



School Handbook 2025 – 2026



Lesmahagow High School "Together we Learn; Together we Achieve; Together we Succeed"

Commitment | Ambition | Resilience | Equity

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If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1023 Email: <u>education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u>.

1. Introduction by the Head Teacher

Welcome to our school handbook. My name is Barbara Lee and I am the Head Teacher. I hope our handbook provides you with helpful information about our school.

The purpose of this handbook is:

- to communicate the ethos of Lesmahagow High School;
- to offer you a practical resource which reassures you and helps you to prepare your child for secondary education;
- to give you a wide range of information about how the school operates;
- to give you an insight into what happens in the school and the opportunities available; and
- to encourage and facilitate partnership between us.

The information should be clearly signposted and you can access additional information through the links listed at the end. Much of the information is provided by South Lanarkshire Council, indicated by a star *. If there is any other information you need, please email me at <u>headteacher@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk</u> or phone me at 01555 896010.



Senior Pupil Leadership Team 2024-25: Emma, Keira, Rory, Deacon, Steven, Abigail, Leela, Beau, Lily, Kayla, Olivia, Harry, Callum, Dylan, Alex and Neve.

Our school

Lesmahagow High School is a 6-year comprehensive school serving the villages of Lesmahagow, Auchenheath, Blackwood, Coalburn, Hawksland, Kirkmuirhill and the areas surrounding each village. The school roll is 644 pupils (August 2024). A small school offers many advantages; one of the most important is that pupils are well known as individuals by staff, and they feel very much part of the school community.

The school was created close to the original school site and opened in August 2007. The school has a big "Street" area, bright wide corridors and two teaching blocks with high quality teaching facilities. This provides a modern learning environment for all subject areas. We are able to share many of the leisure facilities with the community.



S1, August 2024

Our focus

Our focus is on people and on building strong relationships between pupils, staff, and parents. The quality of relationships between staff and pupils is crucial if all pupils are to blossom within the school. We have highly motivated, dedicated, and professional staff who work hard at creating an aspirational, caring, inclusive, welcoming atmosphere. Learning and teaching is our first priority, and we are committed to providing a high-quality experience for all learners. Attainment and achievement are crucial features of school life, and we strive to enable all pupils to achieve their full potential, so they are prepared to succeed in the world beyond school.

We provide a caring and supportive environment where young people are listened to and feel successful, safe, and happy.

An extensive range of extra-curricular activities are available and the school is particularly strong in charity work, sporting activities, music, art, drama and providing a range of trips out of school.



Our Vision, Values, Standards and Expectations

Our Vision, Values, Standards and Expectations have been reviewed and refreshed in 2024, in consultation with our whole school community. Our shared values are **Commitment, Ambition, Resilience and Equity**. These values permeate all aspects of our school, and the ethos within. Our vision – **Together we Learn; Together we Achieve; Together we Succeed** - for Lesmahagow High cannot be achieved without cooperation from our parents and carers. Our Standards and Expectations are: **Be Prepared; Be Engaged; Be Respectful**. If there is anything that you want to know, or if you have any concerns or suggestions about how we may improve, please contact me at the school or get involved with our supportive and enthusiastic Parent Council. Further details can be found within this handbook.

We are all aware of the tremendous potential of our school and the people within it. Through the creation of positive partnerships with pupils, parents and staff, it is hoped that we shall all be proud to be associated with Lesmahagow High School.

Barbara Lee, Head Teacher

South Lanarkshire Council

South Lanarkshire Council is the fifth largest authority in Scotland. It covers the following main areas; Clydesdale in the south which features extensive rural areas, Cambuslang, Rutherglen, Blantyre and Uddingston to the north as well as the towns of East Kilbride and Hamilton.

The Council's Plan Connect sets out the Council's vision which is, "to improve the quality of life for all within South Lanarkshire".

For Education Resources this means delivering services of the highest quality as well as striving to narrow the gap. It is about continually improving the services for everyone at the same time as giving priority to children, young people, families and communities in most need. The priorities for schools and services are set out in the Education Resources Plan which confirms the commitment to provide better learning opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.



2. About our school

Lesmahagow High School

Strathaven Road

LESMAHAGOW

ML11 OFS

Phone	01555 896010
Fax	01555 896011
E-mail address	office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk
Website	www.lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk
Twitter	@LesmahagowHigh

Lesmahagow High School is a non-denominational, co-educational secondary school covering years one to six. We do not provide teaching in Gaelic. The current school roll is 644 (August 2024).





