



St. Fillan's Primary School



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2020

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2020-2021. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Stephen Collins

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Acting Head Teacher(AHT)

OUR SCHOOL

St Fillan's Primary is a denominational school in Houston. The school building provides good facilities including office space, nurture room, dining room, a separate gym hall with a stage, and a meeting room. Each classroom has an interactive board, is well resourced with a comfortable library area and 'cosy corner'. There are good-sized school grounds with grassed areas, an outdoor learning classroom, raised garden beds, and outdoor play equipment. The school was refurbished in 2014/15 and benefits from having been re-roofed in 2019.

St Fillan's Primary school has a roll of 105.

The school enjoys a reputation for its involvement in the local community, has an active and supportive parent council and is well regarded amongst parents, with all parents strongly agreeing or agreeing in our recent online survey that their child 'liked school' and that 'staff treated their child with fairness and respect'. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) consists of an Acting Head Teacher (AHT) and a Principal Teacher (PT). The PT supports the AHT with pupil support and has responsibility for a range of areas within our planned school improvement. There are 9 class teachers, five of whom work in partnerships across the school week, 1 classroom assistant, 2 Additional Support Needs Assistants, a Home Link worker, a Service Delivery Officer, 2 office staff, and 2 music instructors. The environmental services team comprises of a janitor, catering and cleaning staff.

Together, our staff provides a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive environment for learning where children are nurtured to reach their full potential.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Vision: 'In learning, we are growing and succeeding together.'

Values: Respect, Responsibility, Faith, Trust, Teamwork, Success.

Aims: Be Brave. Unleash creativity. Demonstrate excellence. Show/radiate enthusiasm.
(BUDS)

SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- St. Fillan's Primary school was able to support pupils and their families to successfully move to online learning via Google Classroom from 20th March 2020 and has achieved 100% pupil participation.
- We have continued to raise the positive profile of our school within our local community and beyond through media coverage, use of social media and increased engagement in community events and partnership working – Bee Happy Group (Community tidy up of school raised garden beds), Houston Rotary Club, SVDP Parish Group, SCIAF, Salvation Army – 'Carols in the Crescent,' Gryffe Photography Club and Team Clean Up community litter pick.
- The school launched its Skills Academy – 'BUDS' to actively engages the pupils in learning that's around the school aims and showcase their achievements with each other.
- Our Primary 7 pupils won through to the NBA Basketball League with benefits including professional coaching, kit and league games held at the Lagoon Leisure Centre.
- Our P.5 pupils enjoyed an adventurous day, 'Spanish Camp' at Lapwing Lodge.
- We continued to enhance our links and support positive and meaningful engagement with Houston Primary School through participation in anti-sectarianism workshops around the novel 'Divided City' and input from the 'Nil by Mouth' team.
- The school celebrated 'World Mental Health Day' as it continues to embed its Nurture Provision for pupil, families and staff.
- Every class had the opportunity for educational excursions and attend our local PACE pantomime
- Our children have experienced a wide range of learning/sporting opportunities this session including Renfrewshire Active Schools clubs, events and tournaments, Gryffe Fun Run, Judo, Squash, Strathgryffe Tennis, Skills Development Scotland, Gaelic singing, traditional Scottish music, I am Me Scotland, Living Eggs (Nurturing chickens), transition visits for P7 to St. Benedict's & Gryffe HS,
- An exciting and comprehensive range of activities were held during our Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) week.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?

The impact of Co-Vid 19, and the subsequent school closures on Friday 20th March 2020, have resulted in significant changes in working practices and routines. As such, our ability to complete all actions within our improvement plan has been hindered. Some priorities and actions will be carried forward to academic session 20-21.

School Leadership

- All staff are empowered to take on leadership roles linked to their skills, interests, and priorities in our 'School Improvement Plan.' (SIP). They have shared good practice during planned Collegiate Times.
- The frequency of Committee Groups increased and as a result, children have enjoyed more opportunities to take an active role in the school community and lead improvements across the school, especially during 'Committee Weeks.'
- The Acting Head Teacher (AHT) has participated in; HT Learning Sets, Individual Coaching Programmes, Leadership During COVID 19, and 'Blended Learning' online seminars facilitated by Moray House. All programs have helped to develop his knowledge, skills, and capacity to lead and deliver during the COVID 19 crisis, support recovery, and 'Build Back Better' for the school moving forward.
- The Principal Teacher has participated in CLPL for Initial Teacher Education to support and mentor NQT's, training in Moderation, and the use of Summative and Formative Assessment Techniques.
- The SLT works in partnership with Educational Psychological Services. SLT has a sound knowledge of the Nurture principles and is empowered to lead improvements across the school and link individual pupils and families that have required additional support during the lockdown.
- Leadership opportunities for children in Primary 7 are embedded with the Credit Union facility. Children have responsibility for leading all the financial transactions with the support of an adult facilitator.
- Liaison with schools of a similar context has strengthened with regular meetings to discuss strategic planning and issues related to our context. The Head Teacher has visited Inchinnan Primary and the visit has been reciprocated to share strategies for monitoring the quality of learning and teaching in addition to the sharing of Inchinnan Primary's revised Literacy Planners which they had recently developed.
- The AHT has benefitted from Mentoring sessions with two well-established Head Teachers within the Local Authority. This has contributed to consistent improvements in the strategic direction of the school.

