

## Gallowhill Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class



## STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2019

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2019-2020. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

**SHEILA HOOD**

Head Teacher

## OUR SCHOOL

Gallowhill Primary School and Early Learning and Child Care Class is a non-denominational establishment in Paisley, situated within a local authority housing estate. At present the school roll is 254 with the nursery class 30/30 and also 10/10 places for 2-3 year olds. The school is almost 50 years old and is on the one level comprising a main hall, 14 teaching spaces and a lunch room. We have a self-contained nursery within our building. Our leadership team comprises of headteacher, depute and one principal teacher, each having clear remits to not only support the pastoral care of learners and staff but to further the school's improvement agenda. Our staff team provides a nurturing environment for learning, encouraging parental involvement to support learners to reach their full potential. Gallowhill Primary benefits from having Families First based in the school and support for families can be easily accessed. The school has a high profile in the local community, enjoying regular positive press coverage. Learners are encouraged to be involved in inter-school activities such as Euroquiz, sports' festivals and K'Nex Challenge.

**Our vision** is for everyone to have the best educational experience possible with best possible attainment.

**Our values** are **TOGETHER** : TRUST OPENNESS GENEROSITY ENCOURAGEMENT TOLERANCE HONESTY EMPATHY and RESPECT

**Our aims** are:

- 1 To provide a curriculum which enables learners to achieve their full potential.
- 2 To motivate all learners in their own learning and development and actively engage parents, carers and families in the life of the school.
- 3 To support and enable all staff from Nursery to P7 to provide a high quality experiences through improvement planning and self-evaluation.
- 4 Through careful planning and assessment, provide a range of learning and teaching approaches which meet the needs of all learners from Nursery to P7 so that our whole school community has high expectations and values achievement.
- 5 To deploy our staff team effectively to meet the needs of learners and to improve provision.
- 6 To utilise additional funding appropriately to affect positive change in raising attainment for all learners.

## SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Every class enjoyed presenting an assembly for their families and fellow pupils on one of Children's Rights.
- Our Christmas Concert and Nursery Nativity played to full houses.
- World Book Day was a great event where everyone in the school and nursery dressed up as a character from a book and we enjoyed visits from authors.
- Our P6 team took part in the Paisley Grammar Cluster heat of the K'Nex Challenge
- Many pupils regularly took part in our Reading Cafes and Pizza Reading this year.
- P4 pupils along with their parents took part in the Community Big Spring Clean.
- P6 pupils took part in a very successful Reading Buddies project in partnership with S3 pupils from Paisley Grammar.
- During week of Work, every class worked alongside parents and carers to make and share Afternoon Tea, underlining and demonstrating the importance of working as a team.
- We raised over £150 at our Walk A Marathon event in June and almost 50% of parents and carers joined in.
- In May, we had a key role in supporting the Cultural Event at the Tannahill Centre, showcasing our whole school's work on Picasso.
- P6 and P7 teams were successful in the Renfrewshire Schools' Cross Country event in November and also at the Authority Track and Field event in May.

## HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL AND NURSERY?

### **School Improvement**

We have a strategic approach to improving our school and nursery and have a number of key aspects for improvement under the following headings:

### **School Leadership**

- Headteacher has taken part in a bespoke Leadership programme, developing capacity for taking the school's improvement agenda and HMIE Action Plan forward.
- Yet another class teacher has taken part in the Aspiring Principal Teacher programme, bringing our total to 5, which has further enhanced their career development pathways and allowed them to develop leadership roles across the school.
- Two teachers took lead roles in preparing teachers for taking part in the Local Authority Moderation event to check that teachers have the same standards with respect to achieving Early, First or Second Level for Writing. Our teachers' judgement was deemed to be above the Authority average for accuracy.
- A further two classroom assistants have undertaken training in Literacy development and the whole classroom assistant team have undertaken further training in SEAL Maths which has enabled them to lead learning with groups of children.
- Almost all class teachers have taken responsibility for leading aspects of the curriculum which is supporting our improvement agenda being taken forward at a rigorous pace.
- Pupils have had opportunities to undertake roles of responsibility such as Pupil Council, House Captains, Sports Captains, Library Committee, Admin Team and Leadership Groups which is improving skills for Life, Learning and Work.
- All pupils have had the opportunity to express their views on school matters through Leadership Groups thus giving them an active role in decision-making processes.
- We have actively sought opportunities to visit schools in other areas to look for ideas to enhance experiences for our learners such as Outdoor Learning.

### **Teacher Professionalism**

- We have raised our expectations on achieving high standards across a range of areas such as handwriting, looking after our resources and behaviour whilst going around the school. This shared understanding is having a positive impact across the school.
- P1-4 teachers and all classroom assistants have undertaken further SEAL Maths training which supports our learners' numeracy skills acquisition. We are already seeing that this work is narrowing the gap for many learners.
- Dive Into Writing training has been undertaken by a further two teachers; this has allowed more classes to benefit from this approach and support raising attainment in Reading and Writing.
- A short life working party was established to create a Literacy Progression Framework and this has resulted in clearer progression pathways across the school, thus leading to greater consistency at all stages.
- All teachers are facilitating fortnightly Leadership Groups which is allowing for every pupil to actively voice their opinions on key aspects of the school.