Lesmahagow High School

Senior Management Team (2025-26)





Alastair Gray DHT (S1 and S4)

Lesley-Anne <u>Cimmino</u> DHT (S2 and S5)



Barbara Lee Head Teacher



Pamela Docherty DHT (S3 and IST)



David Robertson DHT (S6 and Pupil Support)

There are currently 64.2 full time equivalent members of teaching staff.

Languages Faculty		
Miss L Parsons	Faculty Head	
Mr J Mallaghan	Principal Teacher Pupil Support	
Mrs Cimmino	Depute Head Teacher	
Mrs L Quinn	Teacher of English	
Mrs K Fair	Teacher of English	
Mrs K De Fazio	Teacher of English	
Mrs Wright	Principal Teacher of Pupil Support	
Mrs C Travis	Principal Teacher of Support for	
	Learning and Teacher of Inclusion	
Ms L McMillan	Teacher of English	
Mrs Anderson	Teacher of English & Inclusion	
Ms E Tully	Teacher of Modern Languages	
Miss L Stewart	Teacher of Modern Languages	
Ms K Connell	Teacher of Modern Languages	
Express	ive Arts Faculty	
Mrs C Robertson Cheyne	Faculty Head	
Mr S Stirling	Teacher of Music	
Miss S Kilday	Teacher of Music	
Miss L Clark	Teacher of Drama	
Miss S Kelly	Teacher of Drama	
Ms A Donaldson	Teacher of Drama	
Mr G Sharp	Teacher of Art & Design	

Mrs R Ritchie	Acting Faculty Head	
Mrs L Simpson	Teacher of Art & Design	
Ms P Dunn	Teacher of Art and Design	
Γ	Mathematics Faculty	
Mrs A Mullen	Faculty Head	
Mr K Prentice	Teacher of Mathematics	
Mr I Wallace	Teacher of Mathematics	
Miss M Melvin	Teacher of Mathematics	
Mr C Campbell	Teacher of Mathematics	
Mrs N McCormack	Teacher of Mathematics	
Hea	Ith & Wellbeing Faculty	
Mr N Ross	Faculty Head	
Mrs B Winning	Teacher of Physical Education	
Mr A Hill	Teacher of Physical Education	
Ms R Wardrope	Teacher of Physical Education	
Ms N McGuire	Teacher of Physical Education	
Mr J Hickson	Teacher of Physical Education & Inclusion	
Mr Robertson	Depute Head Teacher	
Mrs S Miller	Teacher of Home Economics	
Mrs U Beveridge	Teacher of Home Economics	
Ms E Ferguson	Teacher of Home Economics	
	Humanities Faculty	
Mrs G Smith	Faculty Head	
Mr M Smith	Teacher of History	
Ms B Lee	Head Teacher	
Mr A Gray	Depute Head Teacher	
Miss S Muldoon	Teacher of Geography	
Miss S Leckenby	Teacher of Geography	
Ms J Carnie	Teacher of Geography	
Ms L Gray	Teacher of Geography	
Mr A Rae	Teacher of History & Modern Studies	
Ms A Gordon	Teacher of History & Modern Studies	
Mr Rivans	Teacher of History & Inclusion	
Miss A Fletcher	Principal Teacher of Pupil Support	
Mr E Gardner	Teacher of RMPS	
Technolog	gies & Digital Literacy Faculty	
Mr Marc Campbell	Faculty Head	
Mrs L Forbes	Teacher of Computing Science	
Mr L McMillan	Teacher of Business Studies	

Mr F McMenemy	Teacher of Technical	
Mr G Wilson	Teacher of Technical	
Mrs D Queen	Teacher of Technical	
Scie	ence Faculty	
Mrs C McGuire	Faculty Head	
Miss I Iqbal	Principal Teacher of Pupil Support (Acting)	
Miss N Forbes	Teacher of Biology	
Dr E Brand	Teacher of Chemistry	
Mrs J Will	Teacher of Chemistry	
Mr G Milne	Teacher of Physics	
Mr T Anderson	Teacher of Inclusion, Physics & Maths	
Pupil	Support Team	
Mr Mallaghan	Principal Teacher of Kerse House	
Miss A Fletcher	Principal Teacher of Milton House	
Mrs L Wright	Principal Teacher of Logan House	
Miss I Iqbal	Principal Teacher of Pupil Support (Acting)	
Support f	or Learning Team	
Mrs M Storry	Principal Teacher Support for Learning	
Mrs C Travis	Principal Teacher Support for Learning	
Inclusio	n Support Team	
Mrs R Anderson	Principal Teacher of Inclusion	
Mr S Rivans	Teacher of Inclusion and History	
Mr T Anderson	Teacher of Inclusion, Physics and Maths	
Ms B Geurtzen	Teacher of Inclusion	
Ms E Smith	Teacher of Inclusion	
Ms E Smith Mrs K Dickson	Teacher of Inclusion Teacher of Inclusion	
Mrs K Dickson		
Mrs K Dickson	Teacher of Inclusion	
Mrs K Dickson Su	Teacher of Inclusion pport Team	
Mrs K Dickson Suj Mrs L Yule	Teacher of Inclusionpport TeamSupport Services Coordinator	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell	Teacher of Inclusion pport Team Support Services Coordinator Office Manager	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Suj Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes Mrs B McFarlane	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support AssistantSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes Mrs B McFarlane Mrs L Speirs	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes Mrs B McFarlane Mrs L Speirs Mrs T Baillie	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Su Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes Mrs B McFarlane Mrs L Speirs Mrs T Baillie Mrs T McCallum	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	
Mrs K Dickson Sul Mrs L Yule Mrs M Mitchell Mrs L Forrest Mrs A Barnes Mrs B McFarlane Mrs L Speirs Mrs T Baillie Mrs T McCallum Mrs J Goulding	Teacher of Inclusionport TeamSupport Services CoordinatorOffice ManagerOffice ManagerSchool Support AssistantSchool Support Assistant	

