on placing requests and procedures is available from the school or the council's website.

Parents/carers and Young People have a right under the Additional Support for Learning Act 2009 to make a placing request for their child or young person to attend a nursery (including partnership nursery), special school or special class managed by the home authority. In the event of a successful placing request the authority are not required to provide transport. The Act also enables parents/carers and young people to make a placing request to attend a school/establishment belonging to another authority.

Educational maintenance allowance (EMA)

Students who have reached the statutory school leaving age of 16 may be eligible for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to allow them to remain at school.

In session 2024-2025 students who are born before 1 March 2009 will be eligible to apply for EMA.

The EMA guidelines explain the criteria which must be met in order to be eligible for an EMA and the rules which must be adhered to for the EMA to be paid throughout the year.

Eligibility

All applications are individually assessed. Students must attend a school within North Lanarkshire Council, regardless of where he or she is resident.

The income used as the basis of the assessment is the gross household income for the preceding financial year.

The income thresholds used in assessing applications in session 2023/2024 are as shown below. These levels may be subject to change in session 2024/2025.

For applicants in single student households - £30 per week is paid where the income is up to £24,421; where the income is above that level no award will be made.

For applicants in multiple student households - £30 per week is paid where the income is up to £26,884; where the income is above that level no award will be made.

Attendance

Students in receipt of an EMA must attain 100% attendance in any week to receive payment for that week. Where the student is absent through illness a medical certificate must be submitted. In addition, self-certification forms are accepted for a maximum of 5 days sickness absence in the academic session. Any illness which would take the pupil over the 5 days self-certification would continue to require submission of a medical certificate.

Application forms

Parents apply for EMA online: ef.emamailbox@northlan.gov.uk

Transport

The Council has a policy of providing free transport to secondary pupils who live more than three miles from their catchment school by the shortest suitable walking route. This policy is more generous than the law requires. This provision may be reviewed at any time.

Parents/carers who consider they are eligible should apply online before the end of February for those pupils beginning school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made. Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year but may be subject to delay whilst arrangements are made.

There is discretion in certain circumstances to grant privilege transport for pupils to travel in transport provided by the authority where spare places are available, and no additional costs are incurred.

Applications can be made online at the Council website www.northlan.gov.uk

Pick up Points

Where free transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point.

Walking distance in total, including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction, will not exceed the authority's limits (see above paragraph).

It is the parent's/carers responsibility to ensure their child arrives at the pick-up point in time. It is also the parent's/carers responsibility to ensure the child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while boarding, travelling in and alighting from the vehicle. Misbehaviour could result in a loss of the right to free transport.

Placing Request

The council does not provide transport for those pupils in receipt of a placing request other than in exceptional circumstances

Appropriate transport arrangements are in place according to the needs of each individual pupil. Please note that alterations to taxi runs can only be made by the school.

Medical and Healthcare

Firpark School has access to a team of school nurses. There are also trained First Aiders among the school staff. The school medical officer visits the school to carry out routine medicals on the pupils.

There is speech and language provision within the school and other visiting services include physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Should a child take ill in school we will telephone the parent/carer or emergency contact to make arrangements for uplifting the child.

Parents/carers should inform the school of any particular medical requirements.

If a young person is unable to attend a suitable educational establishment as a result of prolonged ill-health, North Lanarkshire Council must make special arrangements for the pupil to receive education elsewhere, other than that at an educational establishment.

In North Lanarkshire children and young people are treated in the paediatric in-patient unit within Wishaw General Hospital. It is not common for children and young people to have extended stays in Wishaw General and therefore North Lanarkshire Council does not require a dedicated hospital education service.

Children and young people resident in North Lanarkshire and in hospital in Glasgow, may access education through the Hospital Education Service (HES). The Service is provided by Glasgow City Education Department and Social Work Services. For further information please contact a school.

Illness at school

If a pupil takes ill at school or has sustained an injury, every effort is made to contact parents/carers at home or at work to arrange for the pupil to be taken home.

A sick pupil will not be sent home until it is ascertained that a parent/carer or responsible person is available.

In an emergency, the school may order an ambulance to take a sick or injured pupil to hospital – parents/carers would be notified immediately.

Emergency contacts

On a pupil's admission to Firpark Secondary School, parents/carers are asked to provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two people whom we can contact during the day should an emergency arise. As it is important that these details are kept up-to-date, any alterations should be notified immediately to the school.

Administration of medicines in school

Staff cannot issue any medication to a pupil, unless parents have completed a request form.

