



Children's Services

Saint Anthony's Primary School



Handbook 2023-2024



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Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our school handbook to you. Our handbook provides a very comprehensive guide to our school, the curriculum, routines etc. I hope that you will find the information included helpful and informative.

The staff of Saint Anthony's share with you a common goal in that we want your child to be happy and to enjoy being a valued member of the school community. We achieve this by providing an educational service that suits the individual needs of our children.

An excellent educational service is giving every child the opportunity to exceed his or her potential. It is providing a curriculum appropriate to the needs of every individual and it is satisfying your expectations with regard to what you want for your child, excellence every day, in every way.

In Saint Anthony's we aim to provide a secure, happy, working environment where your child's efforts are valued and where talent and interests are developed. We also aim to promote positive behaviour and a healthy attitude to school life. We achieve this by showing respect for our pupils and for their needs and by treating them with fairness, consistency and understanding.

We cannot do this in isolation. We need you as an active partner in your child's education. This will ensure a quality of education, which will equip your child for life in the future.

"Success today, prepared for tomorrow."

Our single biggest priority is to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all pupils and staff. We have put a lot of new measures in place to keep our pupils and staff safe and help minimise the risk of coronavirus by following the national guidance on coronavirus health and safety in schools. At the same time, we want to make sure the learning environment feels normal and welcoming for our pupils. The coronavirus situation and guidance are constantly evolving. You can keep up to date with the latest advice at <u>www.renfrewshire.gov.uk</u>

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline McBurnie Head Teacher U.K.L.A. Literacy School of the Year 2018









Our Values Honest Extraordinary Aspirational Respect Trust

Our Values

More than 4,000 voices including our staff, local residents, partners, young people and community groups helped identify the values most important to us all that describe our promise to our communities, staff and partners and what people can expect of us.

These values have been formally adopted by Renfrewshire Council and will guide how we deliver services and make decisions every day.

- We are **fair**. We treat each other and everyone we deal with respectfully and work hard to build trust in Renfrewshire Council
- We are helpful. We care about getting things right and are always approachable
- We are great **collaborators**. We work as one team and with people who care about this place
- We value learning to help us innovate, improve and deliver better services

School Aims

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
- 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
- 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 our Standards and Quality Report
- 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 an education. As a parent/carer, you can help your child by:

- making sure your child goes to school regularly
- encouraging and supporting your child with any homework/home study given
- encouraging your child to respect the school and the whole school community
- being involved in the school

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 uses the broadly framed definition of 'parent'. 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
- others with parental responsibilities, e.g. foster carers, relatives and friends who are caring for children and young people under supervision arrangements
- 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

Head Teacher

Mrs Jacqueline G. McBurnie



Acting Depute Head Teacher

Mrs Nicola Cunningham

Acting Principal Teacher

Mrs Lynne Scarff-McInnes



Teachers – session 2022/23

Miss A Duffy Mrs P Gray Mrs N Seddon Mr C Young Miss Hughes Miss N McMillanMrs SMrs S BogleMrs GMrs A HamiltonMrs GMrs HollywoodMiss IMiss J Ramme De Souza

Mrs S Gray Mrs G McGowan Mrs C MacLean Miss Ross Souza Mrs D Cumming Mr D Keenan Miss A Bannister Miss S McLaughlin

Classroom Assistant mainstream

Mrs Weir

Additional Support Needs Assistant (ASNA)

Mrs Tourish Mrs Baird	Mrs Farren Miss Boyle	Mrs Taylor Miss McCormick	Miss Wylie Miss Norwood
Mrs Reid	Mrs Reid	Miss Marr	

Clerical Staff Senior Clerical Officer

Team Leader

Business Support Officer

S.F.O. (Janitor & Catering)

Mrs L. Mackenzie Mrs C. Barlow

Mrs V Stevenson Mrs G. Pyke

Mr P Slaven

Mr Hatton, Mr Fox & Mrs Reilly

School Information

Saint Anthony's Primary School

Hallhill Road

Johnstone

PA5 0SD

Telephone: 0300 300 0178

Email address: stanthonysenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Website: www.st-anthonys.renfrewshire.sch.uk



Saint Anthony's is a co-educational Catholic Primary School on the outskirts of Johnstone. Saint Anthony's serves the communities of Corseford, Spateston, Johnstone Castle, Elderslie, Howwood and Lochwinnoch. Most of our pupils are bussed to school. Pupils from other areas may come to Saint Anthony's by choice, if a placing request has been made to the school.

