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Renfrewshire Coucil

ST MARY’S PRIMARY & ELCC

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STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2022

This report will inform you of the school’s progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2022-2023. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

*Laura Mitchell*

Head Teacher

**SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

* Continued to effectively support the health and wellbeing of our children and families through a variety of universal and targeted interventions.
* The majority/most of our children and young people are attaining appropriate Curriculum for Excellence levels and a few have exceeded these.
* Reinstated ‘in person’ assemblies where pupil achievement, both in and out with school have been celebrated as a school community.
* Successfully engaged in a Care Inspectorate inspection of our Early Learning and Childcare Class, in which we achieved gradings of *‘Very good’* under the heading of Care and Support and ‘*Good’* in the areas of Leadership and Management.
* We have shown our lived gospel values through highly successful fundraising projects including our appeal for Ukraine and the SCIAF Lenten Appeal.
* Worked in partnership with West Primary and Spinners Gate on a community partnership project to successfully secure funding of an impressive £130,000 for the regeneration of Maxwellton Play Park and Sensory Garden.
* We have been selected to participate in Education Scotland’s National Numeracy Parental Engagement programme for next session.

**OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS**

Our vision is that, through the care and education provided by our school community, our pupils will be nurtured to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens. Driving our work are our core values: love, honesty, fairness, and wisdom. These are reflected in our school rule: treat other people the way you would like to be treated.

**OUR VALUES**

FAIRNESS LOVE WISDOM HONESTY

**OUR AIMS**

We aim to provide a:

* **S**afe, happy, and nurturing environment where we show respect for each other at all times.

We aim to provide:

* **T**eaching that is high quality and learning experiences that pupils enjoy and that provide appropriate challenge.

We aim to:

* **M**ake sure we communicate with our families and include them in learning.

We aim to provide:

* **A**n environment where all relationships are strong.

We aim to be a school where:

* **R**esponsibility is given to pupils to take leadership roles.
* **Y**our opinion always matters.
* **S**t. Mary’s includes everyone.

**OUR SCHOOL**

St Mary’s Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class is a denominational school in Paisley. The school provides good facilities including an Early Learning and Childcare facility, a nurture-room, and an outdoor learning space. We have a two-year old room with capacity for 10 children, and we have a three to five-year old room with the capacity for 32 children attending Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. Our school community is multicultural and inclusive. It seeks to engage and involve learners and their families in all aspects of school life. We work in partnership with a variety of agencies to ensure that our children and families are most effectively supported and that any barriers to learning and engagement are removed. We promote excellence and the celebration of achievement for all.

**HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?**

**School Leadership**

* The Head Teacher undertook a Mentor role in the *‘Improving Our Classrooms’* programme, allowing her to further develop skills in coaching and mentoring, and work in collaboration with a network of colleagues in the sharing of good practice. The Principal Teacher has engaged in a *‘Learning Set’* which allowed her to work collaboratively and share good practice with colleagues from across Renfrewshire.
* Staff have been involved in the review of our vision and values. This work will continue into next session where pupils, parents and partners will be involved too.
* The Head Teacher, Principal Teacher and Literacy Champion have been identified as the Project Leads and engaged in training for our new writing programme *‘Talk for Writing’* They will now lead and support the implementation of the programme in order to raise attainment in writing across the school.

**Teacher Professionalism**

* All teaching staff engaged with the ‘refreshed’ standards from the General Teaching Council for Scotland, with three successfully completing their Professional Updates this session.
* Our staff team have engaged in a wide variety of professional learning activities focused on improving outcomes for learners across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
* ELCC staff have worked closely with the Early Years team to audit and improve our literacy and numeracy resources. They have also worked closely with the PATHS coordinator from Barnardo’s to successfully implement the PATHS programme, and our Senior ELCO has visited other establishments to share good practice in health and wellbeing.
* Teaching staff have worked collaboratively to develop new planning, and implement new resources for literacy, which will support improved and more consistent approaches across the school.
* Teaching staff participated in training for our new writing programme *‘Talk for Writing’,* allowing them to begin implementation in their classrooms. They will engage in the next part of this training next session.