Medicine should be labelled showing your child's name and the dosage to be taken - this should be passed directly to a member of staff.

Information in Emergencies

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions, circumstances arise which lead to disruption. For example, schools may be affected by severe weather, temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure or re-opening. We shall keep you informed by using letters, notices in local shops and community centres, announcements in local churches and announcements in the press on local radio, on the NLC website and twitter.

The Parent Forum

As a parent/carer of a child at this school you are automatically a member of the Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is composed of all the parents and carers of children at the school.

As a member of the Parent Forum, you can expect to:

- get information about what your child is learning
- get information about events and activities at the school
- get advice/help on how you can support your child's learning
- be told about opportunities to be involved in the school
- have a say in selecting a Parent Council to work on behalf of all parents/carers at the school
- be invited to identify issues for the Parent Council to work on with the school.

Members of the Parent Council are:

Mrs A O'Neil (Chairperson)
Mrs M Commerford (Vice Chairperson)
Mrs M Commerford (Clerk)

The head teacher has a right and duty to attend all meetings of the Parents' Group. Meetings are open to members of the public.

The Parent Council's rights and duties include:

- supporting the work of the school
- representing the views of parents/carers
- consulting with parents/carers and reporting back to the Parent Forum on matters of interest
- promoting contact between the school, parents/carers, pupils, and the wider community
- fundraising
- taking part in the selection of senior promoted staff
- receiving reports from the head teacher and education authority
- receiving an annual budget for administration, training and other expenses
- Improving home school partnership and facilitating parental involvement

Qualifying Statements

Although this information is accurate at time of printing there could be changes affecting any of the matters dealt with in the document-

- a) before the commencement or during the course of the school year in question
- b) in relation to subsequent school years

Education authorities are required by law to issue a copy of the school handbook to certain parties in December each year. It details the current policies and practices of both the council and the school.

Important addresses and telephone numbers

Department of Education and Families
North Lanarkshire Council
Civic Centre
Motherwell

Councillors whose ward covers catchment area:

Councillor Kaye Harmon
Councillor David Robb
Councillor Nathan Wilson
C/O Civic Centre
Motherwell

Contacts relating to Additional Support Needs

Help and advice on any matters relating to Additional Support Needs are available from:

Alan Shields
Continuous Improvement Officer - Inclusion
Education and Families
Email: ShieldsAI@northlan.gov.uk

CiIL – Cassie Dickson
c/o Braidhurst High School
Dalriada Crescent
Motherwell
ML1 3XF
Tel- 01698 274999

You can also get more help and advice from:

Enquire – the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning. Operated by Children in Scotland, Enquire offers independent confidential advice and information on additional support for learning. Enquire also provide a range of factsheets,

0345 123 2303
info@enquire.org.uk
www.enquire.org.uk for parents and practitioners
www.enquireorg.uk/yp for children and young people

Children in Scotland - Resolve Mediation

0131 313 8844
Email: resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk

Independent Adjudicator

Scottish Government
Directorate for Learning
Support & wellbeing Unit
Area 2c North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Reference to Additional Support Needs Tribunal (Scotland)

ASNTS
Health & Education Chambers
First Tier Tribunal for Scotland
Glasgow tribunals Centre
20 York Street
Glasgow
G2 8GT
0141 302 5860
www.asntscotland.gov.uk

NHS Lanarkshire

Bellshill
Bellshill Health Centre 01698 575700

Motherwell
Motherwell Health Centre 01698 242610

Wishaw
Wishaw Health Centre 01698 355511

Social Work

Bellshill 01698 346666
303 Main Street
Bellshill
ML4 1AW

Motherwell 01698 332100
Scott House
73/77 Merry Street
Motherwell
ML11 1JE

Wishaw/Shotts 01698 348200
Kings House
King Street
Wishaw
ML2 8BS

Community Learning & Development

Bellshill CLD Locality Office Tel: 01698 274685
Bellshill Academy E: CLD-Bellshill@northlan.gov.uk
321 Main Street
Bellshill
ML41AR

Motherwell CLD Locality Office Tel: 01698 403830
Our Lady's High School E: CLD-Motherwell@northlan.gov.uk
Dalziel Drive
Motherwell
ML1 2DG

Wishaw/Shotts CLD Locality Office Tel: 01698 274343
Calderhead High School E: CLD-Wishaw@northlan.gov.uk
Dyfrig Street
Shotts
ML74DH

