

Glencoats Primary School Handbook

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Dear parents,

Schools are a vital part of every community, and in Renfrewshire, we want all children to have a chance to succeed. Through the Council's work with the Tackling Poverty Commission and as an Attainment Challenge authority, we are already seeing increases in pupil attainment, more young people going on to employment, training, or further and higher education after leaving school and a reduction in exclusions.

More and more, we are working in partnership with others as we work towards getting it right for every child. As a Council, we are ambitious for the children and young people of Renfrewshire.

This handbook outlines the current policies and practices of the Council and the school. At the back of the handbook, you'll find details of other websites which may be of interest. You can also find information about schools in Renfrewshire on the Council's website.

I hope you find this handbook a useful source of information about education in Renfrewshire and about your child's school in particular.

Yours sincerely



Peter Macleod

Director of Children's Services

Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Glencoats Primary School. Some of you will already be familiar with the school whilst others are meeting us for the first time. This handbook is your helpful guide, providing you with information on all aspects of the life and work of the school. I hope you will find it a useful reference source.

In Glencoats, we aim to provide a happy, nurturing and safe environment where your child will be encouraged to work hard and achieve their best, develop skills for learning, life and work and celebrate and take pride in their achievements. We strive to provide all our pupils with a wide range of learning opportunities and our aim is to encourage and support pupils to be confident individuals, responsible citizens, effective contributors and successful learners.

I look forward to working with you to achieve these aims and to provide a quality education for your child.

If, at any time, there is any matter you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Carol McCormick
Head Teacher

Our Vision, Values & Aims:

Vision

Glencoats Primary provides a safe, nurturing and caring environment in which all pupils are supported to achieve their potential and have the confidence and skills to meet the challenges of the future.

Values

- **S**upporting our children, families and each other.
- **T**eamwork and shared leadership.
- **A**ttainment and **A**chievement.
- **R**espect, **R**esponsibility and **R**elationships.
- **S**uccess for every child.

Our motto is '***Working together to reach for the stars***'.

Aims

- To promote a happy, nurturing and safe environment which meets the needs of our learners
- To continually embrace modern educational thinking to support and challenge our pupils to enable lifelong learning
- To develop our children's social and emotional skills to support a caring, resilient school community.
- To foster a sense of identity and pride in our school and to develop positive partnerships with parents, agencies and our community.

Service Pledges

Standards and expectations

We will:

- offer all children and young people in our catchment area a free school place;
- provide school premises which meet health and safety standards;
- provide information on your child's progress;
- provide religious and moral education for your child;
- give support and encouragement for parents to be involved in school life;
- provide regular information on school activities; and
- provide 25 hours of class contact time in each normal school week for pupils of primary-school age.

Pupils will have opportunities for:

- personal and social development;
- music, cultural activities and creativity;
- access to healthier lifestyles and sports activities; and
- community involvement.

You can also expect us to:

- provide formal written reports on your child's progress;
- provide an annual report on school progress within the school improvement plan;
- give you an opportunity to have a formal meeting with your child's class teacher
- strive to meet your child's needs

How can you help?

By law, you must make sure your child receives education.

As a parent, you can help your child by:

- making sure your child goes to school regularly;
- encouraging and supporting your child with any homework given;
- showing that you are interested in how your child is getting on at school;
- encouraging your child to respect the school and the whole school community; and
- being involved in the school.

The Act uses the broadly framed definition of 'parent' set out in the 1980 Act. This is as follows:

"Parent" includes guardian and any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities (within the meaning of section (13) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) in relation to, or has care of a child or young person;

This is a wide definition which might, by way of example, include:

- non-resident parents who are liable to maintain or have parental responsibilities in respect of a child;
- carers who can be parents;
- other with parental responsibilities, e.g. foster carers, relatives and friends who are caring for children and young people under supervision arrangements; and
- close relatives, such as siblings or grandparents caring for children who are not looked after or are under home supervision arrangements

Everyone who is a parent, as defined in terms of the 1980 Act, has rights under the Act. This includes the right to receive advice and information about their child's education, general information about the school, to be told about meetings involving their child, and to participate in activities, such as taking part in decisions relating to a Parent Council. Education authorities and schools should treat parents equally, the exception to this general requirement being where there is a court order limiting an individual's exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is for education authorities to advise schools on the application of these rights in individual cases.

