



ST. FERGUS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2023

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2023-2024. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Mhairi McDonald

Mrs Mhairi McDonald
Head Teacher

OUR SCHOOL

St Fergus' Primary is a denominational school serving the Ferguslie area of Paisley and we currently have 162 children on our school role. St Fergus' has a small but supportive Parent Council. This year they have worked extremely hard to plan and deliver several events for our parents and children.

Our school provides flexible learning spaces inside and out. There are 7 classroom bases with external learning areas directly off the classrooms, a support staff base, a nurture room, visiting services room, purpose-built Library area, independent and specialist learning pods, a tutorial room, a parent's room, a gym hall/dining area, a large flexible learning room which accommodates Renfrewshire's Out of School Care Ferguslie from 2:45- 5:45pm and an office wing. The school grounds comprise of a large multipurpose sports pitch, an eco-garden, outside dining, a timber and wildlife trail, climbing frame and an outside classroom area.

St. Fergus' Primary School aims to promote respect in an inclusive school, we strive to ensure that everyone feels valued and is treated fairly. We believe in a strong commitment to children's rights and endeavour to build positive relationships, built on mutual respect, between staff, children and parents. In St Fergus' we want all our children to feel safe, happy and well to ensure that they are able to achieve to the best of their abilities.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Our Vision: 'Working together to promote, excellence in achievement and well-being for all.'

Our Values:

- ✚ God's Love
- ✚ Honesty
- ✚ Positive Attitude
- ✚ Respect
- ✚ Responsibility

Our Aims:

- ✚ To understand the value of God's Love in our school and local community.
- ✚ To promote a positive attitude and mindset to learning.
- ✚ To use our voices to promote positive changes for all.
- ✚ To provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all.
- ✚ To develop skills for learning, life and work in our curriculum.
- ✚ To support each child's needs in their unique learning journey.

SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Increased parental engagement during our 4 Family Learning Events, Class visits, Primary 1 Stay and Play Sessions, Monthly Family Masses, Parents Wellbeing Wednesday Breakfasts. These have given our parents a greater understanding of their children's learning and help them to support their children at home.
- ✓ Community working on our Laudato Si Journey where all children have increased their understanding of sustainability and how to look after our common home.
- ✓ Strong Parish partnerships which enable School, Home and Parish to work together on our children's Faith journey.
- ✓ Successful partnership working with Glencoats Primary across all stages with particular emphasis on Writing.
- ✓ Successful Anti -Sectarian and Health and Wellbeing Projects with Glencoats Primary across Primary 5 and 7 children.
- ✓ Re-establishing links with Riverbrae School to promote skills for life with our Primary 7 children and also help our children understand the differing needs and inclusion across our society.
- ✓ Being awarded the Reading School Scotland Award in April 2023 . Our pupil leadership group, School Librarians, have worked hard to foster good relationships with our partners early year centres and Glencoats Primary Literacy Pupil Group.
- ✓ Both our Football and Netball teams have successfully taken part in local competitions where their determination and positive attitude has shone through in their teamwork.
- ✓ Our Digital Leaders across Primary 4-7 have been involved in the JP Morgan Coding Workshops which have allowed our children to showcase their skills in this area.
- ✓ Newly formed pupil group, The Wellbeing Warriors, have successfully planned, participated in monthly Wellbeing Wednesdays and delivered presentations on Relational Gestures to pupils, partners and parents. Their video is now being used as part of Renfrewshire Council's Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA) Training.
- ✓ Strong Partnerships with RAMH where our Monthly Parental Wellbeing Wednesday Breakfast has allowed the community to start a road map of support for parents who are struggling with their Mental Health.
- ✓ Successful partnerships with Early Years Centres, our new Primary 1 entrants and their families engaged with a series of school visits and information sessions. These have alleviated new parents worries and concerns associated with their children starting Primary 1.
- ✓ Pupils led and participated in enterprising activities and with their efforts to raise funds for charity as well as for the school. We donated to Who Cares? Scotland, the Bishop's Charity (MISSIO) and the Local Foodbank.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?

School Leadership

- All teaching and support staff have leadership roles linked to their interests and skills, which have allowed our School's Improvement Plan priorities to be addressed collaboratively.
- Despite challenges, our pupil Leadership teams continued to work hard to ensure their voice has been heard in the decision making regarding our school priorities. Our Monthly assemblies were delivered online which were planned by all pupil groups within the school.