Teacher Professionalism

- All staff participated in the 'RNRA' Nurturing schools training to develop a shared understanding and language around the principle of 'The importance of transitions in children's lives.' This has contributed to the further development of consistent approaches across the school community.
- All teaching staff is engaged in the 'Building the Learning Power' modules that will empower their learners, ensure consistency, and raise the profile of both teachers and learners becoming leaders of their learning.
- The staff benefit from a well resourced, 'Teacher Professionalism' library opportunities to facilitate the sharing of academic research and support professionalism.
- The staff has been given comprehensive training in, The Write Stuff pedagogy to improve pupil experiences in writing. Staff had the opportunity to moderate their 'sample pieces of writing during an organised in-school collegiate time and have been engaging with online 'Write Stuff' training during the lockdown.
- A bespoke pupil tracking system has been implemented where staff track pupil progress which is discussed at our regular pupil tracking meeting with SLT.
- Staff professional development opportunities have included: Moving Play into P.2 (Primary 2 Teacher), NBA Basketball (Teacher/Coach) training sessions (Primary 7 Teacher). All training opportunities have benefitted positively on learners.

Parental Engagement:

- Opportunities for parental engagement have increased across the school through a variety of initiatives and events including our popular Burns Day Assembly, Pre School Teddy Bears Picnic, P7 Transition Pizza Picnic, and our World Book Day Author events. Both social media and verbal feedback were extremely positive with families commenting that they enjoyed a sense of belonging and feeling (that's) part of the 'St. Fillan's Family.'
- Parental Engagement has increased using online surveys, especially during the lockdown. Parents have responded to online surveys including School Improvement and preschool 'Let's talk About Questionnaire'. Parents know that their feedback is important to us and that we value their contributions and suggestions. Parents are regularly updated with our informative monthly Newsletters which include a message from our Parent Council Chair and a 'Have your say' section for parents.
- There has been an increase in parents/family members continuing to volunteer to assist/lead areas of our school improvement. Our Credit Union Facilitator continues, two parents are accredited in providing 'Bikeability Training' and several gardening enthusiasts who are willing to develop our outdoor learning with the children in our school grounds. Due to COVID 19, some of these opportunities were restricted but we would hope that they would resume when it is safe to do so.
- There have been increased opportunities for forging strong relationships with our new Primary 1 parents. Opportunities have included, open afternoon, nativity performance, and currently an extensive preschool transition programme to support their transition to P1. Our new parents commented that they felt relaxed and welcomed and feel their children will benefit in the form of a smoother transition from Nursery into Primary one.
- Via our online survey parents also shared that they have been, '... impressed by the commitment staff have shown during the lockdown.'

Assessment of Children's Progress:

- Our attainment remains good across all measures. This session we have seen an overall improvement in Writing across the school. Our data at P1, 4 and 7 shows most of our pupils are performing at a high level across all indicators.
- All children in Primary 1, 4, and 7 participated in the Scottish Standardised National Assessments (SNSA) at the start of the session. The results correlate with and have supported teachers' professional judgment.
- GL Assessments were carried out from Primary 2 to Primary 7 in the four key areas of Reading, Spelling, and Numeracy in September 2019. Individual reports for pupils were downloaded and analysed as a summative means of assessment. This data provides Class Teachers with an opportunity to reflect on their judgments around the pupil's progress in these areas. This information now forms the basis of our revised termly trackers that will be used to track children's progress on a more regular basis.
- All children have developed their skills in creating and evaluating termly learning targets in Literacy, Numeracy, and Health and Well-being. The evaluation of targets has been used as a means of systematically reporting to parents on children's progress.
- Well-being wheels were completed by every child in Primaries 1 to 7 allowing rich discussions between staff and the SLT at racking meetings.
- We have developed and implemented an 'Annual Assessment Calendar,' which has provided us with a strategic overview of assessment across the school and the intended impact that it is having on our learners. The staff has clarity around expectations and assessment.