**Parental Engagement**

* We have engaged in consultation with our parents/carers through the ‘Parental Census’, allowing us to use feedback from parents to identify key strengths and next steps. These will be used to ensure continued improvements in this area.
* We have successfully worked with our Parent Partnership to support various fundraising events which has allowed us to provide lots of positive opportunities for our children and young people, including a number of school trips, whole school activities and our P7 Leavers’ celebrations.
* The relaxation of COVID rules allowed us to reinstate and improve our New Entrant Induction programme with various opportunities for the children and parents/carers to visit the school. This has been extremely positively evaluated by our parents/carers. One parent commented *“It’s been lovely to have a transition event especially after COVID. It has been quite a comprehensive programme and my child feels ready and excited to join P1 in the new academic year”.*

**Assessment of Children’s Progress**

* All staff have continued to use a variety of assessment tools and approached to identify exactly where our children are in their learning and clear next steps to effectively ensure progress and improved outcomes for all learners.
* All children at P1, P4 and P7 undertook the Scottish National Standardised Assessments which provided us with diagnostic information on aspects of Reading, Writing and Numeracy. This was used to identify next steps for learners in these areas.
* Tracking and monitoring is well-understood by teaching staff and the Senior Leadership Team and has been used effectively to secure improved outcomes for learners. This has involved engaging in termly tracking and monitoring meetings to discuss pupil progress, barriers to learning and plan interventions for support through updating our whole school tracker.

**School Improvement**

* We have begun the consultation process with all stakeholders to undertake the review of our school vision and values. Our updated vision and values will be completed by October next session.
* We have begun the implementation of a new whole school writing programme *‘Talk for Writing’,* with Project Leads identified and all staff have undertaken the first part of this training.
* All teaching staff engaged in *‘Maths Recovery Training’* which has helped to support the identification of any gaps and clear next steps which has been used to support progression in learning.

**Performance Information**

* The majority of children have achieved their expected Curriculum for Excellent levels in Reading in primary one (69%) and four (72%), with most achieving these in primary seven (75%).
* The majority of children have achieved their expected Curriculum for Excellence levels in Writing in primary one (63%), primary four (59%), and primary seven (63%).
* Most children have achieved their expected Curriculum for Excellence levels in Numeracy in primary one (77%), with the majority achieving this in primary four (69%) and primary seven (63%).

**PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING**

St Mary’s Pupil Equity Fund plan has been established in consultation with pupils, parents/carers, and staff, with the focus on improving outcomes for our children in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

For school session 2021/22 the Scottish Government awarded our school £70,449, and this has been used to enhance our staffing allocation across the school, as this was identified through consultation with all stakeholders as a continued key priority.

The Pupil Equity Fund was used for the employment of an Early Years Officer (Part time), Inclusion Support Assistant (Full time) and a Classroom Assistant (Full time) This extra staffing complement has allowed for specialist activities, for individual and group support for targeted children and families across all stages.

Our Inclusion Support Assistant has played an instrumental role in supporting the health and wellbeing of targeted learners and families across the school. She has worked in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff and other agencies to ensure more positive outcomes for our children and families. She has planned and delivered bespoke programmes of support that have successfully removed barriers to learning for individuals and groups of learners. Another key aspect of her role has been working in partnership with parents to support their health and wellbeing, allowing them to support and engage in their children’s learning.

Our Early Years Officer has worked collaboratively with our Early Years teachers to support the development of Play Pedagogy and provide targeted support for learners. This work has included the continued development and operation of our Infant open area and outdoor learning spaces. Our Classroom Assistant has undertaken the Renfrewshire professional learning programme where she has developed knowledge, understanding and skills to support learners most effectively in literacy and numeracy. She has used this learning and worked collaboratively with class teachers to provide support in literacy and numeracy for target learners across the school.

**KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL**

* The school’s very positive and inclusive ethos, with strong nurturing relationships across the school and ELCC community.

* Our hardworking, resilient children and their positive contributions to the school.
* The majority of our children are achieving their expected Curriculum for Excellence levels in talking and listening, reading, writing and numeracy, with some exceeding these.
* Our strong partnership approaches with a variety of agencies which improve outcomes for learners and continued self-improvement for our school community.
* The quality of support for our children and families and the strong commitment to improving outcomes for all.



**OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23**

The challenges associated with the Covid 19 pandemic continued to affect our progress and our ability to achieve all of our improvement priorities. Some priorities and actions will therefore be carried forward to academic session 2022 – 23. We believe that we have made good progress during session 2021-22 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

* Continue to promote the positive health and wellbeing of all in our school and ELCC community through a variety of universal and targeted support interventions.
* Raise attainment in literacy, with a priority focus on Writing through implementation of *‘Talk for Writing’* programme across the school.
* Raise attainment and improve parental engagement in numeracy through participation in the National Numeracy Parental Engagement programme with Education Scotland.

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.

**St Mary’s Primary & ELCC**

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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.