Teacher Professionalism

- The comprehensive quality assurance programme is in place to evaluate the quality of learning and teaching across the school. This has included:
 - 'Show Me What You Know Visits' by the Senior Leadership Team to all classes. This has allowed for further development of consistency across all stages including:
 - Restorative dialogue being used by all teaching staff to deal with challenging behaviour
 - Children's Voice heard at all stages on behaviour, resources, rewards, wellbeing, relationships, planning for learning, digital technology and homework.
- All staff members have continued to engage in relevant training to enhance learning and teaching in relation to Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing and continue to seek opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills. The impact of this has been:
 - Numeracy Training from the Coaching and Modelling officer has enabled all support staff to understand and support children in their learning in a variety of ways including visually and problem-solving strategies.
 - Numeracy Training from the Coaching and Modelling officer has enabled all Teaching Staff to include new pedagogy and a positive mindset to the teaching of Numeracy and Maths. This has ensured that topics are more relevant, engaging and active for the children, resulting in almost all stages the majority of children are attaining their expected milestones.
 - Moderation of writing between St Fergus' and Glencoats Primary has brought both the staff and children together. This has led to shared experiences across both schools, opportunities to observe learning and teaching, refocus on planning of writing with the children and collaboration of staff across the two establishments.
 - RNRA training with all staff has deepened the understanding of Non-Violence Resistance (NVR), in particular Relational Gestures and the impact of these positively on children's distressed behaviour. All staff have seen a reduction of Distressed Behaviours in the classroom which has resulted in almost all children being supported to regulate and be ready for learning in the classroom.
- All staff have an understanding of 'The Promise' and are able to deliver Care Experienced activities from 'Who Cares? Scotland' .

Parental Engagement

- Our School App, Website, Facebook and Twitter accounts have allowed parents/carers to receive quick and effective communication from the school regarding information and events.
- 39% of all children have been with their families to our family learning events where parents have indicated these events help them support their children's learning at home.
- Our Parent Group, St Fergus' Families Together, have successfully ran a range of activities for our families including a Family Movie Day in the Tannahill Centre.
- SMT and various other members of staff managed to plan and attend meetings (progress, TAC, etc.) to keep parents/carers up to date with progress and help offer reassurance where there have been worries or concerns.

Assessment of Children's Progress

- Teachers complete Health and Wellbeing Web assessment with each child and the information is used to target appropriate supports and interventions.
- A comprehensive annual standardised assessment calendar is in place to support teachers to make accurate judgements. The Scottish National Standardised Assessment was administered in November so that results could be used diagnostically to identify gaps in children's learning and inform planning.
- School/ Community moderation work has been successful in working towards a clear shared understanding of expectations.
- Outdoor learning has been used in a variety of ways to improve children's readiness to learn, promote skill development, boost children's cultural capital and enhance learning, teaching and attainment. This work has been supported by the Active Schools Coach (Pupil Equity Funded post) up until December 2022.

School Improvement

- We introduced Faith Fridays (monthly) to ensure that our school comes together with our families and our Parish to promote our Catholic Faith.
- We continue to engage in Laudato Si process and protecting the world we live in.
- We have continued to focus on mental health and wellbeing of children and staff including well planned opportunities during Wellbeing Wednesdays in consultation with the Educational Psychologist and RAMH.
- Staff have used a range of data to inform the planning process, this enabled the teachers to identify and address gaps in learning as a result of school closure and varied engagement with remote learning.
- Prioritise support staff and Pupil Equity Funding to support targeted children to increase attainment of expected milestones across all stages.
- We continue to work closely with our Education Manager to evaluate various aspects of our school. This has allowed us to work collegiately to celebrate our successes while identifying areas for improvement.

