



Viewlands Primary School Standards and Quality Report 2011 - 2012



Viewlands Primary School aspires to provide the highest quality of Learning and Teaching experiences that enables all our pupils to achieve their full potential. As a school, we work together towards excellence in a secure, active, fair, fun and motivating learning environment - we are true to our motto, Grow through Learning.

We are committed to the philosophy of continuous improvement of every aspect of the school's life and work. We work hard to maintain positive partnerships with parents, carers, professional agencies and a range of community partnerships so that we can meet the needs of all our children by providing as many opportunities to succeed as possible.

Parents and carers are involved wherever possible and invited to work together with the school in sharing and encouraging their child's learning journey. Staff work as one team in ensuring that the pupils of Viewlands are challenged and successful in their learning and that wherever their talents lie, they are valued and special.

Our pupils have also experienced learning in the wider community through the beautiful local environment we have around our school which also teaches them the important job we have of caring for and respecting our world

OUR VISION, VALUES, AIMS

Our vision is that everyone at Viewlands has the opportunity to develop attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enhance their future lives. We aim to:

- provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment in which everyone can learn effectively and become confident individuals;
- promote and actively encourage independent learning through a balanced curriculum, enabling children to become successful learners;
- establish and maintain effective relationships between home, school and the wider community;
- foster citizenship, mutual respect and co-operation ensuring equal opportunities for all.

ATTENDANCE

	June 2010	June 2011	June 2012	June 2013 (Targets)
Attendance	97%	97%	97%	97%

ACHIEVEMENT

This session we have continued to maintain the good progress in developing the potential of each learner. It is anticipated that progression through Early, 1st and 2nd Levels should take a learner 3 years in duration; therefore as learner's progress through N – P1, P2 – P4 and P5 – P7 we should see an increase in achievement across these levels. This is evident at Viewlands in Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Mathematics where almost all learners have achieved expected levels of attainment or above. They also continue to make good progress in other areas of the curriculum. Overall our high levels of attainment have remained steady or improved over recent years.

In April this year, we were given an Extended Learning and Achievement Visit (**ELAV**) by a group of Lead Officers from Perth and Kinross Education and Children's Services. The following were highlighted as strengths during our **ELAV** visit:

- Children access a range of thoughtfully planned experiences and have many opportunities to develop the skills and attributes associated with being responsible citizens and effective contributors – playing important roles in planning school events and as members of the Pupil Council and various committees that work to improve the school environment. Children, staff and parents are very proud of our school and identify very strongly with it.
- There are effective arrangements in place to support transitions from pre-school to Primary 1. Children from partner nurseries have the opportunity to meet their teachers in advance of starting school; there are number of events organised to welcome them to the school in the summer term. P7 pupils are involved in a range of transition activities throughout the year with staff from a number of departments at Perth Academy.
- There is a high quality of pastoral care; all staff in the school know children well as individuals. The whole school community takes an active role in promoting the care and welfare of others. This session the school has also implemented the development of nurturing approaches with a named space, "The Tree house" dedicated to this.
- Children feel listened to, understood and safe at school. They were confident that there were adults who they could approach for help or to share their concerns with. They felt that difficulties were dealt with fairly and they held a high regard for the adults who worked with them.
- Children know that their opinions are valued and acted upon. They could give many examples of their involvement in choosing and planning topics for learning. Children are also fully involved in the improving their school environment through the Pupil Council, Eco and Health Committees. Pupil's involvement and contributions had been the driving force in establishing the new school motto "Grow through Learning." At all stages they talked enthusiastically about their participation in developing this theme.
- A number of parents support events and work with the school. Examples of this are parents contributing to the P7 World of Work; talking about their careers and answering questions from children and working with children to run Crumbs Café at break times.

We are once again very proud of the achievements of all our pupils which are marked in various ways throughout the school.

Our P7 classes were very much the champions when it came to sporting events. Our football team won various trophies, including the Gregor Bruce trophy and the league trophy.. Our girls were once again Netball League champions. We also won the Primary Relay Championships and various individual achievements through the County Sports.

Many classes entertained pupils, parents and friends of the school through learning contexts such as Harry Potter, Roman Banquet, Pirates, London, Olympics, Superheroes, Victorians and Burns!

"Perform in Perth" showcased the wealth of musical and dancing talents we have in our school through our choirs, instrumentalists and dancers.