Saint Anthony's covers all stages from Primary One to Primary Seven.

In Saint Anthony's we aim to develop each pupil in a spiritual, moral and educational sense, having regard to the needs of the individual. We also aim to foster a caring atmosphere of respect for others, both in the school and in the community in general.

As a Catholic school, Saint Anthony's is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities and social justice. We believe in equality for all in all aspects of school life, no matter what gender, race, disability or social status of the pupil. This is in keeping with Social Inclusion policy of Renfrewshire council.

School day

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

Please note that Primary 1 pupils start at 9.30am on the first day only.

Open:	9.00am
Interval:	10.40am - 10.55am
Lunch :	12.35pm - 1.20pm
Close:	3.00pm

School year

First Term	Return date for	Monday 14 August 2023 (IS)
	Teachers	Monday 117 August 2020 (10)
	In-service Day	Tuesday 15 August 2023 (IS)
	Schools re-open	Wednesday 16 August 2023
	September Weekend	Friday 22 September 2023 and Monday 25
		September 2023 (inclusive)
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 26 September 2023
	October holiday	Monday 16 October 2023 to Friday 20
	(schools closed)	October 2023 (inclusive)
	Return date for	Monday 23 October 2023 (IS)
	Teachers	
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 24 October 2023
	St Andrew's Day	Thursday 30 November 2023
	Schools re-open	Friday 1 December 2023
	Last day of session	Friday 22 December 2023
	Christmas / New Year	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 05
	Schools closed	January 2024 (inclusive)
Second Term	Schools re-open	Monday 08 January 2024
	Mid-term break	Monday 12 February 2024 to Tuesday 13
		February 2024 (inclusive)
	Return date for	Wednesday 14 February 2024 (IS)
	Teachers	
	Schools re-open	Thursday 15 February 2024
	Spring Holiday	Friday 29 March 2024 to Friday 12 April
	Schools closed	2024 (inclusive)
Third Term	Schools re-open	Monday 15 April 2024
	In-service Day	Thursday 02 May 2024 (IS)
	May Day	Monday 06 May 2024
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 07 May 2024
	Local holiday (schools	Friday 24 May 2024 and Monday 27 May
	closed)	2024 (inclusive)
	Schools re-open	Tuesday 28 May 2024
	Last day of session	Thursday 27 June 2024

Teachers return Wednesday 14 August 2024

School in-service days

- Monday 14 August 2023
- Tuesday 15 August 2023
- Monday 23 October 2023
- Wednesday 14 February 2024
- Thursday 02 May 2024

School Uniform

- Grey or brown skirt or trousers,
- Grey or brown sweater, blue blouse or shirt & a school tie.
- Blue gingham dresses or short trousers in school colours may also be worn when weather permits.



Children may wear grey sweatshirts and pale blue polo shirts with the school badge on them.

For PE, it is advised that training shoes, a pair of shorts and a T-shirt, or similar top be worn. We strongly discourage the wearing of football tops at all times. School polo shirts are ideal for PE.

Watches, rings, chains and belts with metal buckles and other body jewellery must all be removed before the physical education lesson. As these may cause injury to the wearer and others.

It is preferred that parents are advised that any child having body jewellery piercing wait until the summer break to allow them time to heal. However, parents wishing children to wear body jewellery during physical education should write to the school expressing their request. Children will be expected to provide tape and cover any such items of jewellery during the activity. Pupils will be responsible for the safekeeping of jewellery.

Primary 6 attend swimming lessons at Johnstone Sports Hub. You will be informed as to the kit required if your child is involved.

Items of clothing should have the name of the pupil written on the labels for ease of identification. There are so many identical items of clothing worn by our pupils that it is quite impossible at times to decide which items belong to whom!

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
- 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. This includes watches, rings, chains and belts with metal buckles and other body jewellery and must all be removed before the physical education lesson, as these may cause injury to the wearer and others.

It is preferred that parents are advised that any child having body jewellery piercing wait until the summer break to allow them time to heal. However, parents wishing children to wear body jewellery during physical education should write to the school expressing their request. Children will be expected to provide tape and cover any such items of jewellery during the activity. Pupils will be responsible for the safekeeping of jewellery.

Grants for footwear and clothing for children are available to parents receiving certain benefits. Please see the council's website: <u>http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants</u>

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

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.