About our school

School staff

Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers

Head Teacher: Mrs Carol McCormick

Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Angela Studden

Teachers

Miss Linda Lamberton

Mr Jamie Smith

Miss Cara Millen

Mrs Jacqueline Heywood

Mrs Claire Murphy

Mrs Karen McLaren

Miss Kirstin McPhee

Miss Lisa Todd

Mrs Angela Waissen

Mrs Rachael Tarburn

Mr Kevin Campbell

Miss Emma Harvey

Miss Carly Conroy

Mr David Craig

Other staff in the school

Service Delivery Officer	Ms Karen Hill
Team Leader	Ms Carrie-Ann Mayberry
Senior Clerical Officer Clerical Officer	Mrs Lyn Morier Mrs Catherine Barlow
Classroom Assistants	Mrs Angela Evans Miss Jade Studden Mrs Pamela McGrory
Classroom Assistants (ASN)	Ms Agnes Carmichael Mrs Ann Gibson Mrs Jane Whyteman Ms Susan McGregor
Early Years Officers	Mrs Patrycja Czuprynska Mrs Bernie Hill
Home Link	Elaine Scally

Nurture Staff

Principal Teacher	Mrs Angela Wilson
Class Teacher	Mrs Janice Jenkins
Key Worker	Ms Lesley Wren

School information

School contact details

- phone number: 0300 300 0155
- email: glencoatsenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk
- write to or visit us at: Glencoats Primary School, Falcon Crescent, Paisley, PA3 1NS

Parent Council contact details

c/o Glencoats Primary
Falcon Crescent
Paisley
PA3 1NS
0141 889 3646

School roll:

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Parental involvement

Parents can be involved in their child's learning by:

- supporting learning at home;
- developing strong partnerships between home and school; and
- engaging with the school, especially with Curriculum for Excellence

School day

Primary 1 pupils attend school on a full-time basis from the first day in school.

School Opens:	9am
Morning Break:	10.40am – 10.55am
Lunch:	12.35pm – 1.20pm
School Closes	3.00pm

School year

First Term	Return date for Teachers	Tuesday 13 August 2019 (IS)
	In-service Day	Wednesday 14 August 2019 (IS)
	Return of Pupils	Thursday 15 August 2019
	September Weekend	Friday 27 September 2019 and Monday 30 September 2019 (inclusive)
	In-service Day	Friday 11 October 2019 (IS)
	Schools closed	Monday 14 October 2019 to Friday 18 October 2019 (inclusive)
	Schools re-open	Monday 21 October 2019
	St Andrew's Day	Monday 02 December 2019
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 03 December 2019
	Christmas / New Year	Monday 23 December 2019 to Friday 3 January 2020 (inclusive)
Second Term	Schools re-open	Monday 06 January 2020
	In-service day	Friday 07 February 2020 (IS)
	Mid Term break	Monday 10 February 2020 to Tuesday 11 February 2020 (inclusive)
	Schools re-open	Wednesday 12 February 2020
	Spring Holiday	Friday 03 April 2020 to Friday 17 April 2020 (inclusive)
Third Term	Schools re-open	Monday 20 April 2020
	In-service Day	Friday 01 May 2020 (IS)
	May Day	Monday 04 May 2020
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 05 May 2020
	May weekend	Friday 22 May 2020 and Monday 25 May 2020 (inclusive)
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 26 May 2020
	Last day of session	Monday 29 June 2020

Teachers return Wednesday 12 August 2020.

School in-service days

- Tuesday 13 August 2019
- Wednesday 14 August 2019
- Friday 11 October 2019
- Friday 07 February 2020
- Friday 01 May 2020

School dress

Renfrewshire Council encourages each school to adopt a dress code and for any proposed changes to be discussed with parents, pupils and the parent council. The council supports an agreed dress code because of the benefits it brings, including improvements in safety, security, discipline, ethos and community spirit, and a decrease in bullying and expense for parents.

Some types of clothing will not be allowed in school for reasons of safety, decency or indiscipline. Types of clothing which will not be allowed include:

- clothes which are a health or safety risk;
- clothes which may damage the school building;
- clothes which may provoke other pupils;
- clothes which are offensive or indecent; and
- clothes which encourage the use of alcohol or tobacco, or other inappropriate substances.

Pupils will not be deprived of education, any benefit or access to examinations because of not wearing school uniform.

In the interests of health and safety, of both individual and others present, all jewellery, including body jewellery, must be removed before taking part in physical education lessons or physical activities.

Grants for footwear and clothing for children are available to parents receiving certain benefits. Please see the council's website:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Information and application forms for free school meals are available from schools, registration offices and customer service centres. A form can be downloaded from the council's website: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Please help the school and the education authority by making sure that pupils do not bring valuable or expensive items of clothing to school. The council has no insurance to cover the loss of valuable items.



Red school sweatshirt, cardigan or tank top

Grey or black trousers or skirt

White school polo shirt or White shirt/blouse with school tie

School gym kit for PE

Registration and Enrolment

The date for registration of new school entrants is advertised in all local nurseries, national and local press and on the council's website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk. It is normally in January each year. Pupils should be registered in only one school for their catchment area. Parents will be provided with information about the school when they register their child.

Parents who want to send their child to a school other than the catchment school must make a placing request. Information on how to make a placing request is contained in the leaflet 'Sending your child to school.' The leaflet is available from any school, by phoning our customer contact centre on 0300 300 0300, or on our website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk. It is important to note that a successful placing request into a primary school does not guarantee a successful placing request when a child is transferring to secondary school.