Eco Achievements have been plentiful - for example, our Health Accreditation was renewed, our 2nd Green Flag was awarded, joint working between pupils and parents to re-plant our pots throughout the school grounds, trees ordered from the Woodland Trust and funding awarded by Dobbies.

LEARNING

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes are now the core of all planning, learning and teaching at Viewlands Primary School. The curriculum is designed to

reflect and meet the needs of all learners and allows for there to be opportunities to acquire depth of knowledge in some areas and to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

The following were highlighted as strengths during our recent **ELAV** visit:

- There is a positive atmosphere in the school which supports learning and staff interactions with children are very supportive. Overall learning and teaching is good.
- Children across the school impress as happy and interested. They talk confidently about what they are learning and enjoy the range of experiences and approaches that make their learning enjoyable.
- At some stages teachers share responsibility for planning, delivering and evaluating progression in learning. At the stages where this has been developed it has proved to be very effective. Children and parents talk enthusiastically about the benefits of children working together with other classes and staff.
- There is evidence across the school of children's involvement in planning relevant contexts and themes for their learning that reflect their interests.
- In some lessons, children are involved in setting their success criteria and check their progress in meeting these.
- The ongoing development of cooperative learning is giving children regular opportunities to work cooperatively and to take responsibility for their learning.
- In a few classes teachers are using creative strategies to provide ongoing feedback to children which is directly related to the learning and skills being developed.
- There is an effective and professional approach to meeting the legislation and procedural obligations relating to supporting pupils with additional learning needs. There are clear procedures in place for addressing concerns and accessing appropriate resources.
- Support staff work well with children and teachers across the school. They make a valued contribution to the life of the school.

All these activities helped to boost learners' confidence and self-esteem by providing contexts for learners' to be effective contributors and responsible citizens.

LEADERSHIP

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) continued last session to work together on priorities identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Almost all areas of development within our SIP have been achieved with some being continued into session 12 - 13.

During our ELAV the following were highlighted as strengths within the area of Leadership:

- The senior management team share a clearly articulated vision of Viewlands focused on learning. They promote aiming for the highest standards for all.
- The strong direction from the Headteacher and Senior Managers is establishing an ethos of professional development which is inclusive of all staff.
- There is a well considered and carefully planned staff development programme. Good use is made of collegiate time and inset days to promote shared understanding for all staff of current developments in learning and teaching and to improve all aspects of their practice and the experiences of children.
- Parents consulted reported strong partnerships between school and parents characterised by very approachable staff, good communications and mutual

respect. They also spoke highly of the school's supportive ethos which results in children being happy to come to school and enjoying their learning.

- Parents reported that the school provided a range of events throughout the year which share the children's achievements and work of the school.
- The school's engagement with relevant partners is proactive and effective. Productive partnerships are built and sustained for the benefit of the community. A good example of this is work undertaken with Fairview School which enables groups of children to work together across both schools.

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2012 - 2013

Improvement priorities for next session have been identified through our self-evaluation process, involving staff, pupils and parents, and from outcomes highlighted within the ELAV report. The parent council has been fully involved in discussing how to move the school forward to excellence.

Our main priorities for session 2012 – 13 are:

- Build on the good practice of informing parents at the beginning of the school session about the focus of learning at each stage to a termly update which includes examples of how parents can support learning at home.
- Increase the good practice that enables staff across the school to share the planning, delivery and evaluation of learning.
- Further develop strategies such as effective questioning across the school to ensure that all children are accountable for contributing to lessons and their own learning.
- Teachers should continue to plan to ensure that differentiation is well planned for the range of abilities of all pupils, particularly for more able pupils.
- Staff should continue to develop their expectations of progress in learning by using the Perth and Kinross Standards.
- Develop a consistent approach to setting learning intentions, success criteria and feedback to pupils across all stages
- Make better use of any information gathered from a range of sources. Build on the very positive response from parents about the level of information they receive by continuing to organise events for parents which will:
 - Support their understanding of the curriculum and progression in learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy
 - Demonstrate new approaches in learning and teaching.
 - Enable children to share their success in learning

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report with me, either to comment or to seek further information, please email me at viewlands@pkc.gov.uk or contact me in the usual means.

Mrs Claire Allan

Mrs Claire Allan
Headteacher
September 2012