Mr M Hobday	School Support Assistant	
Mrs S MacLeod	School Support Assistant	
Ms E Douglas	School Support Assistant	
Mrs C Barr	School Support Assistant	
Ms C Scott	School Support Assistant	
Ms C Thomson	School Support Assistant	
Mrs S Moon	School Support Assistant	
Mrs J Thomson	School Librarian	
1	Fechnicians	
Mrs J Grierson	Senior Technician	
Mr D Dobb	AV Technician	
Mr N Campbell	Technical Technician	
Janitoria	al & Catering Team	
Mrs J Wardrop	Janitor	
Mrs L Miller	Cleaning/Caretaker	
Mrs G Dyet	Catering	
Mrs P Maxwell	Day Cleaner	
Mr W Milne	Facilities Technician, Dalkia	
Mr R Cunningham	Facilities Technician, Dalkia	
Mr R Craig	Facilities Technician, Dalkia	
Mr R Currie/Mr L Wilson/ Mr S McNally	Mobile Facilities Technician, Dalkia	

Contacting our school

The school can be contacted by phone or by email. You can decide to discuss your concerns with us either in person, or over the phone or via email – whatever suits you best and makes you most comfortable.

The best person to contact is your child's Pupil Support Teacher, who is a Principal Teacher and in charge of a House group. This teacher has a particular responsibility for your child and will listen to your concerns, support you and your child, and/or advise you about what to do next. Most concerns can be settled by the PT Pupil Support. If your concern is about a particular subject, the PT Pupil Support will help you get in touch with the Principal Teacher in charge of that subject.

If your concern is not able to be resolved, the PT Pupil Support will put you in contact with the Depute Head Teacher who is in charge of your child's House. The DHT will offer further support and keep the Head Teacher informed about your concern. You may bring your concerns eventually to the Head Teacher, who will do all he can to help you. If you continue to be concerned, you will be referred to South Lanarkshire Council.

Year	Depute Head Teacher	House	PT Pupil Support
S1 & S4	Mr Gray	Kerse	Mr Mallaghan
S2 & S5	Mrs Cimmino	Logan	Mrs Wright
S3 & IST	Mrs Docherty	Milton	Ms Fletcher
S6 & Pupil	Mr Robertson	Employability	Ms I Iqbal
Support			

Our school is divided into 3 Houses: Kerse, Logan and Milton. Your child will be placed into a House when they enrol and stay in that House until they leave school. We try to ensure pupils are allocated to the same House as their brothers and/or sisters although this is not always practical or possible. The aim is to create a supportive, caring ethos within Houses and to build close relationships with those at home.

How to make a complaint

If you wish to make a complaint about any aspect of the school, please contact the school and ask to speak to the Depute Head Teacher in charge of your child's year group – Mr Gray for S1 and S4, Mrs Cimmino for S2 & S5, Mrs Docherty for S3 and IST and Mr Robertson for S6. A complaints form will be completed including your details and a summary of your complaint. This form is passed to the Head Teacher who will investigate your complaint. Either the Head Teacher or the Depute Head Teacher will report back to you within an agreed time or will contact you to explain any delay. You may write a letter of complaint or email the school if you prefer. The procedure, thereafter, remains the same.