Parents of pupils who have moved into the catchment area or, who wish their child to transfer to the school, should contact the school office for information.

Induction procedures for pupils starting school and their parents

Parents will be advised of parent meetings and pupil induction days during the spring and summer terms.

Class Organisation

P1 and P2 classes have a class size limit of 25. P3 class size limit is 30 and P4-7 class size limit is 33. At times, composite classes are necessary, depending of numbers of pupils at each year group and composite class sizes are limited to 25.

Assessment and reporting

Assessment is an integral part of learning and teaching. It helps provide a picture of the learner's progress and achievements, and identifies the next steps in learning.

Assessment includes supporting learning, learner engagement and ensuring appropriate support.

The Scottish Attainment Challenge

Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

The Scottish Attainment Challenge, launched in 2015, is about achieving equity in education. This can be achieved by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed. Renfrewshire is one of nine 'challenge authorities' who have received funding to improve literacy and numeracy and health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

The Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) is being provided as part of the £750 million Attainment Scotland Fund which will be invested over 2016-2021. The PEF is allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Every council area is benefitting from the fund and is based on the number of pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible for free school meals. The funding is to be spent at the discretion of the head-teacher

working in partnership with parents, pupils and staff to devise plans which focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Transfer to secondary school

Pupils normally transfer to secondary school between eleven and a half and twelve and a half years-of-age, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least four years of secondary education. Parents will be informed of the arrangements no later than December of the year before the date of transfer.

Parents who want to send their child to a school other than the catchment school must make a placing request. Information on how to make a placing request is contained in the leaflet 'Sending your child to school.' It is important to note that a successful placing request into a primary school does not guarantee a successful placing request when a child is transferring to secondary school.

Glencoats Primary School is an associated primary school Castlehead High School

Head teacher Martin MacDonald telephone: 0141 887 4261

Nursery class of Ferguslie Pre 5 Centre

Nursery Class Provision

The school's nursery class provides 40 morning and 40 afternoon places for children aged 3 - 5 years.

Children are eligible for entry to the nursery after their third birthday (dependent on their month of birth). Starting dates for children born on or between 1 March to 31 August will start Autumn term (August). If your child was born outwith these dates then they would start the following month after their third birthday, e.g. child born on or between 1 to 30 September would start in October. Application forms for a nursery place are available from [state location e.g. School office] and should be returned there on completion.

A child from the age of 2 years can qualify for nursery if parent/s are in receipt of certain benefits. Please contact the school for further information.

Admission to Nursery

Nursery class provision is non-denominational. Placement in the nursery class does not guarantee a place in the primary school if a placing request is necessary. All Renfrewshire nursery classes adhere to the council's admission policy and all applications are dealt with in line with its guidelines.

The head teacher is a member of the local admissions panel which is made up of [nearby nursery classes, nursery schools and partnership nurseries - state whichever is applicable]. All applications are discussed at a meeting of this panel and agreement about the allocation of places is made by the members. Parents will receive notification when their child is

allocated a place and information will accompany this about starting dates and times.

Normally children will start at the appropriate time in the term after their third birthday. In some circumstances children may be eligible for a place after their second birthday.

Transfer from Nursery to Primary

Before leaving nursery, a transfer of information record for each child will be prepared by nursery staff to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of education for the child transferring to primary.

Special Unit - Nurture Group

The Nurture Group resource, based in Glencoats Primary, has provision to support P1 & P2 children with Social, Emotional and Behavioural needs from across Renfrewshire. Children attend on a morning only basis and attend their base schools in the afternoons. Outreach support to base schools is provided by the Nurture Group staff and working alongside parents to build on their children's successes is a key element of the service.

Car Parking

- (A) There are no car parking facilities for parents in the school grounds. However there is a pupil drop off point at the back of the school in Crawford Drive and dedicated parking space(s) have been created to ease access for people with disabilities. **Please do not use these spaces without authorisation.**



(A) dedicated parking space(s) has (have) been created to ease access for people with disabilities. Please do not use this space/these spaces without authorisation.

Care and welfare

Your child's welfare is central to the ethos of the school. Please contact the school to share

any concerns you have about your child's welfare or wellbeing. The staff will work with you as parents or carers of our pupils, to make sure they are safe, happy and able to benefit from the educational opportunities we offer. This handbook gives details of how we deal with bullying, homework, additional support needs and many other areas that may impact on your child's wellbeing.

School security

Renfrewshire Council has introduced procedures to ensure the safety and security of pupils and staff when attending or working in a school. We use a number of security measures including a visitors' book, badges and escorts, while visitors are within the school building. Normally, anyone calling at a school for any reason, will be asked to report to the school office. The school staff then can make the necessary arrangements for the visit.