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 <u>www.renfrewshire.gov.uk</u>. It is normally in November 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 <u>www.renfrewshire.gov.uk</u>. 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 of new entrants are invited to come along to the school, with their children, on two afternoons in the Summer Term. These visits help to prepare the children for life in school and give us the opportunity to explain to parents what will happen in the first few months of Primary One.

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

B Q DO Logest Reat Score: 4 / 8

Class Organisation

P1 – 25 pupils

P2 – 30 pupils

P3 to P7 - 33 pupils

Composite classes - 25 pupils

This illustrates the maximum number of pupils that can compose classes at each stage. Please note that the number of 30 pupils in a Primary 2 class is guidance and it can be extended to 33 if the working capacity of the school requires it.

Assessment and Reporting

Summary of the School Improvement Plan

Strategic actions

Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children.

Improvement in children's and young people's health and wellbeing.

Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people

School Aims

Providing a broad balanced, challenging and enjoyable curriculum through a range of personalised co-operative learning experiences.

Creating an inclusive ethos that nurtures healthy, happy children celebrating their wider achievements as they grow in their Faith.

Fostering good relationships between staff and pupils, effective partnerships between home and school and close links with agencies and the community in a safe, stimulating and healthy environment.

Strategic Improvement Priorities

Improvement Priority 1 – Raising Attainment in Writing

All learners will benefit from more accurate professional judgements of achievement/progress in Writing leading to more appropriate support and challenge.

All Staff trained in Talk 4 Writing programme as a pedagogical approach, leading to richer learner experience and improved attainment in Writing. We will work closely with our Cluster schools to establish a clear and consistent understanding of an attainment level.

Families will have greater confidence in practitioner judgements in reporting around standards in Writing.

Improvement Priority 2 – Provide all learners with high quality STEM opportunities

We will work to raise the profile of STEM subjects and their importance in the wider world. Learners will develop a clear understanding of the term 'STEM' and the interrelatedness of each of the subjects. Through partnership working learners will have increased understanding of employability options within STEM industries and

increased aspirations of employment in this field for both genders. Our senior pupil s will have the opportunity to become Young STEM Leaders to inspire and lead on the development of STEM experiences across the school community.

Staff receive practical STEM training through SSERC and will deliver high quality, well planned, linked learning experiences in science, technology, engineering and maths as part of our STEM curriculum.

Families will have a raised awareness and understanding of STEM.

Improvement Priority 3 – Develop high quality leadership to promote empowerment at all levels via the Laudato Si programme

Learners will have an increased understanding of the impact that human activity is having on the ecology of the world and how ecological issues impact on those in the world who are experiencing poverty.

Staff will be more confident to plan and deliver lessons that bring Laudato Si to life in the classroom and will deliver This is Our Faith (TIOF) using Diocesan planners linking to Laudato Si objectives. Religious Education and ecological education will be integrated across the whole school.

Families will have an increased understanding of how we can support ecological issues through our faith.

Improvement Priority 4: Promote the positive health and wellbeing of learners & families and staff.

To support our learners in managing their emotions we will develop a shared language of regulation. Our learners will be able to identify the different Red, Amber and Green Zones of Regulation and have strategies in place for them to remain in the Green and Amber Zones of Regulation.

Our learners, staff and families will benefit from a shared language and approach to support regulation.

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 Attainment Scotland Fund. 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.

St. Anthony's Primary School is an associated primary school of St. Benedict's.

Head teacher Mr Alan Taylor telephone: 0300 300 1441.

Transfer to Primary

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

Flexible Learning Resource

Our school supports a number of children with a range of additional support needs in smaller class groups. This provision is part of the authority's Flexible Learning service for children who need more support than can be provided within mainstream classes.

Car parking

Two dedicated parking spaces have been created to ease access for people with disabilities. Please do not use these spaces without authorisation.

We respectfully ask parents not to drive into the school grounds at drop off and pick up times. This is for the safety of the children due to the high number of School Buses and Taxi's we have in the grounds at these times.

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 to make sure children are safe, happy and able to benefit from the educational opportunities we offer.

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' sign in book, badges and escorts, while visitors are within the school building. Normally, anyone visiting a school for any reason, will be asked to report to the school office. The school staff can then 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. Attendance is recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon.

Please let the school know by letter or phone if your child is likely to be absent for some time and provide your child with a note on his or her return to school, confirming the reason for absence. If there is no explanation provided 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. Please discuss your plans with the head teacher before the holiday. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence. If the head teacher does not give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as unauthorised 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. The education authority, however, 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 positive relationships 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.

