

Education Resources Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality 2025/26



Leadhills Primary School

Leadhills Primary is a non-denominational school nestled in the Lowther Hills, with a current pupil roll of 13 pupils, which serves the rural community of Leadhills. Leadhills Primary is the second highest village in Scotland, with 31% of pupils being placing requests from Wanlockhead (Dumfries and Galloway) and other localities. 69% of our present pupil roll come from Leadhills. Our school consists of 1 multi-composite class, P3-7 taught within 2 spacious classrooms, with a library, open area and assembly/gym hall accessible for all. The school has a Multi-Use Games Area which is accessed by the school and wider community. We have strong partnership/engagement with local community groups, wider community and parents, with pupils and staff working together with community to enhance learning, utilising a wealth of local knowledge and enthusiasm.

Our curriculum makes full use of our local environment, utilising our local area to support and enhance learning. Forest School type sessions take place in various locations within the community, with sustainability being supported through community tree planting, building hedgehog houses and bug hotels and putting them within the local nature reserve. Links with Museum of Lead Mining and Leadhills Miners Library have enhanced learning with pupils participating in visits to deepen their knowledge of renewable energy, social climate and geology.

Equity for all is a key strength of the work which we do. Knowing our learners, and our wider community, enables us to support pupils and families alike to participate in all activities/opportunities within the school. All learners have access to a variety of technology to support the engagement and development of digital literacy skills. Access to grant funding ensures families and wider community have access to wider opportunities, such as sports events, Edinburgh Playhouse, Cinema and swimming. We have a Sharing Shed within our school grounds which is accessible by the whole community, with sustainability and recycling at the heart of its purpose. To ensure that all learners participate in Bikability sessions bikes and funding were sourced to ensure equity for all. Cost of the School Day is at the core of what we do, and we are proud to be a zero-cost school, for almost all activities/events.

Leadhills Primary School is part of Biggar Learning Community. The Learning Community has very strong and positive working relationships, recently focussing on moderation cycle, with a focus on Learning and Teaching. Cluster trio schools within the learning community continue to focus on Young Leaders of Learning, linked to SLC Skills Framework and supporting pupil voice.

At Leadhills Primary School we aim to make school a happy, supportive place in which every child will thrive and develop socially, emotionally, academically, and physically. We aspire to become a school that delivers high quality teaching and learning underpinned by continuous self-evaluation. Working in partnership, we aim to provide learning experiences that will engage and inspire all our learners enabling them to achieve success. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils are supported in their learning through our nurturing ethos and attachment informed, inclusion practices. Recent implementation of Inquiry Based Learning pedagogy through various projects using social studies and science contexts ensure that staff plan effectively giving children opportunities for children to lead their learning and exercise personalisation and choice. Approaches to Inquiry based learning encourage pupils to be curious and independent in their learning.

Our school was recently inspected, April 2025, by Education Scotland receiving evaluations of Very Good for QI 1.3 Leadership of Change, QI 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment, QI 3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion and QI 3.2 Raising Attainment and Achievement. The report endorsed our school self-evaluation, and the next steps are evident in our School Improvement Plan.

Performance Data - Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (official data 2023/24)



Excellence Over Time (Mainstream) Charts | Stage: P147 | 2016/17 - 2023/24 ■ South Lanarkshire Council ■ School Numeracy Plot Area 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 Literacy 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 Reading 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 Writing 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24 Listening & Talking Plot Area 2019/20 Plot Area 21 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2021/22 2022/23 2023/24