Attendance and absence

It is the responsibility of parents of a child of school age to make sure that their child is educated. Most do this by sending their child to school regularly. Attendance is recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon.

Absence from school is recorded as authorised, that is approved by the education authority, or as unauthorised, that is unexplained by the parent (truancy).

Please let the school know by letter or phone if your child is likely to be absent for some time and give your child a note on his or her return to school, confirming the reason for absence. If there is no explanation from a child's parents, the absence will be regarded as unauthorised.

Please make every effort to avoid family holidays during term time as this disrupts your child's education and reduces learning time. The head teacher can approve absence from school for a family holiday in certain extraordinary situations, for example, in traumatic domestic circumstances where the holiday would improve the cohesion and wellbeing of the family. Please discuss your plans with the head teacher before the holiday. If the head teacher does not give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence. The head teacher may also exercise discretion when a parent can prove that work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school holiday times. Normally, your employer will need to provide evidence of your work commitments. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence.

Parents from minority ethnic religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school to celebrate recognised religious events. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence. Extended leave can also be granted on request for families returning to their country of origin for cultural or care reasons.

A supportive approach is taken to unexplained absence. However, the education authority has legal powers to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or refer pupils to the Reporter to the Children's Panel, if necessary.

Bullying

Renfrewshire Council has an anti-bullying policy which was developed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff. The policy provides guidance on the prevention, identification and management of bullying – both the bullying behaviour and the impact it has.

Our school also has its own anti-bullying policy which sets out our local approach to tackling bullying. You can request a copy of the Council's policy and/or the school's policy from the school office or access them online at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3469/Anti-bullying>

If you have a specific concern about bullying, please report this to the school so that we can investigate and take any action that might be needed.

Safeguarding including Child protection

All children have a right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision of the Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee is that "it's everyone's job to make sure that children in Renfrewshire are safe."

Renfrewshire Council has a child protection policy and guidelines in place to make sure that all staff receive training each year and are confident in responding to any child protection or safeguarding issue, including e-safeguarding, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation. Staff ensure the wellbeing of children they come into contact with and work closely with other agencies to protect children and keep them safe. All school staff must report any concerns they have about the welfare of children.

Mobile phones



The benefits of mobile phones are recognised. Many young people and their parents regard them as an essential means of communication. Mobile phones can continue to be brought into schools, however the following limitations will apply in Renfrewshire schools and nursery establishments.

- All phones should be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day within the school campus.
- Photographing or recording of sound or images of staff, other pupils or visitors to the school is not allowed at any time within the school campus or on school transport.
- Mobile phones may be confiscated where these rules are broken.
- Any recordings made on school premises or school transport found on confiscated phones must be deleted on their return.
- Any photographs or recordings of staff in any situation, whether taken on school premises or elsewhere, found on confiscated phones must be deleted from phones on their return.
- Children's Services expects that schools will, through normal collegiate procedures, develop or review existing policies on the use of mobiles phones that take account of the views of all staff, parents and pupils.
- Schools should ensure that pupils, parents and staff are aware that should a pupil breach the policy they will be disciplined in line with the school's positive behaviour/discipline policy.
- Individual school policies should clearly state for the benefit of staff, pupils, parent and visitors any variations from the restrictions on use of mobile phones set out below.
- Pupils and parents should be notified that mobile phones will be confiscated where these limitations are breached.
- Smartphones introduce additional challenges for schools and parents. Pupils and parents should be aware that this also leaves pupils open to dangers such as cyber bullying, grooming and access to inappropriate material. Parents are encouraged to read anti-bullying policy for further guidance.
- Staff should not delete photographs or recordings from confiscated mobile phones.
- When staff confiscate mobile phones or other devices, they should ensure that these are retained in a safe place that cannot be accessed by others. This may be a lockable drawer or cupboard, a base area or a delegated area in the school office. Confiscated mobile phones should normally be passed to the school office or senior member of staff as soon as possible after confiscation.

Legal Aspects

- There are a number of aspects of the law that may apply to mobile phone misuse and the responses to that misuse. In the most serious cases there may be a crime involved – an incident that is being filmed might be an assault or breach of the peace. The misuse of a mobile phone might be an offence under the Communications Act 2003, if it involves a call or message that is grossly offensive or is of an indecent, obscene or menacing in character; and, the distribution of certain pornography might be an offence under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- In situations which are so serious that a school might call in the police, it is for the police and not the school to consider what, if any, criminal offence may apply.

These restrictions on use apply equally during any school activity that takes place off campus.

Pupils breaking the rules will be disciplined in line with the school's positive behaviour or discipline policy.

School meals

Current School Menus are found on School Website:
www.glencoats.renfrewshire.sch.uk



All Primary 1 – Primary 3 children are automatically entitled to a free school meal.

Children of parents receiving certain benefits, are entitled to a free midday meal. Information and application forms for free school meals are available from schools, registration offices, customer service centres or may be downloaded from the council's website:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2303/School-meals>

Children who are also entitled to free school meals are entitled to free milk at lunchtime. Milk may also be on sale in the school during the lunch period.

