

Crawforddyke Primary

Our Curriculum

Kind Caring Respectful Self-Confidence Courage Determination



We want our learners to be safe, happy while believing that with practise, perseverance and effort they can acheive, learn and grow.

School Context

Crawforddyke Primary School is situated in the heart of Carluke, South Lanarkshire. Located in Clydesdale, we serve a wide catchment area that captures the rural surroundings it is set within.

As one of the largest primary schools in Clydesdale, our role sits around 400 pupils across 15 classes. We are extremely fortunate to have an expanse of school grounds that include a playground, MUGA pitch, 2 natural play areas and 3 football pitches. We have worked hard to develop these areas, installing a large polytunnel, outdoor reading hut and fire pits and bug houses alongside vegetable plots and raised beds.

We fully embrace the aims set out by South Lanarkshire Council, ensuring our curriculum prioritises learning in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, while also providing opportunities to develop skills for life, learning and work through meaningful and relevant contexts.

As a school we have gained a number of awards that recognise our strengths, including 8 Eco flags, Sporting School of the Year Award, Gold Reading School Award, Nurturing Schools Award and Climate Action Project of the Year Award.

The school is part of the Carluke Learning Community. The Learning Community has developed very positive working relationships, recently focussing on curricular transitions, that have a positive influence on all aspects of school life.

Due to our central location, we are fortunate to be able to access a range of local amenities such as the Library, Sports Centre and John Cumming Stadium. We also have access to Jock's Burn, a local nature reserve that sits behind our school and is used for outdoor learning experiences.

We regularly seek partnerships within our community, including Forest Kirk (Church of Scotland), Tesco Supermarket, Universal Connections and the Countryside Ranger Service.



Ethos/Vision, Values and Aims



Kind

Caring

Respectful

Self-Confidence

Determination

Courage

We want our learners to be safe and happy while believing that with practise, perseverance and effort they can achieve, learn and grow.

In Crawforddyke Primary, our vision is for *"all our learners to be safe and happy while believing that with practise, perseverance and effort they can achieve, learn and grow"*. Our vision was created by all parents, pupils and staff and recognises our commitment to supporting our learners to develop a growth mindset, where they believe they can all learn and, with effort and patience, achieve the goals they set for themselves.

Our school badge includes the phrase 'Be Diligent', deriving from the Latin 'diligere' – to value or respect.

Our core values were chosen alongside our vision statement: to be *kind, caring and respectful* to others, while demonstrating *self-confidence, determination, and courage*.

We promote positive relationships within the school and foster an ethos which encourages all pupils to respect themselves and others. We encourage pupils to respect their own and others' rights to be safe, to learn, to be healthy and to play as part of our 'Making it Right' assertive discipline program.

We believe that equity and equality are essential to ensure all children achieve and attain across our curriculum and beyond. We welcome all our parents and carers, as partners on this journey.

Throughout this document, you will learn about what makes our school unique and why we do what we do! Our priority will always be to ensure our learners are safe, happy and learning. Our new motto encapsulates this very goal.

"Growing Minds, Nurturing Hearts" reflects our commitment to both intellectual and emotional development.

"Growing Minds" emphasises a focus on learning, curiosity, and personal growth. It highlights the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and a lifelong love of knowledge.

"Nurturing Hearts" reflects our school's dedication to kindness, empathy, and emotional wellbeing. It reinforces our supportive and inclusive environment where pupils feel valued and cared for.

Together, this motto conveys a balanced approach to education, where learning success and personal development go hand in hand, creating well-rounded, confident, and compassionate individuals.





What makes Crawforddyke unique?

Throughout 2024/2025, our school community came together to explore what makes Crawforddyke Primary distinctive.

Through a collaborative process, a clear theme emerged—our school is a place where inclusivity, nurture, diversity, passion, and creativity thrive.

Our Staff said:

- Crawforddyke is a lovely school to work in – we are a huge family where the staff and pupils work together to create a very nurturing ethos! We are unique through the inclusivity and the delivery of meaningful learning and attention to detail and care.
- Our values are clearly displayed and are evidenced through classroom/school rules. The values link to the four capacities and always have the pupils at the heart of everything. We have a kind, caring and nurturing ethos.
- We are a very nurturing school with the children's best interests at heart. Teachers and staff who truly care for the wellbeing of the children.
- Our greatest strength as a school is that staff really care about delivering the curriculum to each and every child at a pace that suits the individual child.

