

# Dundonald Primary School and Early Years Centre: Summary of our Improvement Plan for 2025-26



“Nurturing learning and achievement” is our shared vision in Dundonald Primary and Early Years Centre.



## Priority 1: Raising attainment in Literacy

### What are we going to do?

#### Early Years

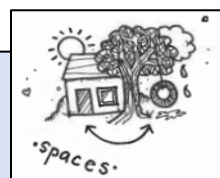
- ✓ Continue to develop a literacy rich Early Years environment, creating and refreshing attractive and accessible reading areas which are motivating and engaging for children, both indoors and out.
- ✓ Provide children with a greater variety of texts to explore throughout the year within the EYC, allowing them to lead their learning (stories, comics, child friendly newspapers, books which promote equality and diversity).
- ✓ Engage in Professional Learning focused on embedding South Ayrshire Reads Early Years learning and teaching approaches (vocabulary, early writing, word awareness, syllables, alliteration, rhyme).
- ✓ Increase opportunities for families to be involved in the promotion of reading (e.g. Bookbug family sessions; Stay and Play; Mobile Library and EYC lending library).

#### Primary School

- ✓ Promote further a culture of reading for enjoyment across the school through work of Reading Leadership Group. (Refresh of all class libraries in partnership with children; maintain 'Book Trust Reading School Silver Accreditation'.
- ✓ Continue to improve the quality of our learning and teaching through collaborative professional learning focused on:
  - ✚ South Ayrshire Reads (embedding phonological awareness, fluency, interdisciplinary reading and vocabulary);
  - ✚ Improving Learning by Reducing Cognitive Load and Improving Learning through Enhancing Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.
- ✓ Continue to develop approaches to assessment is for learning – embed Assessment Rationale and Pathway.

### We aim to:

- ✓ Provide a safe and nurturing environment for all (Article 19).
- ✓ Develop all pupils' self-esteem and confidence to allow them to reach their full potential (Article 28).
- ✓ Recognise and celebrate achievement for all pupils within and beyond school.
- ✓ Encourage children to be actively involved within the school and their own community (Article 11).
- ✓ Provide everyone with challenging, motivating, positive and purposeful learning experiences (Article 29).
- ✓ Ensure all pupils fulfil their potential as Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals through engaging fully with school life.



## Priority 2: Raising attainment in Numeracy

### What are we going to do?

#### Early Years

- ✓ Continue to develop a numeracy rich Early Years environment, creating and refreshing numeracy and maths areas and provocations for learning which are motivating and engaging for children, both indoors and out.
- ✓ Invest in new story [books](#) that support numeracy.
- ✓ Refresh our block play resources and approaches, led by early years staff with enhanced training in block play approaches.
- ✓ Enhance numeracy and maths through professional learning focused on: Progression in Early Numeracy and Maths Skills – use of Highland Maths Early Level as a guide.
- ✓ Increase opportunities for families to be involved in the promotion of numeracy and maths skills through play (e.g. PEEP family sessions; Stay and Play; Tuesday Toddlers).

#### Primary School

- ✓ Continue to improve the quality of our learning and teaching through collaborative professional learning focused on:
  - ✚ Improving Children's Understanding of Numeracy and Maths – Use of Manipulatives and Think Boards; Key features of a Numeracy and Maths lesson;
  - ✚ Cognitive Load;
  - ✚ Learning intentions and success criteria (professional reading and reflection – Bruce Robertson, Power up Your Pedagogy).
- ✓ Implement Think Boards (together with manipulatives) to support children's conceptual understanding.
- ✓ Refresh our numeracy and maths resources.



**Respect, Perseverance and Friendship** are the 3 core values that underpin all that we do. These help us to focus on our aspirational vision and aims for our school and EYC. (Articles 1, 2, 15 and 28).

## Priority 3: Improving Children's Health and Wellbeing

### What are we going to do?

#### Early Years

- ✓ Develop further our use of Talking and Thinking Floor-books to capture children's views about learning.
- ✓ Engage in professional learning led by South Ayrshire's Communication Friendly Environments Team
- ✓ Continue to implement supportive learning approaches.
- ✓ Support children to develop their understanding of wellbeing through providing play-based experiences based on the story, 'There's a Spider in my Hair'.

#### Primary School

- ✓ Engage children in discussion and activities focused on exploration of the wellbeing indicators. Create a whole school display illustrating and sharing our understanding of wellbeing.
- ✓ Revisit and refresh our Health and Wellbeing programme to ensure an in-depth focus on each of the wellbeing indicators: PATHS; Article of the Fortnight; Tree of Knowledge Treehouse resources; partnership working with Campus Police Officer, health services.
- ✓ Share information and resources with families about children's wellbeing and what each of us can do to promote this.
- ✓ Engage in Professional Learning focused on outdoor active play which will increase our understanding of and confidence in planning for and leading this.
- ✓ Implementation of Actify Active Play approaches (use of resources, toolkits and videos) during HWB lessons.
- ✓ Opportunities for children to choose to engage in Actify Active Play games and activities led by school assistants and playground buddies at morning break and lunchtime.
- ✓ Develop a consistent tracking systems across the Early Years Centre and Primary School for children's personal achievements. Create interactive displays which recognise personal achievements.
- ✓ **Highlight** the school and early years centre **values** through: making them visible in all classrooms and communal areas; **celebrating achievements** which **reflect our values** through weekly Dundonald Achievement Awards (shared by class teachers and key workers); linking values to Assembly Calendar.
- ✓ Engage in Professional Learning focused on NVR which will increase our understanding of the importance of positive relationships, child development and behaviour (South Ayrshire Twilight)
- ✓ Refresh our Relationships Policy to reflect Education Scotland's '[Relationships and Behaviour Policy](#)' [Guidance](#). Refreshed policy to be concise, child friendly and developed in partnership with staff, children and families.
- ✓ **Increase attendance** at Dundonald PS and EYC: **Raise awareness of impact of attendance** with families – including term time holidays – continue to promote South Ayrshire's 'Every Learner Every Day' campaign with children and families



### Key Drivers:

- ✦ Raising attainment and achievement for **all**
- ✦ **Partnership working** and **positive relationships**
- ✦ **Excellence** and **equity**
- ✦ High quality **learning for everyone**



Equity and Ambition for all