

## Attendance, Attainment and Achievement

The majority of our pupils are achieving at the expected levels in literacy and numeracy. Almost all pupils in Nursery are meeting their developmental milestones. We have continued to develop our approaches to meeting our learners needs. All pupils who are not on track to attain in literacy or numeracy are receiving planned and targeted support.

We have used our Pupil Equity Funding to support the development of literacy and numeracy, particularly our early level phonics. Additionally, we have made significant efforts to alleviate the financial burden of schooling on families. Throughout this school year, we have ensured that no families were asked to provide financial contributions for excursions or school activities.

We have focussed on celebrating the achievements of all learners through our school value awards and the introduction of a new house system. We continue to provide wider learning opperunities and have further developed several significant partnerships in the local area. We were delighted to welcome our wider school community to join us for our nativity at Blair Castle in December.

Our average attendance rate for 2022/2023 was 93.1%.

## Improvement Priorities for Session 2023/2024

Our capacity for school improvement is good and our Improvement priorities for 2022-2023 are:

- The continued development of Teaching and Learning approaches including the development of digital learning in our ELC setting, outdoor learning across all stages and learner participation.
- Raising attainment within writing through the development of whole school approaches and interventions, and the implementation of a new literacy programme in P3-7.
- Continuing to build a safe and nurturing learning environment with a focus on Nurturing Approaches, Rights Respecting Schools Award, and development of an anti-bullying approach.



## **Blair Atholl Nursery and Primary School Standards and Quality Report 2022/23**

### Our Vision

We believe in Blair Atholl. We strive together for a Nursery and School community in which all children, staff and families feel respected, nurtured, and included and everyone is encouraged and supported to realise their full potential.

We will do this by providing a welcoming, happy, and safe learning environment in which everyone's strengths are recognised, and achievements are celebrated. We want to ensure stimulating, engaging, and relevant learning experiences taking full advantage of our unique Highland setting.

### Our Values



Kind

Proud

Together

School Self- Evaluation	
1.3 Leadership of Change	Very Good
2.3 Learning, teaching, and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equity, and inclusion	Good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Good

## **Learning**

This session, we've continued our commitment to digital literacy by developing our pilot of providing each pupil from Primary 1 to Primary 7 with their own digital learning device. We have also introduced new progressive approaches to coding and developed our use of ipads to track progress. Our efforts were recognised when we received The Digital Schools Award. The positive feedback we received highlighted the significant impact these devices have had on pupil engagement, our development of coding strategies, and the additional benefits this approach provides for those pupils with support needs.

Within our literacy development, we've introduced a new phonics, reading, and writing programme for Primary 1 and 2. We have also fully updated our reading scheme for Primary 3-7 to ensure it remains engaging and relevant. Within our Nursery, the 'Word Aware' programme has been introduced, a strategy aimed at enhancing early language skills. In addition, we've critically evaluated our teaching methods for writing and engaged in extensive staff training, setting the stage for further improvements in the upcoming academic year.

Within numeracy, we've adopted a new teaching methodology that spans from Nursery to Year 7. We've supplemented this with the introduction of new learning resources and broader curriculum development. In partnership with PKC, we have undertaken a significant staff development programme in the teaching of numeracy and have been developing new progressive pathways linked to these new approaches. We've also introduced targeted interventions to support our pupils who need concepts reinforced.

Through our ongoing development of teaching and learning, our teaching staff have completed a year-long professional development programme focused on pupil assessment. This has led to the introduction of new approaches for assessing pupil progress and planning next steps.

Our Nursery has enthusiastically incorporated outdoor learning through the implementation of a forest kindergarten approach, in partnership with Atholl Estates. Each week, our youngest learners spend a day in the

forest, which opens up a world of adventure and hands-on learning. This approach has already led to noticeable improvements in self-regulation, independence, and a passion for outdoor play. Not only does it contribute to their physical well-being, but it also fosters an appreciation for the environment and encourages an exploratory spirit.

## **Leadership**

Together, we have continued to embed our vision and values into the fabric of the school, making them the backbone of our positive relationship building and restorative practices. Our values awards now act as the central theme of our celebrations. This approach has reinforced the values in our pupils' everyday school life. The school has regained its position as a key partner within the local community, and our pupils, staff, families, and visitors have recognised our renewed sense of pride and ambition.

Our continued emphasis on self-evaluation remains a crucial tool in shaping our improvement plans, concentrating on appropriate development priorities. We're enhancing a variety of self-evaluation techniques aimed at assessing the school's progress, particularly with a view to boosting attainment in literacy and numeracy. Throughout this year, our staff have united to evaluate our progress in areas such as teaching and learning, planning and evaluation, and digital approaches.

We have been working in partnership with our entire school community to develop and implement our new Curriculum Rationale, anchored in our five Northern Stars – Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Health & Wellbeing, and Citizenship. These stars illuminate our path towards a balanced and inclusive educational approach that is deeply rooted in our shared values of Kind, Proud, and Together. Our curriculum aims to develop well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to their community and the wider world. With a strong emphasis on outdoor learning, digital literacy, and individual achievement, this new rationale encapsulates our commitment to prepare learners for an ever-changing world, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to succeed.