Our Pupils said:

- The school provides opportunities to involve adults and the community.
- We get to showcase our talents.
- Everyone is kind and respectful.
- Everyone is treated fairly.
- We get involved in the learning.



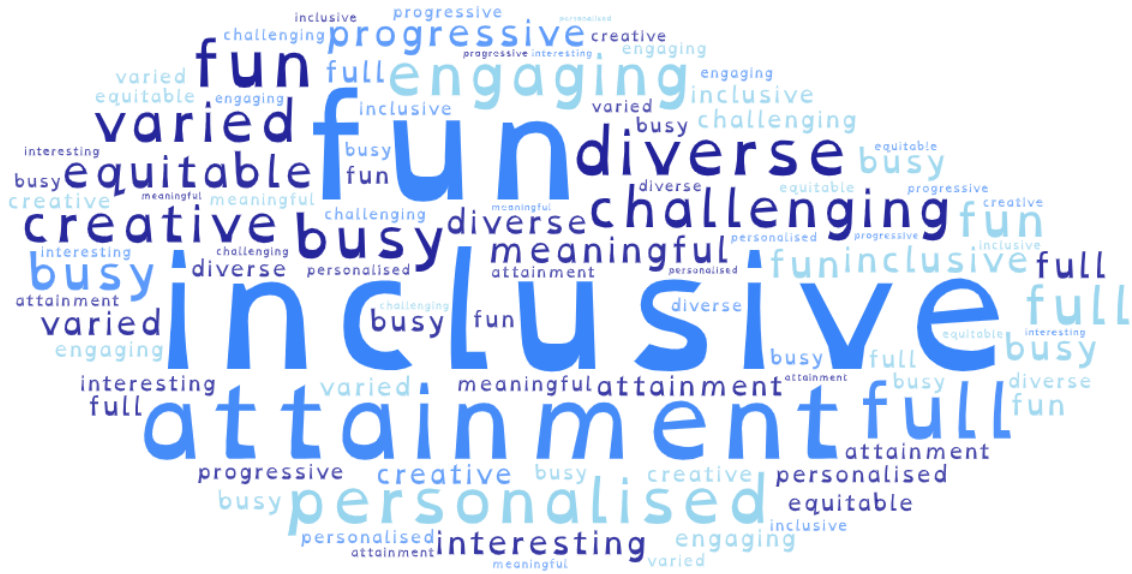
Our Parents said:

- The teachers and support staff are very supportive and passionate about the kids learning. They are also all so friendly and welcoming which as a parent is important.
- The teachers don't just teach from a book they go out of their way to make learning fun. They see every child as an individual and promote a growth mindset.
- Carlisle is a small town and lacking in diversity. I like the ethos of Crawforddyke of it being as diverse a school as it can be and for encouraging all children to aim high.
- My children thrive on the wonderful teaching and learning at this great school.
- Seeing my children come home from school excited to tell me what they were involved in during the day, ensures to me that they are having a fun time learning with their friends and teachers, to me this is the most important part of their educational journey.

Our Partners said:

- School staff are broadly warm and welcoming and seek to create engagement with children and their parents/carers to support all aspects of learning: social, emotional and academic.
- Excellent partnership with other agencies (Clydesdale Family Support Hub). Staff and teachers are very kind, accommodating and welcoming.
- Keep doing what you do best, supporting and encouraging children to be responsible citizens, successful learner, confident individuals and effective contributors .
- Wonderful, nurturing school where they ensure their pupils feel safe, valued and have opportunities to thrive and succeed. Positive and extremely hardworking, professional staff who are committed to their pupils and are driven by a fantastic management team .

Through extensive consultation, staff have defined our curriculum as:



The needs of our learners are at the heart of our curriculum design, ensuring that every child is supported, challenged, and inspired. We recognise the uniqueness of our school community and have shaped our curriculum to reflect its values, strengths, and aspirations.

Curriculum for Excellence provides the foundation for our approach, embedding key values for life, four contexts for learning, six learner entitlements, seven principles of curriculum design, and eight curriculum areas in which learning is structured. These elements, alongside the vision and values collaboratively developed by our pupils, parents, carers, and staff, guide the learning experiences we provide.