<u>Respectme</u>, Scotland's national anti-bullying organisation provided a very favourable assessment of the policy Tackling Bullying in Renfrewshire, stating;

'Overall this is an excellent example of a thorough policy and strategy to combat bullying in Renfrewshire Schools and the guidance is head and shoulders above other local authority guidance that has been reviewed to date.'

The school policy on bullying states that:

"Pupils have the right to learn in an atmosphere free from fear and intimidation"

The aim of our policy is to create such an atmosphere.

In Saint Anthony's we have strategies to combat bullying.

Children are encouraged to report any incident and they should know that this is not telling tales. Parents are encouraged to report any incident of bullying to the Head Teacher or a senior member of staff.

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 to the school's child protection co-ordinator.

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.

- 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, there will be consequences in line with the school's positive behaviour/discipline policy
- Individual school policies should clearly state for the benefit of staff, pupils, parents 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 contact 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

All Primary 1 – Primary 5 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: <u>http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolmeals</u>

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.

The lunch service available within Saint Anthony's is run on a cafeteria system. Your child, therefore, may choose from a wide variety of nutritious, enjoyable menu items. Staff collect pupil choices, from the menu, first thing every morning.

To ensure that medical requirements are satisfied, please supply the Catering Supervisor with the relevant information.

Arrangements are also made for children who bring a packed lunch.

All schools in Renfrewshire offer a nutritionally balanced, healthy meal for your child each school day. Many studies have shown a strong link between a healthy diet and concentration.

The Renfrewshire Council school meals website provides details of these daily choices. The website also offers delicious recipes of some of the pupil's favourites, and provides information on upcoming events and theme days.

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 on 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 are not required 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 includes taking reasonable care of pupils' safety during intervals and lunchtimes.

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
- Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In line with UNCRC, in Renfrewshire we place the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education. 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(s) or appointed person. 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. It is very important that the school has up to date contact details for all parents and an additional contact person in case parents can't be contacted. 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 will be notified immediately.

Religious Observance

Our school is fortunate to have a close link with the local church. The 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.

Managing positive behaviour

At St. Anthony's Primary we expect high standards of behaviour and foster an ethos of respect between all school users. We focus on positive reinforcement of behaviour and like to 'catch' our children being good and reward this positive behaviour.

We encourage children to adopt a solution-focused approach to problem behaviour where they acknowledge that a certain behaviour has caused problems, but then move on to work out how to improve reactions to situations in the future.

In the case of violence or lewd behaviour you will be informed immediately.

However, in Saint Anthony's, we try to remember the fact that many influences govern each discipline problem and how we perceive it. For example, when dealing with misdemeanours in pupils we take into account the health of the child, his or her home background, intelligence and peer pressure. Therefore, it is of the greatest importance that you inform the Head Teacher of any factor which may influence a child's behaviour – death in the family, separation, divorce etc.

Wet weather arrangements

During the school day, Children will not be outside in the playground when we have unsuitable weather. Members of the school management team and classroom assistants will be available around classes to ensure the safety of pupils.

Curriculum Matters

School curriculum

Scotland's curriculum – Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) – helps our children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century.

Curriculum for Excellence places learners at the heart of education. At its centre are four fundamental capacities. These capacities reflect and recognise the lifelong nature of education and learning. The four capacities are aimed at helping children and young people to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective Contributors

The National Improvement Framework, updated annually, sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education that have been agreed across the system, and the national improvement activity that needs to be undertaken to deliver those key priorities.

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

- Excellence through raising attainment and improving outcomes: ensuring that every child and young person achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, as well as the knowledge and skills necessary to shape their future as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors
- Achieving equity: ensuring every child and young person has the same opportunity to succeed, no matter their background or shared protected characteristics, with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap

The Key priorities of the National Improvement Framework are:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) is the curriculum followed in all Scottish establishments and is built on the values of wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity. All children and young people should develop skills for life, skills for learning and skills for work which will prepare them for a world that is changing very fast. The curriculum in our schools will continue to develop over coming years to ensure that all our children and young people become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The curriculum follows two phases – the broad general education (BGE) and the senior phase.

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: <u>https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/wellbeing-indicators-shanarri/</u>

Additional Support for Learning

Inclusion

Renfrewshire's inclusive approach affords all children and young people the opportunity to be part of their learning 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. Wellbeing assessment and individual planning is in place for all young people who require additional support.

Support

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.