School transport

Renfrewshire Council's current policy is to provide home to school transport to all primary school pupils who live more than 1.609 kilometres (1 mile) from their catchment school by the recognised shortest safe walking route. Parents who think they are eligible can get an application form from the school or Children's Services in Renfrewshire House, Paisley or online at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3486/Home-to-school-transport>. These forms should be completed and returned before the end of February for those pupils beginning school in August to allow appropriate arrangements to be made. However, parents may make an application at any time.

In special circumstances, the Director of Children's Services has discretion to grant permission for pupils to travel in transport provided by the education authority, where spare places are available, at no additional cost to the authority.

Pick-up Points

Where home to school transport is provided, some pupils will require to walk a reasonable distance from home to the transport pick-up point, but this should not exceed the authority's agreed limit of 1.6 kilometres (1 mile).

It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that their child arrives at the pick-up point on time and behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while boarding, travelling in and leaving the vehicle. Children who misbehave can lose their right to home to school transport.

Placing Requests

You should be aware that if we grant your placing request, we do not have to provide a school bus pass or any other help with transport.

Assisted support needs

Renfrewshire Council may provide home to school transport for children assessed to attend any school because of their Additional Support Needs. We also provide seat belt and wheelchair restraints needed to transport pupils.

Playground supervision

An adult presence is provided in playgrounds at break times, as required by law.

Pupils leaving school premises at breaks

Schools have a duty to look after the welfare of their pupils. This means that the staff should take the same care of pupils as a sensible parent would take and includes taking reasonable care of pupils' safety during intervals and lunchtimes, where they are engaged with them.

Renfrewshire Council recommends that pupils should not leave school grounds at intervals. Primary pupils should only leave at lunch times when they are going home for lunch, with their parents' agreement. Parents should encourage their children to follow these rules in the interests of safety.

Equalities

Renfrewshire Council is committed to ensuring that all employees, customers and partners are treated fairly and with respect at all times. We are committed to promoting equality and tackling discrimination through the way services are planned, delivered and purchased. The council promotes and encourages a culture whereby equality of opportunity exists across all the protected characteristics of age, disability, race, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity; religion and belief; marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation.

School education is open to all pupils and all reasonable measures will be taken to make sure that the curriculum is available to every child. The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new public sector general equality duty which requires Scottish public authorities to pay 'due regard' to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, victimisation, harassment or other unlawful conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

The council supports the right of each citizen to a quality of life which is free from violence, discrimination and harassment. The council will take steps to ensure that all citizens, regardless of race, ethnic or national origin, religion, social background, marital status, gender, disability, age or sexuality have full access to its services, taking all possible measures to prevent discrimination in the way its services are delivered.

Parents can help to monitor our success in promoting equality of opportunity for all by providing equalities related information when asked.

Medical and health care

Medical examinations are carried out at various times during a child's primary school years. As parents, you will be given notice of these and encouraged to attend, except for vision and hearing tests and dental examinations. Parents will be told about any recommended action or treatment. All examinations are carried out by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Parents should notify the school of any medical requirements or allergies that their child may have. Wherever possible, where a child requires medication, it is better if this is provided outside of school hours. In cases where it is necessary that the child receives medication during school hours, parents should contact the school to make appropriate arrangements. School staff are under no obligation to give medicines to pupils and staff will advise parents of local arrangements. Where appropriate, schools will support parents in helping children and young people learn the life skills which allow them to manage their own healthcare needs.

Minor accidents are dealt with by the school's qualified first aider. If a pupil takes ill or has an accident at school which requires that they be sent home or for treatment, the school will provide first aid and contact parents or carers. It is very important that the school has up to date contact details for all parents or carers and an additional contact person in case parents or carers can't be reached. This information should be current, and the school notified of any changes. We will not send children home from school unaccompanied.

In the event of a serious illness or accident, a member of staff will accompany the child to a doctor or hospital and parents or carers will be notified immediately.

Religious Observance

Our school is fortunate to have a close link with the local church. The minister/priest assists with the Christianity element of Religious and Moral Education and provides opportunities for religious observance. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious observance and should inform the school in writing.

In addition, parents and carers from religions other than Christianity may request that their children may be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the proposed arrangements will be considered.

School curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) - Scotland's approach to learning and teaching - has been a very positive development in our schools. Scotland's children and young people are now much more confident, resilient and motivated to learn.

The National Improvement Framework, updated in 2018, sets out activity the Scottish Government and partners will take to drive improvement for children and young people.

Crucially, it sets out a clear **vision** for Scottish Education:

- **Excellence through raising attainment:** ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, set out within Curriculum for Excellence levels, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and
- **Achieving equity:** ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Moving forward schools will provide a more coherent, flexible and child-focused curriculum which ensures high-quality, interesting and engaging learning, to raise attainment, close the gap, and give all our young people the best chance of success in life.