At Crawforddyke, our curriculum rationale has been shaped through the collective expertise, commitment, and passion of our staff. Together, we have developed a curriculum that reflects our shared ambition for every pupil embracing challenges, seizing opportunities, and developing the knowledge, skills, and values needed for lifelong learning. Through an engaging, inclusive, and forward-thinking curriculum, we empower our pupils to flourish in school and beyond, ensuring they are equipped to contribute positively to society and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Principles of Curriculum Design

The Seven Design Principles underpin the Crawforddyke Primary School curriculum:

At Crawforddyke Primary, our curriculum is carefully designed around the seven key principles of Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring that all learners receive a broad, balanced, and enriching education. Our staff use clear progression pathways to plan high-quality learning experiences that support continuous development and achievement for all pupils.

Progression:

Learning is carefully structured through clear progression pathways, allowing pupils to build on prior knowledge and develop skills in a logical and meaningful way. Staff plan high-quality learning experiences that ensure steady and challenging progress, preparing pupils for each stage of their education.

Challenge and Enjoyment:

We provide engaging, stimulating learning experiences that encourage curiosity and creativity. Pupils are challenged at an appropriate level, fostering resilience and a love of learning.

Breadth:

Our curriculum offers a wide range of subjects and opportunities, from literacy and numeracy to expressive arts, STEM, and outdoor learning, ensuring every child develops a broad skill set.

Depth:

We encourage learners to explore topics in detail, think critically, and make meaningful connections across different areas of learning, deepening their understanding and problem-solving abilities.

Personalisation and Choice:

Pupils are given opportunities to shape their own learning, pursue their interests, and take ownership of their educational journey through flexible learning pathways and leadership opportunities .

Coherence:

Our curriculum is well-structured and interconnected, ensuring a seamless learning experience where subjects complement each other, reinforcing key skills and concepts .

Relevance:

We make learning meaningful by linking it to real-world contexts, local and global issues, and future career pathways, helping pupils see the value and purpose of their education .

The Four Capacities

At Crawforddyke Primary, we are committed to developing well-rounded, confident, and responsible learners who are equipped with the skills and values to thrive in the modern world. Through our curriculum and school ethos, we actively promote the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence:

Successful Learners



We foster a love of learning by providing engaging, high-quality teaching and a broad, stimulating curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, ask questions, and develop independence in their learning. Through active literacy and numeracy initiatives, digital learning, and hands-on experiences, we ensure every child achieves success and grows in knowledge and skills. Our achievement of our ninth Eco Schools Flag further highlights our dedication to nurturing enthusiastic and capable learners.

Confident Individuals



At Crawforddyke, we support pupils in developing self-belief, resilience, and a positive mindset. Wellbeing is at the heart of our school, with a strong focus on health and wellbeing, personal development, and growth mindset strategies. Through leadership opportunities, pupil voice initiatives, and participation in performances, competitions, and public speaking events, we empower children to express themselves with confidence.

Responsible Citizens



We instil a strong sense of responsibility and respect for others by embedding children's rights, social justice, and sustainability within our curriculum. Pupils actively contribute to school life through committees, eco-friendly initiatives, and community engagement projects. They play a key role in supporting local events, and share their learning with others to inspire positive change within our community.

Effective Contributors



Our pupils are encouraged to be creative problem-solvers who work well both independently and as part of a team. Collaboration is a key part of school life, with opportunities to take on leadership roles, engage in enterprise activities, and participate in cooperative learning experiences. Through Thinking Circles and pupil-led projects, children develop their ability to communicate ideas, lead initiatives, and contribute meaningfully to school improvement and the wider community.

At Crawforddyke, we believe in nurturing every child to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen, and an effective contributor—equipping them with the skills and mindset to thrive in life.

The Four Context for Learning



The Totality of Experiences

The Ethos and Life of the School as a Community

At Crawforddyke, we foster a culture of respect, trust, and inclusivity. Our staff are dedicated to building strong, supportive relationships that promote children's rights and wellbeing. We strive to provide a broad and enriching curriculum that ensures equity and supports the unique needs of every learner. Through effective health and wellbeing programmes, a nurturing environment, and a positive approach to developing a growth mindset, we empower all pupils to thrive. Our pupils confidently articulate the school's vision and values, understanding their rights and responsibilities in alignment with the UNCRC.