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

<u>Resolve (Children in Scotland)</u> - Resolve:ASL is an independent mediation service for parents and carers of children and young people with additional support needs.

Telephone - 07955 788967

Email - <u>resolve@childreninscotland.org.uk</u>

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 approaches such as the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach, Language and Communication-Friendly Environments, Video Interaction Guidance and Non-Violent Resistance.

Our schools have a system in place for monitoring and reviewing the progress of all our young people 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 take 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

Effective health and wellbeing education 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
- care experienced children and young people and those experiencing discontinuity in their learning
- children and young people with a range of additional 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.

St Anthony's Primary 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.

The class teacher will give you information on homework at the beginning of the school session. If you find that your child is having any difficulty in doing their homework, please alert the class teacher to this. You are asked to sign your child's homework. Please feel free to comment on your child's homework.

Only if your child is absent from school for an extended period will work be given to your child to be completed at home. Any work missed because of illness or holidays will be given to your child on their return to school, and it should be completed at home.

Developing the Young Workforce

Developing the Young Workforce [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 are:

- Enterprising learning and teaching
- Entrepreneurial learning
- Work-based vocational learning
- Career education

The 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
- 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
- Work experience placements and speakers

Extra Curricular Activities

The Active Schools Co-ordinator, along with our staff, organise a range of after school activities as well as lunch time clubs. These activities are changed every term. This year after school clubs we have been able to offer are Football, Netball, Basketball, Gymnastics, Multi-sports, Running_& Hockey. At lunchtime we have Football, Badminton, Page Turners, Ukulele, Choir, Dance and Coding.

There will normally be the opportunity for the children in P6-7 to participate in a 3-5 day residential visit.



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
- 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
- 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
- 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

Parent Council

We have an active Parent Council who always welcome new members. If you can help please come alone or speak to one of the committee. The number is available from the school office.

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 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.

Pupil Council

Children are elected to the school pupils council and they are involved in the decision making process. Primary 7 pupil councillors have the opportunity to be the chairperson and the secretary to the pupil council. This group meet monthly in school.

Community Links

We are proud of our Community and actively seek to support local events and organisations, in particular neighbouring schools, St. Vincent's Hospice, Capability Scotland and the Parishes of St. Aidan's, Christ the King and Our Lady of Fatima.

The School supports various charities and invite representatives of these charities to come into our school and talk with the children.

We encourage the community to be part of our school by inviting them into coffee mornings, open afternoons and our school productions.



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 OneRen. 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 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 <u>complaints@renfrewshire.gov.uk</u>, 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 secure computer system and may be used for teaching, registration, assessment and other administrative purposes. The information is protected by data protection laws, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, and can only be shared or disclosed in accordance with those laws. To find out more about how your personal information is used, please consult the Council's general Privacy Policy, here: https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2201/Privacy-policy

Pupils attending any type of school have a right of access to their own information by virtue of the Data Protection Act 2018. 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. The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003 give parents and carers a specific right of access to their child's educational records. You can find out how to make a Subject Access Request or a request for Educational Records, by visiting the Council's Data Protection page, here: https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2059/Data-protection

For specific data protection queries, please contact the school directly.

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: emails, 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

Steven Quinn

Renfrewshire House Cotton Street Paisley PA1 1LE Email <u>csdirector@renfrewshire.gov.uk</u>

Senior Home Link Workers

Phone: 0141 618 6839

Homelink Service

c/o West Primary School Newton Street Paisley PA1 2RL Email <u>morag.mcguire@renfrewshire.gov.uk</u> <u>pamela.mckechan@renfrewshire.gov.uk</u> Phone: 0300 300 1415

Community Learning & Development

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Websites

You may find the following websites useful.

- <u>https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/</u> 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
- <u>https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/</u> parents can access school and local authority inspection reports and find out more about the work of Education Scotland
- <u>https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/find-a-school</u> 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
- <u>http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/</u> contains information for parents and information on Renfrewshire schools
- <u>http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullyinginfo.aspx</u> contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying
- <u>http://www.respectme.org.uk/</u> 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
- <u>https://education.gov.scot/</u>- provides information and advice for parents as well as support and resources for education in Scotland
- <u>http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/</u> 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/PST Head Teacher/Principal Teacher/Pastoral Support Teacher
- LTS Learning and Teaching Scotland
- SIP Service Improvement Plan

Although this information is correct at time of publishing, 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 handbook 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: csdatapolicy@renfrewshire.gov.uk