Equity (Local) Over Time Charts

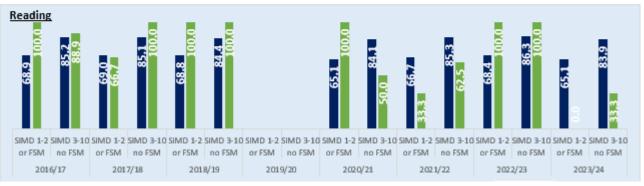
Stage: P147

2016/17 - 2023/24

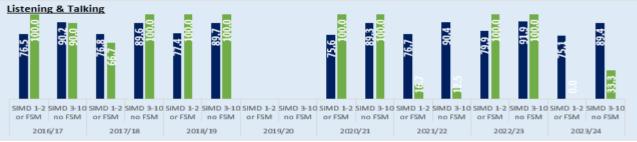






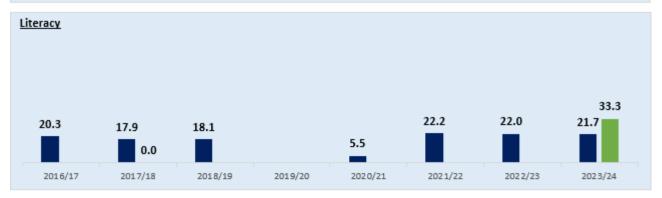


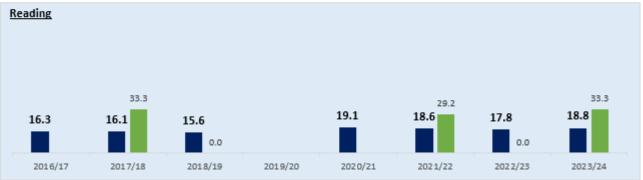
















Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reporting for 2025/2026

Priority 1: Implement VCPA approach

NIF Priority (select from drop down menus) Improvement in achievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy. NIF Outcome Closing the attainment and achievement gap Choose an item.	SLC Priority (select from drop down menus) Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy	SLC Stretch Aims ACEL Primary – numeracy – P1, P4 & P7 combined Choose an item.	HGIOS?4 QIs (select from drop down moderate 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 2.2 Curriculum 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement 4 Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item.	ent ent
Rationale for strategic priority	Outcome (Intended impact)	Operational activity	Measures	School Lead
Numeracy and Mathematics attainment data highlights the need to focus on continuing to improve progress and attainment levels in	By December 2025 almost all teachers will have increased practitioner knowledge, confidence and skills in teaching Numeracy and Mathematics-using the pedagogical approach VCPA.	August 2025 – May 2026 Pupils will begin to engage regularly with problem solving activities in mixed ability groups through Building Our Thinking Classroom.	Pupils will be able to discuss how they approached problems using various taught strategies. Pupil focus groups/questionnaires gauging engagement, confidence and skills.	HT & CT HT, CT's & SSA's
numeracy and mathematics for learners through high quality learning, teaching and assessment approaches developed through the professional learning materials of the SLC	 By December 2025, all pupils will have increased access to a wide range of concrete materials during Numeracy and Mathematics learning. By March 2026, majority of pupils will be able to select and use the materials they will need to access Numeracy and Mathematics learning. 	November 2025- May2026 Teachers and support staff complete pre-CLPL questionnaires November INSET Day Teachers, HT and support staff attend CLPL through planned INSET Day and 5 liaison sessions to improve	 Pre and post- CLPL questionnaire for teachers to gauge knowledge, confidence and skills in supporting learners using the VCPA learning, teaching and assessment approach (November 2025 & May 2026) VCPA resources overview pre and post audit. 	HT & CT's
VCPA Professional Learning offer. (Schools	By March2026, majority of pupils will be able to explain their choices around selection of materials and/or strategies	Numeracy and Mathematics learning, teaching and assessment approaches.	Information collated from teacher/SLT/pupil learning walks during numeracy and maths learning	HT & CT's

	 Teachers engage with a range of VPCA resources on SLC Staff Learning Centre, Curriculum Hub. January -March 2026 	Teacher and SLT pupil focus groups to facilitate direct observation of pupils engaging with VCPA resources and pupil dialogue which supports pupils to explain their choices and strategies.
	Teachers and SLT engage in collaborative activity to support implementation of VCPA approaches. e.g. opportunities to plan/implement/review	
	 April -June 2026 SLT and teachers will gather information about pupils' understanding and progress in an aspect of numeracy and/or mathematics learning where the learning, teaching and assessment approach is VCPA. 	
	 Teachers complete post CLPL questionnaires Review progress with implementing VCPA methodology and plan next steps for 2026/27 	
Progress and I	mpact	Next Step(s) and rationale to inform SIP fo 2026/2027 or establishment maintenance agenda

Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reporting for 2025/2026

Priority 2: Continue to implement Inquiry Based Learning Pedagogy

NIF Priority (select from drop down menus) Improvement in achievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy. NIF Outcome Closing the attainment and achievement gap Inclusive and relevant curriculum and assessment	SLC Priority (select from drop down menus) Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	SLC Stretch Aims ACEL Primary – literacy – P1, P4 & P7 combined Choose an item.	HGIOS?4 QIs (select from drop down 1.3 Leadership of change 2.3 Learning, teaching and assess 2.2 Curriculum HGIOELC QIs (select from drop down Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item. Measures	ment
Rationale for strategic priority	Outcome (Intended impact)	Operational activity	weasures	Lead
Learner engagement for most pupils has improved due to the introduction of pupil leadership groups last session. These sessions have highlighted the impact of pupil voice on learning. We have considered the use of pupil voice to drive Interdisciplinary Learning projects within the school. We will continue to explore inquiry-based learning approaches as a means	By September 2025 staff will have reflected on current approaches to IDL identifying strengths and areas to be developed. By December almost all staff will have increased teacher knowledge of the	 August- October 2025 SLT attendance at leadership CLPL and whole staff attendance at CLPL session 2 and 3. Review of current approaches to IDL during these sessions: staff to complete the SWOT analysis tool. Staff to complete a teacher confidence survey Pupil Leuven scale is undertaken as a baseline for a focus group of learners in each class. October – December 2025 Staff attend CLPL session 4 and 5 	SWOT related to schools current IDL position. Baseline staff confidence survey. Results of Leuven scale of engagement focus group Staff planning materials and professional dialogue related to planning.	HT, Class Teachers

challenge and engagement.

Leadhills PS 2024/25

Data gathered after implementing aspects of Inquiry Based Learning during 2024-2025 demonstrates 94.1% of **pupils** surveyed in May 2025 indicated that they have enjoyed participating in Inquiry Based Learning approaches, with aspects of personalisation and choice being amongst the most favourite aspects. 100% of pupils said that they were really engaged in their learning using inquiry approach.

Recent feedback from HMie highlighted this aspect of pedagogy as being highly effective practice with next steps of:

- Increased creativity
- Extend this approach across

Inquiry-based Learning Cycle and forming 'Big Questions'.

By February all staff will pilot an Inquiry project, this will result in most learners being more engaged in learning activities in class.

By February almost all learners will be able to discuss the inquiry cycle and relate inquiry classwork to this approach.

By March retrospective planning tools will be used to capture Es and Os covered during the pilot inquiry projects. Staff will work collaboratively to consider next steps.

By April Staff will have increased confidence in using the inquiry cycle to guide IDL lessons.

- Staff review possible approaches to inquiry and select the approach to pilot in January.
- Staff plan possible resources needed for the inquiry-based project. Staff prepare the inquiry cycle materials for classroom display alongside the SLC skills cards.

Jan - April 2025

- All classes undertake an inquiry-based project.
- Learning for this project is displayed in class using the inquiry cycle.
- Peer visits of inquiry lessons.
- Pupil Leuven scale completed for a focus group of children in each class.
- Retrospective planning/ tracking completed, highlighting coverage of Es and O s and skills from the SLC framework.
- Staff discussion of projects and collaborative planning of possible next steps.
- Staff confidence survey revisited.

Class visits and professional dialogue.

Evaluation of planning/tracking material.

Results of Leuven scale of engagement focus group.

Results from staff confidence survey.

	Progress and Impact	Next Step(s) and rationale to inform 2026/2027 or establishment maintenant	SIP for
other curricular areas.		Questionnaires Forward Plans GMWP Leuven Scale of Engagement Padlet	

Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reporting for 2025/2026

Priority 3 Transition

NIF Priority (select from drop down menus) Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education NIF Outcome Young people's HWB; enhance impact of GIRFEC and partnership working Improving relationships, behaviour and attendance	SLC Priority (select from drop down menus) Improve Health and Wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	SLC Stretch Aims Choose an item. Choose an item.	HGIOS?4 QIs (select from drop down in 2.7 Partnerships 2.6 Transitions Choose an item. HGIOELC QIs (select from drop down in Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item. Choose an item.	
Rationale for strategic priority	Outcome (Intended impact)	Operational activity	Measures	School Lead
Due to school demographics and changing school rolls, there is a need to revise the current transition programme. Most P7 staff have indicated current transition activities no longer reflect the unique contexts of our schools,	Learning Community Transition Develop a smooth transition programme with shared understanding and expectations between primary and secondary, reflecting the local context of all schools where arrangements are discussed and agreed collegiately. By October 2025 there will be a shared/agreed transition calendar outlining key dates and sharing of relevant information to aid transition. Events Paperwork Assessment	August-October 2025: Prior to 02/09/25 all relevant staff associated with transition within BLC are consulted about their views and suggestions gathered on targeted areas of transition. 2nd September 2025 HT's meeting with DHT BHS to discuss and	SWOT related to learning community current position on transition Staff planning materials and professional dialogue related transition programme and content.	HT CT's

and the needs of our young people.