All pupils are encouraged to take an active role in school life by participating in leadership roles such as pupil committees, extracurricular activities, and initiatives that develop a sense of responsibility within classrooms and as part of the wider school community. They are given regular opportunities to share their achievements and contribute their perspectives through Thinking Circles, reinforcing their role in shaping the school's continuous improvement.

A strong sense of identity and belonging is at the heart of our school community. Almost all pupils take pride in wearing the Crawforddyke uniform and feel a deep connection to our school. We play an active role in the wider Carluke community, with pupils enthusiastically participating in local events such as the Gala Day, Jam and Ham Festival, and various and sporting competitions.

Our commitment to fostering a love of reading is reflected in our achievements of the Gold Reading School Award. Pupils have not only embraced reading within our school but have also shared their passion with the wider community. They have showcased their journey and success, inspiring others and supporting them in developing their own love of reading. Through partnerships and outreach initiatives, our pupils actively encourage literacy development on others, strengthening our school's role as a hub of learning and inspiration.





Curricular Areas and Subjects

At Crawforddyke, all learners experience a broad general education that covers all eight curricular areas. Learning is designed to be progressive, building on prior knowledge and achievements to ensure continuity and depth of understanding.

Our staff are committed to raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, in line with the National Improvement Framework. We prioritise closing the attainment gap by providing targeted support and embedding literacy and numeracy across the curriculum, both as discrete subjects and within interdisciplinary learning.

Our curriculum is delivered through the eight key curricular areas:

- Language and Literacy
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Studies
- Expressive Arts
- Religious and Moral Education
- ICT and Technology
- Science

Our commitment to high-quality learning and teaching across these curricular areas ensures that all pupils receive a rich and engaging educational experience. Through a progressive and inclusive approach, we build strong foundations in knowledge and skills, enabling our learners to grow in confidence and achieve success in all aspects of their learning.





Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Interdisciplinary Learning is a key element of our curriculum, providing meaningful opportunities for pupils to make connections between different subject areas. Through our structured rolling programme, we ensure that learning is relevant, engaging, and aligned with both local and national contexts. This includes key events such as P7 Transition activities and our annual whole school sustainability topic, as well as opportunities to strengthen community partnerships and respond to pupil interests.

To ensure consistency and progression across all stages, we have recently audited our IDL programme. This review has allowed us to refine and enhance our approach, ensuring that all Experiences and Outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence are effectively covered. Staff collaborate to plan high-quality IDL experiences that are coherent, challenging, and enriching, allowing pupils to apply their learning in meaningful ways.

Our "say, write, make, do" approach encourages pupils to demonstrate their understanding through a variety of creative and practical tasks, deepening their engagement and critical thinking skills. By continuously evaluating and improving our IDL provision, we ensure that all learners benefit from a well-structured, progressive, and inspiring curriculum.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Every pupil at Crawforddyke has a Learning Journey profile, which includes their Personal Learning Plan. This outlines key learning targets in literacy, numeracy, and health, ensuring progress is tracked effectively. Pupils are also encouraged to reflect on their personal achievements and link them to the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

Equity and inclusion are central to our approach. We provide targeted interventions, such as our Nurture and PEF-funded support, ensuring that all pupils receive the help they need to succeed. A multi-agency approach is used to address additional support needs, ensuring a fair and inclusive learning environment for every child.

We believe in recognising and celebrating the successes of all our pupils, both within and beyond the classroom. Personal achievement is embedded in our school culture, with regular opportunities for children to reflect on and share their accomplishments.

Within the classroom, we celebrate success through daily recognition and encouragement. During assemblies, we highlight achievements in areas such as Star Writer, Star Reader, Growth Mindset, and the Four Capacities, ensuring that effort and progress are consistently valued.

Areas Given Particular Emphasis in our Context

At Crawforddyke, we place a strong emphasis on **literacy** and **numeracy**, as we believe these foundational skills are essential for navigating the complexities of everyday life in an ever-evolving world. We are committed to helping all our learners achieve the highest possible levels of literacy and numeracy, as these skills form the bedrock for academic success and personal growth.

Our curriculum also prioritises Health and Wellbeing, recognising that a child's social, emotional, and physical wellbeing is critical to their success both in and outside of the classroom. We strive to promote the development of well-rounded, happy, and responsible individuals who possess the skills to contribute positively to society throughout their lives. We are incredibly proud to hold our **National Nurturing School Award** which affirms our dedication to nurturing every child in accordance with the principles that are deeply embedded in our daily practices.