How children are allocated a place in the school

Children who live within the catchment areas of our associated primary schools are normally offered a place in the school. Teachers from our school work alongside teachers from the primary schools and ensure that all necessary forms are completed in plenty of time and we share all types of information to help pupils make a smooth start at secondary school. We offer a very good transition programme where pupils from Primary 7 come to the school and start to build relationships, gain some knowledge about the school and meet new classmates. If you do not live within the catchment area, or are new to the area and wish to enrol your child, just phone us. One of the office staff will put you in touch with the Depute Head Teacher who will arrange to meet with you and take you through the process. If you live outside the catchment area and an application for a 'placing request' is made then school transport is not provided. If you move out with the catchment area a 'request to remain form' must be completed. If you require further information, please contact Education Support Services on 0303 123 1023.

We hold an information evening for the parents of P7 pupils. This gives you an opportunity to meet the Senior Management Team, Pupil Support and Support for Learning team as well as a range of teachers and pupils; to ask questions and to be given lots of information about the school and what to expect.

If you wish an individual meeting and a walk around the school, again please phone and ask for this to be arranged, in accordance with the Covid-19 guidance in section 2.

Young people need to feel happy and safe if they are to be successful in their learning so that is our first aim with our new pupils.

3. Parental involvement*

Parental Involvement

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 offers guidance for education authorities, Parent Councils, and others.

Parentzone <u>Parentzone Scotland</u> | <u>Education Scotland</u> provides resources for parents and Parent Councils, and the National Parent Forum for Scotland offers additional information at <u>www.npfs.org.uk</u>

Parental Involvement/Parent Council

South Lanarkshire Council values parents as partners in their child's education and has published a strategy called 'Making a difference – working together to support children's learning', available on the Council's website:

<u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13457/parents_as_partners_</u> <u>strategy_2019</u>

The Importance of Parental Involvement

- Parents, carers, and family members are the most significant influences on children's lives.
- Children spend only 15% of their time in school between the ages of 5 and 16.
- Research shows that parental involvement in learning leads to better outcomes at school and in life.

Our Aims for Parents/Carers

- To be welcomed and involved in the life of the school.
- To be fully informed about their child's learning.
- To be encouraged to contribute actively to their child's learning.
- To be able to support learning at home.
- To be encouraged to express views and participate in discussions on education-related issues.

Parent Forum and Parent Council

- Every parent with a child at school is automatically a member of the parent forum.
- The Parent Council is a formal group with a constitution that acts as the Parent Voice of the school.

Getting Involved

Our Parent Council Chairperson is Mrs Jill Pate and Secretary is Mrs Michelle Wailes. They can be contacted by emailing <u>office@lesmahagow.s-lanark.sch.uk</u> and marking the subject Parent Council. Emails will be transferred to the Parent Council unopened.

 To learn more about becoming a parent helper or joining the Parent Council and/or Parent Teacher Association, contact the school or visit our website.

A guide on the role of a Parent Council, created by parents for parents, is available via this link <u>Parent Councils</u>

Parentzone Scotland

- A unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, offering information from early years to beyond school.
- Provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland and practical advice to support children's learning at home.
- Offers more detailed information on additional support needs
- Explains how parents can get involved in their child's school and education.
- Includes details about schools, performance data for school leavers from S4-S6, and links to national, local authority, and school-level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels.



Communication

We want to have direct, easy and open communication with all parents. Communication between school and home is very important. There are a wide range of reasons for communicating so we use various methods to ensure that we keep in touch with you. The range of methods we use include letters, phone calls, text messages, emails, leaflets and reports. We are up-dating our website and you will be able to access information and news that way too. I send out about 4 or 5 newsletters to parents every session which are also placed on the website. We have curriculum evenings, showcase events and concerts at various times through the session. You can communicate with us by phoning, arranging to come in to meet the person you need to talk to, emailing, writing a letter or through writing a note in your child's homework planner. If we cannot communicate with you immediately, we shall try to respond as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours. Urgent information – for example if the school cannot open due to inclement weather – is announced via local radio stations and text messages, if we can get into the school that is!

4. School Ethos

Our values are **commitment, ambition, resilience and equity**. We have received our Recognition of Commitment (RoC) from UNICEF and are now working towards becoming a *Rights Respecting School*. These values permeate all aspects of our school within a caring ethos. This ethos supports the wellbeing of everyone within the community, with an emphasis on respect for others as well as for self. We are very aspirational for our pupils and strive to help them attain and achieve at the highest possible level and extend this ambition to every individual pupil no matter their background or learning need. We provide an ethos where young people thrive; and we know that they thrive when their teachers, parents/carers and pupils themselves all work together with the same vision in mind. It is essential in the 21st century that we equip young people with skills for learning, life and work if they are to be resilient, successful and happy in life so we promote these skills through learning and teaching, through the curriculum and through our achievement agenda.