## Assessment of Children's Progress

- There has been collaboration of our Early Years' Team with the staff at St Catherine's which has facilitated professional dialogue and a sharing of standards and expectations
- Standardised assessments(SNSA) are continue to be used to support Teacher Judgement of the levels pupils are achieving in Reading, Writing and Numeracy at Primaries 1,4 and 7.
- Our teachers' judgement for Writing was deemed to be above the Authority average for accuracy at a Local Authority Moderation event in February.
- We continue to implement a revised calendar of assessing pupil progress to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the school. We are electronically tracking progress, leading to progress being monitored more effectively.
- Pupils are involved in assessing their own work and setting targets for themselves, giving them a greater understanding of their own strengths and how they can make further progress. Pupils are involved in co-creating what successful learning looks like within every lesson and are becoming very articulate at explaining what they are learning and what they need to do next to take that learning forward.
- Pupils are involved in assessing their own well-being, three times per year, linked to SHANARRI (wellbeing) indicators, giving them a greater understanding of what support they might need or steps they can take to feel as positive as they can. This allows support to be targeted where appropriate and gives the team around the child an insight into how each pupil feels about themselves at targeted times.

## Parental Engagement

- Parents and carers continue to attend class assemblies, classroom visits, school shows and events in high numbers enabling them to better support their child's learning at home.
- Parental support in running our weekly Credit Union supports children to develop good saving habits.
- Parents are interested and supportive of their child's learning and this is reflected in a high attendance at Parents' Night.
- Our recent audit of parent/carer views on our approaches to reporting on pupil progress showed that 99.2% were happy with the ways in which we do this.
- For another year, Pizza Reading has been successful at P1,2 and 3 in involving families in supporting children with reading and Stay and Play and Book Bug sessions have been well-received by nursery parents and grandparents.
- We welcomed parents, carers and grandparents to an afternoon of maths games and this was highly evaluated, giving ideas of how to support numeracy skills in a fun way at home.

## Performance Information

- We are making good progress in raising attainment across Reading, Writing and Numeracy at almost all stages. Where there are dips in performance, we know the reasons why and have planned interventions in place. The information is displayed in the chart below to exemplify this:

		Reading	Writing	Talking and Listening	Numeracy
P1	2017/18	72%	72%	77%	74%
	2018/19	83%	83%	88%	78%
P4	2017/18	85%	82%	82%	58%
	2018/19	73%	68%	81%	54%
P7	2017/18	84%	58%	87%	55%
	2018/19	87%	65%	97%	83%

- Our recent visit from the Care Inspectorate in February was extremely positive with our Nursery being judged as Very Good across the 4 categories. One of the key strengths highlighted was the staff's commitment to the Nursery and the culture of improvement.

## KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

- Extremely hard-working and committed staff team
- Enthusiastic learners who are keen to be involved in all aspects of school life.
- Supportive parents and carers.
- Strong partnership working with other agencies and partners.

Here are a few of the comments made by our parents and carers:

- Friendly and approachable, caring staff with a welcoming atmosphere
- Positive behaviour incentives, encouraging children to behave well
- Children's achievements are regularly celebrated.

## OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2019-20

We believe that we have made very good progress during session 2018-19 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

- continue to use additional funding (Pupil Equity Fund) to raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.
- continue to ensure staff are trained to the highest standard to deliver SEAL Maths, Reading and Writing approaches and be able to effectively moderate learners' work.
- support early years' staff to widen their skill base by undertaking SEAL training and training in Emergent Writing and Outdoor Learning.
- continue to refresh our curriculum to ensure rich learning experiences for all learners including increasing opportunities for Outdoor Learning
- Continue to develop the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach and facilitate training in order to support all learners.
- continue to promote Growth Mindset to encourage learners to have a "can do" attitude.
- continue to address persistent late-coming to ensure learners maximise learning time: our Pupil Inclusion Support Officer will support families with timekeeping.
- develop our curricular provision and refresh our approaches to interdisciplinary learning to ensure depth of learning, progression and opportunity to apply skills in different contexts .
- further develop work on skills acquisition

Full details of the school's improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan which can be accessed on our website or by contacting the school office.

**Gallowhill Primary and Nursery Class**

**Netherhill Road, Paisley**

**Phone: 0300 300 0154**

**Website:**

**<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/gallowhill/>**

### HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we use feedback to help us make improvements to the school. You can do this by speaking to staff, participating in Parent Council meetings, responding to questionnaires/surveys and by completing evaluations at school events.