- Sharing data
- Google Classroom
- Visits

By December 2025 there will an agreed draft transition programme with a possible focus on diversity/science.

By April 2026 there will an agreed transition programme in place for session 2026/2027 with possible opportunities for collaboration across all feeder school (Possible focus on diversity/science – Trout at Transition).

Pilot P7 pupils from feeder schools within Biggar Learning Community will explore racial discrimination through a novel study.

Small School transition

Due to the small and exceptionally small school rolls and rurality there is an increasing need to promote engagement across the schools ensuring peer and collegiate socialisation/wellbeing. (staff and pupils)

Small School Transition

Building on current transitions within small school contexts there will be discussion and planning of joint activities ensuring greater socialisation between pupils and staff. begin to agree a transition program for 2025/26

October to December 2025:

- HT working party will create a 3year rolling programme will be created to support the needs of all schools.
- Further consultation of views from P7/S1 pupils, staff with responsibility for transition – office/HT's/CT's in primaries and Biggar High School.

January- April 2026:

 Pilot P7 pupils and staff within Biggar Learning community feeder schools will have completed an agreed novel unit study with a diverse theme. For example: Planet Omar

Create a small school's joint transition/activity programme liaising with active schools where appropriate

August- October 2025

- Consultation with Active Schools Coordinator and HTs of small schools to explore a program of joint activities where pupils can come together and experience various sports.
- Expand Trunki's On Tour to include other schools within

Staff planning materials and professional dialogue related transition programme and content.

SWOT analysis of staff and pupils' views to evaluate transition activities for 2025/26 and inform practice for 2026/27.

Staff planning materials and professional dialogue related transition programme and content.

Results of Leuven scale of engagement of pupils.

Pupil and staff surveys re: engagement/participation in joint activities.

Progress and Impact	Next Step(s) and rationale to inform SIP fo 2026/2027 or establishment maintenance agenda
Lanark/Biggar Learning Community to support improved reading culture and collaboration. Discuss YLoL participation within BLC and associated schools. Agree dates for collaboration and visits and focus. October 2025 — March 2026 Collaboration/joint activities undertaken with participating schools Joint SAMH workshop undertaken with associated schools Trunki's on Tour established and exchanged reading material commenced. Online Book review undertaken. April-June 2026 P7 Residential Broomlee, West Linton May 2026 Evaluation of joint activities and plan agreed for following session. Trunki's on Tour established and exchanged reading material commenced. Online Book review undertaken.	Evaluation of activities – staff/pupil surveys

PEF Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Reporting for 2025/26

Allocation: £7,350

SLC Stretch Aims

ACEL Primary – literacy – P1, P4 & P7 combined ACEL Primary – numeracy – P1, P4 & P7 combined Cost of the School Day

Rationale for PEF / PB Spend	Allocation of PEF / PB spend	Outcome (Intended impact)	Operational activity	Measures	Mid year review RAG	End of year review RAG
Analysis of NGRT data shows that 49% of P1-7 pupils need support with comprehension skills and developing their understanding of vocabulary.	Reading materials/genre NGRT Digital GL Assessments IDL Literacy Sumdog Literacy – grammar & punctuation & spelling Author live visits/Literacy Festival	By June 2026 most pupils will demonstrate increased knowledge and application of comprehension strategies.	August-October 2025: Teaching of core reading skills — inference, summarizing prediction etc. ensuring they are revised during a 4-week rolling program, using group/model text Audit NL & SLC Moderated Core Reading materials Trunky's Travels reading genre - audit available genre and update in collaboration with pupils Core novel — North Lanarkshire pedagogy August-December 2025: Continue to ensure use of SLC Grammar & Punctuation across all stages.	IDL Literacy tracker NGRT Digital GL Assessments (May 2026) Pupil survey – pre and post Staff survey – pre and post Analysis of data/impact throughout the session		

Analysis of MALT data indicates that most pupils of pupils need support with problem solving and developing their understanding of mathematical vocabulary.	Sumdog Numeracy & Mathematics MALT assessments Numeracy & Maths resources – possibly new TJ Textbooks	By May 2026 most pupils will have an increased understanding of problemsolving strategies and applied applications and be able to apply these in given problems. By May 2026 most staff will have an increased understanding of problemsolving strategies and SLC Maths Mastery pedagogy.	Ensure use of T4W Model text discussions/pedagogy to elicit knowledge and understanding of skills January – June 2026 Staff CLPL – Closing the Vocabulary Gap / Word Aware Audit Reading genre available to all stages— nonfiction, poetry, play scripts and fiction See Priority 1	Pre and Post pupil surveys Pre and post staff surveys Standardised assessment data (analysis) Class visits and professional dialogue
Consultation with stakeholders, along with increased engagement levels evidenced when learning outdoors,		Planning for Outdoor Learning and IDL linked to SLC Skills Framework and Four Capacities Children will be able to review their skills progress and identify their next steps with focus through Outdoor Learning	Action Plan completed and worked on August – February Staff to continue to plan IDL topic and Outdoor Learning linked to SLC skills framework	Class visits and professional dialogue. Evaluation of planning/tracking material. Results of Leuven scale of engagement focus group.