We work closely with other agencies to ensure that we get it right for every child. We have excellent links with organisations such Healthy Valleys, Integrated Children's Services, Skills Development Scotland (formerly the Careers Service), local businesses and colleges and universities. Our local community links continue to strengthen: local businesses support careers events and enterprise activities; some sponsor our football teams; our band and choir often provide entertainment for local groups; senior pupils undertake community involvement and we have sports ambassadors who build fitness capacity within their own communities.



Pupil Voice

We work in partnership with pupils and appreciate that good partners listen to each other. Through the year, we ask pupils for their views and opinions. Departments often ask pupils to evaluate units of work; Pupil Support teachers frequently involve pupils in discussions about a range of issues; and we have questionnaires and surveys that gather views. A vital part of ensuring that pupils have a voice is the Pupil Council. Every class chooses a representative who sits on the Pupil Council for a school year attending meetings, discussing issues raised by pupils and communicating with their classmates.



Pupil Leadership Team and Prefect System

This year the school introduced a Junior Pupil Leadership team in addition to our Senior Pupil Leadership team. Our Junior Pupil Leadership team consists of two Captains and three Vice Captains. Our Senior Pupil Leadership team consists of two School Captains, two Vice School Captains, an Equity and Inclusion Captain and two Health and Wellbeing Captains. Both teams consist of pupils who nominated themselves to be considered for these roles.

To be part of the Senior Pupil Leadership team, pupils are nominated and deliver a speech to S6 pupils and staff. S6 pupils and teachers then vote for their preferred candidates. Following this they are interviewed by a panel including a previous School Captain. Performance at the interview and the results of the vote are taken in to account and the Senior Pupil Leadership Team are duly elected. To be part of the Junior Pupil Leadership team, pupils complete an application form and an interview.

They represent the school at various events, help teachers and pupils in all sorts of ways and act as role models for younger pupils. Prefects from S5 and S6 are chosen by the Senior Management Team and the Pupil Support Team. These are pupils who have shown leadership skills and, again, have shown that they are excellent role models.



Callum, Olivia, Abigail, Leela, Beau, Lily, Kayla and Keira

Promoting Positive Relationships

It is the responsibility of senior staff to ensure that staff, parents and pupils are involved in the creation of a positive school ethos that encourages good behaviour. Equally, the school, whilst promoting positive behaviour, must support young people should unacceptable behaviour or bullying occur. Parents have a significant role to play so that we can work in partnership where everyone knows what is expected of them in trying to change the behaviour and attitudes that contribute to bullying behaviour.

Our approach is to create an environment where better behaviour will encourage better learning; an environment where everyone can work together, be safe and enjoy learning. Incidents of bullying should be reported to the school immediately so that each alleged incident can be investigated and logged. Together we can work towards creating a safer school for children and staff.

In addition, a guideline (Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour) has been produced to support all teaching and support staff and inform them of their roles and responsibilities when dealing with the small number of young people who display challenging behaviour. Early identification is crucial so that intervention can be provided to support pupils and help them address their issues and concerns. Staff training is provided to help develop the skills needed to respond to, and manage, challenging behaviour. A wide range of appropriate staff development opportunities has been developed for this purpose.

The school works hard to promote positive behaviour. Over the last few years, a merit/demerit initiative has been introduced which sets out to recognise and reward pupils who are hardworking and reflect the values of the school. Teachers can now award a merit for consistent effort, positive behaviour, to reward a specific piece of work or homework or for citizenship within the classroom. These merits are recorded and pupils are invited to participate in regular reward events, such as cinema mornings, trips, raffles, and being issued with praise letters and certificates. As well as this, teachers can give pupils demerits for poor effort, disruptive behaviour, and non-completion of homework which limit a pupil's opportunity to participate in rewards. Parents are regularly updated with merit/demerit totals to allow them to encourage self-reflection and self-improvement in the pupils. The school feels it is important to keep the focus on and recognise positive behaviour and adopt a proactive, not reactive, attitude to the negative.

As part of our positive behaviour strategies, staff use various approaches to engage pupils in their learning and teaching. When a pupil fails to follow the teacher's instructions or disrupts either their own learning, or the learning of others, a system of sanctions may be used. Each of these sanctions is designed to give the pupil opportunities to amend their behaviour and allow them to engage with the lesson.