Our passion for **sports** is also a defining feature of life at Crawforddyke. We actively engage in local sporting events throughout the year, with the guidance and enthusiasm of our incredible volunteer, Mr Allan. From Sports Hall Athletics to Cross Country Running and Football Tournaments, our pupils have the opportunity to showcase their talents and achieve impressive results. Their hard work is consistently celebrated, with medals, trophies, and certificates awarded regularly. These achievements are honoured at our annual Prize Giving, a highlight of the year where we proudly pay tribute to the accomplishments of our talented pupils.

We are passionate about **outdoor learning** and recognise its vital role in enhancing engagement, wellbeing, and achievement. We are fortunate to have extensive outdoor spaces that provide rich opportunities for exploration, discovery, and hands-on learning. Our pupils thrive in these environments, developing essential skills while deepening their understanding of the world around them. Each class has dedicated time throughout the week to access our Natural Play Area, where teachers carefully plan outdoor learning experiences that complement and extend classroom learning. By embedding outdoor learning within our curriculum, we provide high-quality, meaningful experiences that help children develop essential skills for life, learning, and work. We are committed to making the most of our outdoor spaces and continually exploring new ways to enrich learning beyond the classroom.

Strong **partnerships and relationships** are at the heart of Crawforddyke's success. We actively collaborate with all stakeholders and have taken significant steps to strengthen our connections with parents through our 'Learning Together, Caring for the Children We Share' initiative. Recognising the diverse needs of our families, we have reimaged and restructured home learning to provide flexible, meaningful support that fits into busy lives. With a three-year plan in place, we are committed to building on this momentum, ensuring even greater engagement and positive impact across our school community.



What's Next?

At Crawforddyke, we have made significant strides in implementing a curriculum that supports engaging, inclusive, and high-quality learning experiences for all pupils. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of every learner by aligning with Experiences, Outcomes, and Benchmarks, while also prioritising the reduction of the attainment gap for our most disadvantaged pupils. However, we recognise the importance of continuous improvement and remain committed to refining our curriculum in line with evolving best practices. This ensures that our pupils continue to learn in a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment. Moving forward, our key areas of focus include:

- Using data more effectively to track pupil progress and identify opportunities to raise attainment for all.
- Ensuring that all learners are actively engaged and motivated by increasing opportunities for personalisation and choice.
- Embedding higher-order thinking skills across all curricular areas to equip pupils with the tools they need for lifelong learning.
- Further embed the SLC Skills Framework across all stages, ensuring progression and links to the Four Capacities, to better prepare children for life, learning and work.
- Enhancing pupils' understanding of sustainability and global citizenship, empowering them to make a positive impact.
- Providing more opportunities for pupils to take ownership of their own learning, developing independence and confidence.

By focusing on these areas, we will continue to nurture a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-thinking learning environment where every child can thrive and succeed.



A Closing Thought

At Crawforddyke, our curriculum is a journey—one that inspires, challenges, and supports every learner to achieve, contribute, and thrive. Grounded in the Four Capacities and shaped by the Seven Design Principles, it grows with our pupils, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to navigate life. As we continue to reflect, refine, and innovate, our commitment remains the same: to create meaningful learning experiences that empower our pupils to embrace the future with confidence and ambition.

The poem below captures the essence of our curriculum and the journey we take together at Crawforddyke.



The Crawforddyke Way

At Crawforddyke, we learn and grow,
With minds that question, seek, and know.
A curriculum built with care and pride,
Where every child is valued inside.

Through literacy and numeracy strong,
We build the skills to last lifelong.
With health and wellbeing at our core,
We lift each other, help and soar.

In science, technology and history's past,
We learn how knowledge holds us fast.
Through music, art, and sports we play,
Creativity lights our way.

Outdoors we learn, explore the land,
With nature's wonders close at hand.
A world of skills, both life and work,
Prepared for futures bright and perked.

We celebrate the four capacities,
Success, resilience, tenacity.
With partnerships in school and town,
Together, we will not back down.

At Crawforddyke, we dream, aspire,
With hearts of passion, minds on fire.
For every pupil, hand in hand,
We guide, we nurture—we help them stand.