Performance Information

- The school continues to use robust monitoring and tracking systems to ensure that the needs of children are met. Termly meetings continue to ensure that HT/DHT and teachers have regular opportunities to discuss children's health and wellbeing (twice per year), attainment and achievement and to plan interventions/supports. Teachers are expected to provide evidence of children's work to back up professional judgements.
- A range of standardised assessments, moderation activities and a body of evidence folder, including Literacy, Numeracy and health and wellbeing information are used to support teachers' professional judgement.
- Our Performance data is as follows:
 - P1- most children are achieving national levels of attainment for Listening and Talking. The Majority of children are achieving national levels of attainment for Reading, Writing and Numeracy.
 - P4- all children are achieving national levels of attainment for Listening and Talking. Most children are achieving national levels of attainment for Reading, Writing and Numeracy.
 - P7- Most children are achieving national levels of attainment for. The Majority of children are achieving national levels of attainment for Listening and Talking , Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

St Fergus' PEF plan has been established in consultation with all stakeholders with the focus on improving outcomes for our children in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Regular Parent Council meetings, Parental and Children's surveys, Pupil Voice Groups have all been involved in priorities of PEF. Our findings are collated and analysed by the staff team. Results are shared with all stakeholders and used to inform interventions, resource purchase and the focus of professional learning. Information from all information including tracking and monitoring data is used to see what is having an impact and what needs to stop and ways forward to support our children.

For school session 2022/23 the Scottish Government has awarded our school £104, 125 and this has been used for Staffing and Resources.

Staffing

The PEF Plan included the employment of an Early Years Officer, Inclusion Support Assistant, 2X Classroom Assistant (Full time) and an Additional Support Needs Assistant (Part Time), 10hr Active School's Coach (April – December 2022). This extra staffing complement has allowed for universal support across all stages, specialist activities/support for individual and groups of targeted children and families across all stages.

Due to the Inclusion support Assistant leaving in September 2022 and the recruitment process, resulted in a pause in our attendance planned Outcomes and Interventions . In May 2023 the school have successfully recruited new Inclusion Support Assistant and these have now resumed.

Active Sports Coach has delivered a variety of outdoor learning experiences at all stages providing CLPL for all staff during these sessions to allow for sustainability of the outdoor learning experiences post PEF funding. During these session the Active School's coach has encouraged team-working skills, built confidence and motivated reluctant participants.

Time to Talk sessions, delivered by our PEF staff, have been used by the majority of children from Primary 3-7 which has developed excellent relationships and almost all children have a trusted adult within our school.

As a result of this additional staffing attainment improvement can be seen at the following stages:

Writing

P2 + 12 % P6 +7 %
P4 +15 % P7 + 6 %
P5 +17 %

Numeracy

P2 + 4 % P5 +11 %
P4 + 6 % P6 + 7%

Resources

A variety of resources have been purchased to support children's attainment in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing in school and at home, including:

- Big Cat to allow whole school support for reading and online accessible texts for home use.
- ISA Training for Sleep Scotland – August 2022
- Resources to support writing
- Resources to support children with distressed behaviour
- Catering resources for family learning events

To improve parental engagement, commissioning was used to plan and implement 4 family learning sessions and individual class homework clubs. These allowed staff to share learning with parents and families. Initial feedback from parents through a Forms questionnaire indicates that they feel more involved with their children's learning and more skilled in providing support

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

- ✚ Strong teamwork across staff as they work hard to provide a positive learning environment for children.
- ✚ Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, and they confidently engage with adults and readily explain their learning.
- ✚ Very positive and supportive relationships exist between adults and children.
- ✚ Pupil views are valued and acted upon with involvement in decision making across various aspects of school life.
- ✚ The very inclusive and nurturing approach by staff, which ensures children feel safe and cared for whilst at school.
- ✚ Children's understanding of health and wellbeing and the support provided by the school to ensure children develop in this area. Children's engagement in assessment of their wellbeing.

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024

Due to challenges in staffing this session some priorities and actions will be carried forward to academic session 2023 - 24. We believe that we have made good progress during session 2022-23 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

- ✚ Continue to ensure that children will experience inclusive learning and supportive relationships which lead to positive life outcomes, which will include:
 - our Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA) journey
 - to fully engage with the new systems and approaches with the Refresh of Renfrewshire Council's Getting It Right For Every Child Policy
 - partnerships with Glencoats Primary
- ✚ We will aim to increase attainment in Literacy and Numeracy across all stages
- ✚ We will review our existing Curriculum Rationale to ensure that it is reshaped demonstrating a commitment to securing children's rights and wellbeing and that it is in line with our revised vision, values and aims

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

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HAVE YOUR SAY!

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