These include:

• Verbal warning – to alert the pupil of the inappropriate behaviour

- Asked to step outside class to allow the pupil to reflect on the behaviour and if necessary calm down
- Demerit or lunchtime detention issued
- Removal from a particular class activity

Lesmahagow High School does not issue punishment exercises. When a pupil misbehaves in class the teacher may issue the pupil with an Incident Reporting Card which gives a description of the incident. We would ask you to discuss this with your child. There is a comment box, which you should complete with your child, to indicate the result of this discussion and the actions the child will take to amend the behaviour. This should be signed by a parent at home and returned to the teacher. By using this system both children and parents can play an active role in helping create a positive learning environment and engage in the learning process. This system is proving more successful in promoting positive behaviour than the previous system, not surprising as it was the pupils themselves who suggested that this was the best sanction for poor behaviour!

Occasionally some pupils fail to improve their behaviour even though the above opportunities have been provided. In these cases, the following sanctions may be used:

- Referral to Principal Teacher
- Department monitoring card
- Contact with home by Principal Teacher
- Temporary removal from class
- Meeting with parents
- Referral to Principal Teacher Pupil Support or Depute Head Teacher
- Whole school monitoring card
- Internal exclusion
- Exclusion from school

How else can parents help?

The best way you can help is through setting high standards of behaviour for your child and working in real partnership with the school.

• By helping your child come to school each day with all they require for the day's work ahead, including full PE kit when needed

- Checking your child's planner and assisting in the completion of homework tasks
- Ensuring they are always in full school uniform
- Encouraging and reminding your child that if they insist on bringing a mobile phone, it must be out of sight and switched off during all classes. (Please note that if a pupil's phone is on during class time he/she will be asked to give it to a member of staff and collect it at the end of the school day).

The school greatly appreciates the support parents give us in promoting a positive learning environment and recognise that you have the greatest influence on your child. We look forward to working with you as partners to ensure your child has a positive learning experience at Lesmahagow High School.

5. Attendance

Every effort should be made to ensure that your child attends school during term time. Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school. It is important for the school to work with parents/carers in encouraging children to attend school. All absences are required by law to be recorded. Absences will normally fall under two categories – authorised or unauthorised absence. In cases where your child is unable to attend school parents are asked to tell someone at the school – please phone us or let us know in writing. Please also give your child a note on his/her return to school, telling us the reason for absence.

The school uses a text messaging system (Group Call) when a child in S1-S6 is absent from school and no previous notification has been given to the school. The system sends a message to the main contact person to inform them that their child is not present in school.

To ensure the safety of all our pupils we require parents to contact the school between 8.15am and 9.00am if they know that their child will be absent from school that day and no previous notification has been given.

The school phone number is **01555 896010**.

If we do not receive any notification, a text message will be sent to the main contact number for your child.

If you receive a text message contact the school immediately to confirm the whereabouts of your child.

If your child stays off school without permission and without good reason this is called truancy.

Very occasionally a Group Call message is sent in error. We apologise should this occur but it is important that we chase up any pupils who appear to be absent. Should you ever receive a text message and you know your child is at school please contact us immediately so that we can confirm your child is safe and present in school.

It is very important that the school and families work together to ensure that pupils are in school and learning when they should be. It is especially important that we know our pupils are safe. Your contact phone numbers are not only used for absence but also to contact you if your child takes ill during the school day. It is vital that you inform us of any change to the following:

- Home phone number
- Mobile number
- Emergency contact details

Requests for your child to be absent from school to make an extended visit to relatives either in the UK or overseas must be made in writing to the head teacher, detailing the reason, destination and duration of absence and arrangements for their continuing education. On these occasions the pupil will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Emergency Information

We strive to keep the school open during term-time. However, there may be instances such as severe weather or power failures that could affect the school day. In such cases, we will inform you as soon as possible through text messages and our social media channels.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the event of severe weather like snow or heavy frost, if the school cannot open at the usual time, we will delay the start until 10 am. Notifications will be posted on social media and the council's website.

Communication

The Council's website, www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk, will provide updates on school closures or delays including further information about the next school day.

Parental Responsibilities

- Inform the school of any changes to your contact details.
- If unsure about the school's status, visit the website <u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> or email <u>education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u>.

Your Commitments

We ask that you:

- Support and encourage your child's learning.
- Respect and adhere to the school's policies.
- Respect school staff and support the school's commitment to your child's education.

The Council's website <u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> will be used to let you know if the school is closed or has a delayed start. Further information will be provided later in the day as to whether the school will be open as normal the next day.

Things we need you to do:

- It is important for parents/carers to let the school know of any change to your mobile/home telephone number and change of address.
- If for any reason, you are unsure if the school is open visit the website <u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> or email <u>education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u>

Your commitments

We ask that you:

- support and encourage your child's learning ask them what they have been doing.
- respect and adhere to the school's policies and guidance.

 accept your responsibility to respect staff who work in the school and for the school to be proactive in taking forward its commitment to care for and educate your child.