have shown that our	Build capacity and confidence in	Staff to continue to refer to skills	Results from staff confidence	
learners are eager to	outdoor learning with staff	as part of their introduction and	survey.	
have more outdoor		plenary to lessons to review skills		
learning opportunities.	Outdoor learning is embedded			
rearring opportunities.	across the four contexts of	Children use their knowledge of		
	learning	the language of skills to identify		
		personal skills targets particularly		
	Outdoor learning provides high	linked to outdoor learning		
	quality, engaging learning			
	experiences, linked to the SLC	March 2026- Review impact of		
	skills framework	action plan		
		Chaff and that and a substantian		
	Build children's confidence in	Staff audit of outdoor learning		
	their own skills	Sharing good practice/school		
		visits		
	Increase children's physical,	VISICS		
	social and emotional wellbeing	Pupil and parent Outdoor		
	Danish will be a substant	Learning Google form to set		
	Parents will have an increased awareness of Outdoor Learning	baseline and repeated in March		
	and how it is used in school	2024 to measure impact		
	and now it is used in school	•		
		Action Plan created by staff Aug-		
		Dec		
		Staff identify outdoor learning		
		opportunities linked to the SLC		
		Skills Framework across the Four		
		Contexts of Learning		
		Staff/shildren create an autdan		
		Staff/children create an outdoor		
		learning Padlet to be shared with parents March 2024		
		parents ivial cir 2024		

TOTAL SPEND (incl carry forward) £					
Progress and Impac	t	Next Step(s) and rationale to	inform PEF spend session 2026	5/2027.	

Maintenance Agenda

Key actions	Relevant stakeholder involvement	Timeline for completion
Attachment pledge:	Class Teacher/s	November 2025
See the Whole Person	Support Staff	
	Head Teacher	
Building Racial Literacy:	Class Teacher/s	June 2026
Learning Community plan – novel study	Support Staff	
Staff awareness and understanding of anti-racism/racial literacy	Head Teacher	
Staff to acknowledge anti-racism when planning		
Digital Literacy:	Class Teacher/s	June 2026
Google Educator Level 1 / 2	Support Staff	
	Head Teacher	
Literacy – Writing	Class Teacher/s	June 2026
Continue to embed T4W methodology across P1-7 with new staff	Support Staff	
Track writing progress using IOS proforma	Head Teacher	
Continue to use hooks to engage writer's		
Handwriting – consistent approach		
Feedback – agree whole staff approach and implement for consistency		
Pedagogy – Success Criteria	Class Teacher/s	August-June 2026
Continuing to ensure success criteria is linked to steps for success	Support Staff	· ·
Begin to co-create success criteria with staff/pupils	Head Teacher	
SLC Skills Framework:	Class Teacher/s	June 2026
Track skills within Learning Journals – pupils to comment on skills they have used	Support Staff	
	Head Teacher	
Pupil Voice:	Class Teacher/s	August-June 2026
Continue with Pupil Parliament committee's	Support Staff	•
	Head Teacher	

Young Leaders of Learning – Use HGIOURS with pupils regularly		
UNCRC:	Class Teacher/s	August 2025-June 2026
Assembly calendar	Support Staff	August 2025-Julie 2020
Displays linked to UNCRC	Head Teacher	
Right of the Month shared with parents via Sway		
CoSD:	Class Teacher/s	October 2025
Relaunch Sharing Shed with parents and local community	Support Staff	
Funding grants to support – transport, residential costs, trips, masterclass activities	Head Teacher	

Evaluation of Quality Indicators

School: Leadhills PS Month: June Year: 2025

	School	Nursery
Quality Indicator	Self-Evaluation	Self-Evaluation
1.3 Leadership of change	Very Good	Choose an item.
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Very Good	Choose an item.
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very Good	Choose an item.
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement Securing children's progress	Very Good	Choose an item.