Curriculum for Excellence

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the national approach in Scotland to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of our children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s)/carers to work in partnership with the services that can help them.

All education staff have a statutory responsibility to promote and support the wellbeing of children and young people in their care. There are 8 wellbeing indicators and you can find out more about these here: <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5084/1>

Additional support for learning

Inclusion

Renfrewshire's inclusive approach affords all children and young people the opportunity to be part of a community, boosting their emotional wellbeing and aiding the development of social skills. This approach is based on the core inclusive value of providing education for children within their own community as much as possible. The child's wellbeing plan is the core planning framework for individual support for each child and young person.

Support

All children and young people need support to help them learn and develop. The needs of the child or young person should always be central to the identification, planning and provision of support. Support should be appropriate, proportionate and timely.

Universal support

Universal support starts with the ethos, climate and relationships within every learning environment. It is the responsibility of all practitioners and partners.

An environment which is caring, inclusive, fair and focused on delivering learning to meet individual needs will encourage all children and young people to strive to meet their learning potential.

Personal learning planning is at the heart of supporting learning. The conversations about learning, reviewing progress and planning next steps are central to this process. Planned opportunities for achievement which focus on the learning and progress made through activities across the full range of contexts and settings in which the curriculum is experienced also contribute to the universal aspect of support.

In addition, all children and young people should have frequent and regular opportunities to discuss their learning and development with an adult who knows them well and with whom they have a mutually trusting relationship. This key member of staff has the holistic overview of the child or young person's learning and personal development.

Targeted support

Children and young people can benefit from additional or targeted support, tailored to their individual circumstances. This could be at any points of their learning journey or throughout the journey.

Barriers to learning may arise from specific learning difficulties, disability, social, emotional or behavioural needs, bereavement or family issues.

Targeted support also encompasses children and young people requiring more choices and more chances to achieve positive, sustained post-school destinations.

This 'targeted' support is usually, but not exclusively, delivered by staff with additional training and expertise. In a secondary school, this support may be coordinated by guidance/pastoral care/pupil support staff through a staged intervention process.

Independent sources of information and advice nationally include -

Enquire – the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning

Telephone – 0345 123 2303

Email – info@enquire.org.uk

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Ltd - a national organisation which promotes and supports advocacy

Telephone – 0131 556 6443

Email – enquiry@siaa.org.uk

Educational Psychology Service

Educational Psychologists (EPs) support equity, inclusion and attainment and deliver evidence-based intervention to support pupils' wellbeing in Renfrewshire's schools, nurseries and other learning centres.

EPs work with teachers, parents and support staff to help children and young people make the most of their lives and support schools, nurseries and other learning centres to improve and develop supportive healthy learning environments through the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach, Mental Health in Schools, Attunement Coaching and Language and Communication-Friendly Environments.

Our school has a system in place for monitoring and reviewing the progress of all children and we have a link educational psychologist who visits on a regular basis and is part of the extended support team. When concerns are raised about a child or young person, the schools takes action to address these concerns and may involve a link EP. Parental permission will always be obtained before we request to involve the link EP.

Health and Wellbeing Education

Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for positive mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Learning through health and wellbeing enables children and young people to:

- make informed decisions in order to improve their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- experience challenge and enjoyment
- experience positive aspects of healthy living and activity for themselves
- apply their mental, emotional, social and physical skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle
- make a successful move to the next stage of education or work
- establish a pattern of health and wellbeing which will be sustained into adult life, and which will help to promote the health and wellbeing of the next generation of Scottish children and young people
- and, for some, perform at high levels in sport or prepare for careers within the health and leisure industries.

Health and Wellbeing in schools covers:

- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing

- Planning for choices and changes
- Physical education, physical activity and sport
- Food and health
- Substance misuse
- Relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

Health and wellbeing cannot exist in a vacuum. It requires exchange of information, mutual support and collaboration with community partners, schools and parents.

Specialist support service – teachers teaching in more than one school

We have a number of teachers who work in nurseries and schools to provide specialist support to children and young people who have a range of additional support needs. These teachers work with teachers within the nursery or school to plan and deliver an appropriate curriculum. The service also provides staff development and advice on resources.

The teams support the additional needs of:

- children with a significant hearing and or visual impairment;
- children with English as an additional language who are at the early stages of learning English;
- looked after and accommodated children and young people who are experiencing difficulties engaging with school;
- children at early stages of primary school who have a developmental coordination disorder along with attention difficulties;
- young people who attend the Flexible Learning provision; and
- nursery aged children who have been identified as having significant support needs.

Homework

Homework is an integral part of learning and teaching. It provides children and young people with the opportunity to develop self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and be responsible for their own learning. It also strengthens the link between home and school by supporting parents and carers to share in the learning process. Homework can take many forms and will reflect the age, stage and area of learning currently being undertaken by your child. It will be issued on a regular basis and will be varied, meaningful and interesting.