School Recovery & Improvement:

- At St. Fillan's Primary School we recognise the importance of our pupils, parents, staff, and partners' Health & Wellbeing as we recover from lockdown. The school will be supported by the Education Psychology Team at Renfrewshire Council.
- The school community has a clear and simple visual outlining what we want for our children and how we are going to achieve our aims. Staff, children, parents, and partners have a clear, shared understanding of what we are aiming to achieve through our curriculum. This will underpin our planning moving forward after lockdown.
- Through self-evaluation, we identified the need to revisit our core school values. During Assembly and learning within classrooms, explicit links continue to be made between school values and Gospel values. There has been recognition across the school of children living by our Christian and school values in their words and actions.
- Through collaborative working and professional reading, 'visible consistencies' that all staff embraced concerning building and sustaining positive relationships with all learners were highly supportive when the school moved to its online learning platform during, 'lockdown'.
- The improved format for flexible year planning has become embedded in our planning. Overview of planned learning and

Performance Information

- The SLT has participated in SNSA training to improve confidence in analysing data. The skills gained through this training will support the measuring and impact of targeted interventions in terms of pupil's progress.
- Our SLT meets termly with teachers to discuss children's progress. We have revised these meetings to ensure there is a greater focus on monitoring children's attainment in terms of predicted and actual. Strategies for supporting and challenging children are identified and a variety of assessment evidence is discussed which ensures children make effective progress.



*My friends treated me nicely and respected me when I only just first moved here two years ago.
(St. Fillan's Pupil)*

St Fillans Primary School has a very nurturing atmosphere where pupils and their families are treated with respect and value. They are encouraging and have a very positive attitude to learning. They know their pupils and they care about them. It's a lovely wee school (St. Fillan's Parent)



KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

- ✚ We have a strong Catholic ethos and the value of faith permeates throughout our school. We have close links with the Parish.
- ✚ Our ethos is nurturing, caring, and inclusive. (Education Scotland, November 2017)
- ✚ Our school is a family and we have strong partnerships with families, partners, and the wider school community.
- ✚ We have very good levels of attendance and attainment.
- ✚ We have articulate, caring, generous, and thoughtful pupils. (Education Scotland, November 2017)
- ✚ We have a supportive staff team who are willing to support one another in any way they can.
- ✚ We value teamwork and are keen to work collaboratively to bring about school improvement.
- ✚ We welcome positivity and we are keen to embrace change for the benefit of the whole school.
- ✚ Children are listened to and are made to feel respected by all members of staff.
- ✚ Children and their families are nurtured and very well cared for from the moment they arrive to the minute they leave.
- ✚ All staff are committed to doing their absolute best for every child.
- ✚ Our children are provided with many opportunities to develop their skills in learning, life, and work through a range of activities and initiatives both 'in school' and via 'our online classroom'.
- ✚ Wider achievements continued to be encouraged and celebrated both in school and online.
- ✚ As a village school, we value our partnership with families and the wider community to work in partnership to support our children's learning.
- ✚ We involve the whole school community when making decisions to foster a culture of inclusion.
- ✚ We are highly effective at communicating with parents and reporting on progress in a variety of ways – through social media, the school website, Parent Pay, text and informative monthly newsletters.

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2020-21:

We believe that we have made **good** progress during session 2019-20 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward:

Religious Education: Developing in Faith:

- **Engage in a variety of opportunities to develop as a community of faith and learning.**

Learning & Teaching:

- **To build on new ways of delivering and supporting our pupil's learning since 'lockdown'.**
- Empower our children to become better learners by developing learner's habits and preferences.
- Continue to develop a shared standard in writing at the school level and within the St. Benedict's Cluster.
- Continue to raise the profile of writing, 'The Write Stuff' methodology.
- Embed our revised approach to learning logs, profiling of the learner's journey, and assessment over a whole school year.
- Progress the children's skills for learning, life, and work by continuing our skills-based afternoons called 'BUDS.'
- Progress and support play-based learning in Primary 1 & Primary 2.
- Continue to raise the profile and attainment within writing by making effective use of our Pupil Equity Funding.

Health and Well-being:

- **Our priority will be to safely support our pupil's Health & Wellbeing and their families, as we return to 'in-school' learning after lockdown.**
- Continue to develop policy and practice at all levels, in our approach to school transitions.
- Further, embed the 'Emotion works' programme across the school and continue to develop our pupil's emotional competence and resilience.

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

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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/online surveys and by completing evaluations at school events.