Glencoats Primary School school has a homework policy based on Renfrewshire Council's policy and guidance. You can request a copy of this policy from the school office.

Enterprise in education

Enterprise in Education [Determined to Succeed] is our strategy to develop the business and employability skills in young people.

It lies at the centre of curriculum for excellence and promotes a wide-range of opportunities for our children and young people aged 3-18 to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The four main areas of Determined to Succeed are:

- Enterprising learning and teaching;
- Entrepreneurial learning;
- Work-based vocational learning; and
- Careers education.

Six inter-related themes are built around the main areas:

- Supporting the development of skills for life and skills for work;
- Engaging employers;
- Broadening the reach of the programme;
- Embedding enterprise in the curriculum;
- Building capacity; and
- Enhancing our international profile.

Enterprising activities will be organised to reflect the age and interests of our pupils.

The range of activities can include:

- Links and partnerships with businesses, colleges, and schools abroad;

- Fundraising events organised and run by pupils;
- Fairtrade activities;
- Joint school and community initiatives; and
- Work experience placements and speakers.

Extra curricular activities

Home school community links

Parental Involvement

By law, schools have a duty to promote parents' involvement in their child's education and our school encourages parents to:

- be involved with their child's education and learning;
- be active participants in the life of the school; and
- express their views on school education generally and work in partnership with their child's schools.

Every parent who has a child attending our school is automatically a member of the Parent Forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- receive information about the school and its activities;
- hear about what partnership with parents means in our school;
- be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you;
- identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school;
- be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and the education it provides;
- work in partnership with staff; and
- enjoy taking part in the life of the school in whatever way possible.

The Parent Forum elects a smaller group of parents to form the Parent Council. Parent Councillors may be involved in:

- supporting the work of the school;
- gathering and representing parents' views to the head teacher, education authority and Education Scotland;
- promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils, and the local community;
- fundraising;
- organising events;
- reporting to the parent forum;
- being involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff; and
- providing a representative to the National Parent Forum of Scotland.

Parent council chairs can attend the Parent Council Liaison Group, which gives parent councils an opportunity to speak with elected members and senior managers from the Council about issues relating to education in Renfrewshire. These meetings take place four

times a year and details are sent to Parent council chairs at the start of each new academic year.

For more information on parental involvement or to find out about parents as partners in their child's learning, please contact the school or visit the Parentzone website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/>

Parent teacher association

Home school links

The Home Link Service is one of the services that supports children and families in Renfrewshire. They are a multi-disciplinary team based in different areas across Renfrewshire and linked to school clusters.

The main aim of the service is to increase the educational attainment of children and young people. This is achieved by developing links between home and school to ensure pupils identified through the school's Extended Support Framework as facing issues at home or in school that are barriers to learning are offered additional support.

Support offered to pupils can be given individually or in a group setting. Parents are fully involved, with an initial home visit to discuss the referral and updates on progress reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis.

Support is also offered to pupils who are identified as anxious during times of change, such as moving from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and secondary to further education or employment. These can be stressful times for both pupils and parents and a Home Link Worker with can support parents and the school to work together to ensure a smooth transition, and help children and young people learn how to cope with change.

Home Link is a non-statutory service and staff work in partnership with parents or carers, school staff and other agencies, including counselling and support services, health, social work and community learning and development, and other identified local voluntary and government agencies.

School lets

The sale and/or consumption of alcohol on school premises is prohibited. No applications for occasional licences by the school, Parent Council or other party hiring or using the school premises should be made to allow for the sale of alcohol on school premises.

To apply to use school facilities, contact the Community Facilities Section. Contact details are in the important contacts section at the end of this handbook.

Other useful information

Listening to learn - complaints, comments and suggestions

Renfrewshire Council encourages feedback on its services from parents and pupils as part of our overall commitment to giving the best possible service and to working in partnership. We are interested in feedback of all kinds, whether it be compliments, suggestions or complaints.

If you want to register a comment of any type about the school you can do this by writing, telephoning or making an appointment to see someone. All feedback is welcome and keeps us in touch.

If, in particular, you have a complaint about the school, please let us know. It is better that these things are shared openly and resolved fairly, rather than being allowed to damage the relationship between the family and the school. There will be no negative consequences from making a complaint and we will deal with the issue <https://www.npfs.org.uk/confidentially>. If we have made a mistake, we will apologise quickly and clearly and try to put things right.

There are some things which you should be aware of when making a complaint:

- Complaints about the school should be made first to the head teacher.
- It is helpful if you can give some details of the issue and ask for an early appointment to discuss it.
- We want to resolve complaints as quickly as possible. You will get a decision on your complaint in five working days or less, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If it is going to take longer than five working days, we will let you know.
- If you are not happy with the response to your complaint, you have the right to take it further. You can fill in a complaints form (available from the school or any council office), fill in the online form, write to us, email us at complaints@renfrewshire.gov.uk, or call us on 0300 300 0170. At this stage, we will carry out an in-depth investigation. We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within three working days and give you a full response within twenty working days. If the investigation is going to take longer than this, we will contact you to discuss timescales.
- If you are still unhappy after the further investigation and our reply, you can take the matter up with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Our reply will include the contact details.
- You should also note that you have the right to raise unresolved concerns with your local councillor, MSP or MP.

Data protection

Information on pupils, parents and guardians is stored on a computer system and may be used for teaching, registration, assessment and other administrative purposes. The information is protected by the EU General Data Protection Requirement and can only be shared or disclosed in accordance with the law.

Pupils attending any type of school have a right of access to their own information. This is known as the right of subject access. When a child cannot act for themselves or the child gives permission, parents will be able to access this information on their behalf.

For more information on data protection, please contact the school.

Information in Emergencies

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions, circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be affected by severe weather, traffic and transport disruption, power failures or fuel shortages. In such cases, we will do all we can to let you know when we are closing and reopening the school or nursery.

We use a variety of methods to keep you updated in emergency situations including: e-mails, our schools digital newsletter, text messages, the school and council websites and Renfrewshire Council's social media channels (Facebook - renfrewshirecouncil and Twitter - @RenCouncilNews).

Further information may also be provided through letters, announcements in the local press, local radio, or notices in local shops, churches and community centres.

Please ensure we have the most up-to-date emergency contact information for your family and you are following the council's social media channels. You can sign up for the school's digital newsletter via www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/e-alerts.

Important Contacts

Director of Children's Services

Peter Macleod	Renfrewshire House Cotton Street Paisley PA1 1LE	Email sw@renfrewshire.gov.uk Phone: 0141 618 6839
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Homelink Service

c/o West Primary School
Newton Street
Paisley
PA1 2RL

Senior Home Link Workers

Email
morag.mcquiere@renfrewshire.gov.uk
margaret.mcmanus@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Phone: 0300 300 1415

Community Learning & Development

Community Facilities Section	Renfrewshire Leisure 3 rd Floor Renfrewshire House Cotton Street Paisley PA1 1LE	Email comfac.els@renfrewshire.gov.uk Phone: 0300 300 1430
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Adult Learning Services	West Johnstone Shared Campus Beith Road Johnstone PA5 0BB	Email als.els@renfrewshire.gov.uk Phone: 01505 382863
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Youth Services	West Primary School Newton Street Paisley PA1 2RL	Email youth@renfrewshire.gov.uk Phone: 0141 889 1110
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Customer Service Centre

Customer Service Centre	Renfrewshire House Cotton Street Paisley PA1 1AN	Email registrar.cs@renfrewshire.gov.uk Phone: 0300 300 0300
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Websites

You may find the following websites useful.

- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/> - parents can find out about everything from school term dates to exam results. This site also offers information for nursery aged children and young people who have left school. It also lists relevant publications for parents and provides hyperlinks to other useful organisations.
- <https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/inspection-and-review/reports> - parents can access school and local authority inspection reports and find out more about the work of Education Scotland.
- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/find-a-school> - parents can find out about individual schools. They can choose a school and select what type of information they need such as Education Scotland reports, exam results, stay on rates and free school meal entitlement.
- <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/> - contains information for parents and information on Renfrewshire schools.
- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullyinginfo.aspx> - contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying.
- <http://www.respectme.org.uk/> - Scotland's anti-bullying service. Contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying
- <https://education.gov.scot/> - provides information and advice for parents as well as support and resources for education in Scotland
- <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/> - contains information for everyone on equality laws within the government and local authorities.

Glossary

ASL – Additional Support for Learning

ASN – Additional Support Needs

CFE - Curriculum for Excellence

CLAD – Community Learning and Development

FOI – Freedom of Information

GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child

HT/PT/GT – Head Teacher/Principal Teacher/Guidance Teacher

LTS – Learning and Teaching Scotland

SIP – Service Improvement Plan

Although this information is correct at time of printing, there could be changes affecting any of the contents before or during the course of the school year or in future school years.

Parent feedback

Please take a few minutes to fill in and return the questionnaire on the next page. Your feedback will help us improve the hand book next year.

Tell us what you think

Your feedback will help us to improve our handbook.

Did you find

Please tick

1. the handbook useful?

Yes No

2. the information you expected?

Yes No

3. the handbook easy to use?

Yes No

Please tell us how we can improve the handbook next year.

Name of school: _____

Thank you for filling in the questionnaire. Your views are appreciated. Please return this questionnaire to:

Policy & Commissioning Team

Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council

Renfrewshire House

Cotton Street

Paisley

PA1 1LE

email address: cshatpolicy@renfrewshire.gov.uk