Family Holidays During Term Time

Please ensure your child attends school during term time and avoid holidays during this period as it disrupts education and reduces learning time. If a holiday during term time is unavoidable, inform the school in advance by letter.

Holidays during term time will be marked as unauthorised absences, except in exceptional circumstances where parents can demonstrate the inability to obtain leave during school holidays. Unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

Encouraging School Attendance

We believe that regular school attendance is key to raising attainment and achievement. It's a shared responsibility among parents/carers and the school to emphasise the importance of attending school.

For your convenience, school holiday dates and in-service dates can be found on the council's website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

6. The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence is the name given to the curriculum in Scotland for all children and young people aged 3-18. It is a forward-looking, coherent, flexible and enriched curriculum that provides young people with opportunities to engage with the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

The curriculum includes all of the experiences that are planned for children and young people to support the development of their skills, wherever they are being educated, for example in the family and community, pre-school centre, nursery and school. In secondary school setting the broad general education (BGE) will provide them with opportunities to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to life in

the 21st Century. The Senior Phase that follows on from the BGE will provide learners with the opportunity to achieve a wide range of qualifications to recognise their learning.



In taking this forward our school will work closely with South Lanarkshire Education Resources and other services to enable Curriculum for Excellence to be fully embedded, ensuring the best possible education for all children and young people. We wish you to feel confident that your child is encouraged and supported to develop their literacy, numeracy and other skills whilst they attend our school. The curricular areas for the Broad General Education are as follows:

- Expressive arts
- Languages and literacy
- Health and wellbeing
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Religious and moral education
- Science
- Social studies
- Technologies

In the Senior Phase (S4-6), learners are asked to personalise their learner journey and work towards achievement of relevant and appropriate qualifications (including National Qualifications).

If you want to know more about Curriculum for Excellence, please visit these websites: <u>Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (scotlandscurriculum.scot)</u>

Our learning and teaching activities are based on the outcomes and experiences in the guidelines that all schools have for Curriculum for Excellence.



Level Stage	
Early	The pre-school years and Primary 1 or later for some.
First	To the end of Primary 4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of Primary 7, but earlier or later for some.
Third and Fourth	S1 to S3, but earlier or later for some. The Fourth Level broadly equates to Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4. The Fourth Level experiences and outcomes are intended to provide possibilities for choice and young people's programmes will not include all of the Fourth Level outcomes.
	Secondary 1 to Secondary 3, but earlier for some the fourth level broadly equates to SCQF level 4.
Senior Phase	Secondary 4-6 and college or other means of study.

We offer a broad general education to all pupils in S1, S2 and give S3 pupils a certain amount of choice within each curricular area.





Examples of art and technical work

Information Technology

Every financial year, we aim to improve the IT resources within the school. At the moment, we have 5 classrooms each housing 20 computers for pupil use. Particular subjects like computing, graphic communication and business education use these classrooms extensively although the classrooms can be booked by other subject departments when they are available. We also have 3 classroom-in-a-box sets which contain 30 chromebooks each; these are situated in the Maths, English and Social Subjects corridors. In addition, there are 16 chromebooks in the library and 10 laptops based in the maths department. We have Smart Boards, ViewSonic screens, C-Touches or data projectors in all classrooms which teachers use to deliver high quality and interesting lessons.



Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Values (Religious Observance) *

Rights of Parents / Carers

Scottish Government Ministers consider that religious observance complements religious education and is an important contribution to pupils' development. It should also have a role in promoting the ethos of a school by bringing pupils together and creating a sense of community.

Time for Reflection – Our Mission Statement

We are committed to nurturing our young people in their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being through our curriculum, through our values and through learning and teaching. The aim is to help all pupils to grow and develop their own sense of themselves, to be confident in expressing their own beliefs and values, and to develop an understanding of and empathy towards others. Our commitment to this can be found in many aspects of school life: such as through assemblies; active religious observance; creating time for reflection and through religious and moral education, all of which provide opportunities for the school community to reflect on, develop and celebrate the shared values of our school.

Lesmahagow High School plays an important role in the life of the local community. As such, working with our Chaplaincy Team, we seek to include shared community values when delivering regular assemblies and services that sensitively engage, stimulate and benefit pupils in their individual beliefs and values, whether they are of a particular faith or none. We shall endeavour to ensure that the Chaplaincy Team represents a range of beliefs and viewpoints as required by Education Scotland.

Religious observance and time for reflection in Lesmahagow High School adopts an open and respectful approach and does not seek to compromise the beliefs of any member of the school community.

Equalities

Integral to this guidance is the principle of mutual respect. The diversity of belief and tradition provides an ideal context in which pupils can learn about, and so learn from, what is important in the lives of themselves and others. South Lanarkshire's guidance recognises and welcomes diversity and promotes respectful understanding.

Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.

7. Assessment and tracking progress

Assessment supports and reinforces quality learning and teaching and plays a central part in raising attainment and achievement. Teachers use their knowledge of pupils' work, check pupils' skill level, judge attributes and capabilities to assess pupil progress and set next steps. Pupils are involved in the assessment process showing how secure they are in their learning, displaying their knowledge and understanding and their developing skills to the teachers, to their peers and to themselves. Pupils play an important in agreeing their next steps in learning with their teachers. Teachers gather information and evidence about how pupils are progressing through:

- Observing learning practical investigations, art work, performance, discussions, question and answer sessions, quizzes, portfolios, jotter work, homework tasks, written work, multiple choice
- Checking knowledge and understanding
- Organising peer and self-assessment
- Marking and analysing end of unit tests

Departments retain information about how individual pupils are doing in different ways; some keep a folio of work, some keep marks registers with comments, some keep pieces of created work etc.

We want to share information with you on how your child's learning is progressing. We do this through three tracking reports. Subject departments and Pupil Support teachers monitor progress from year to year and track pupils' progress through the entire curriculum.

Teachers work together to ensure that agreed standards are set. Teachers across schools meet in subject sets to compare results and to check the validity of their assessments with each other. South Lanarkshire Council and the SQA

also provide opportunities for moderation exercises to ensure that standards are understood, shared and met.

8. Reporting

We will report to parents regularly so that you can see what your child is doing and how they are progressing. Part of this reporting process will include parents' meetings which offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child's progressing and how you can contact the school if you wish further information. The school will offer you an appointment time so that you can have a discussion about your child's education.

Reporting will help you to get to know more about the curriculum which each young person follows and will describe their strengths, achievements and areas for development so you know what encouragement and support you can give.

We welcome any comments or additional information from parents to help us provide the best possible education for your child.

9. Enrolments and Transitions

Enrolment

If your child currently attends a South Lanarkshire Council primary school, your local secondary school is determined by your permanent home address and your chosen denomination. We expect your child to transfer to your local secondary school in the same denomination.

Transition information will be issued by your child's current school by December of each year.

Secondary enrolment form

You should use the online secondary school enrolment form below if:

- you are new to the area and wish to enrol your child in your catchment secondary school
- you are moving house within South Lanarkshire and wish to move your child to the catchment secondary school for your new address

You should not use the secondary school enrolment form in the following circumstances:

- If you are staying at your current address and wish to move your child to a different secondary school. To do this you should make a placing request.
- If you move address within South Lanarkshire and wish your child to remain at their current secondary school. In this situation, you should complete a Request to Remain form at your child's school.
- You do not need to complete this form if your child is transferring to an SLC secondary school in August and currently attends an SLC primary school. Transition information will be issued by your child's current school by December of each year.

Enrol online

To enrol your child for school you should complete our online secondary school enrolment form below. You must identify the catchment school for your permanent home address by using the school catchment checker. This will give you information on both primary and secondary schools. The link to the online form will be given when you select your catchment school. It is only the parent the child ordinarily stays with who is authorised to register them. This includes the guardian or any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities. For more information see the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. If you have any difficulty in identifying your catchment school please email us at edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Submit your documents online

The online registration form will ask you to provide each child's full birth certificate and two pieces of recent official documentation both containing your permanent home address for example a utility bill, Council Tax statement, housing rent card, Child Benefit documentation. Proof of where the child lives may also be needed. Please note that a separate registration is required for each child therefore twins for example will require a registration each.

Transition

Pupils normally transfer from primary to secondary school between the ages of 11½ and 12½, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years

of secondary education. Arrangements are made by the school to transfer children to the associated secondary school as determined by their home address. Parents of P7 children will be informed of the transfer arrangements made for their child to attend secondary school.

We will also provide you with information at this time on events designed to support P7 children before they move on to secondary school.

Placing Requests

Normally children attend the school in their catchment area. Our associated primary schools are: Bent Primary, Blackwood Primary, Coalburn Primary, Milton Primary and Woodpark Primary. However, there are times when parents may wish their children to go to other schools. If you wish your child to go to another school then you may make what is known as a 'placing request'. If you live in South Lanarkshire and decide to submit a 'placing request', we are unable to reserve a place in your catchment school until the Council have made a decision on the 'placing request'. Please note if your 'placing request' application is unsuccessful and all places at your catchment school are filled you will be offered a place at the next nearest appropriate South Lanarkshire School.

Please note that if an application for a 'placing request' is successful then school transport is not provided.

Request to Remain

If you move out with your catchment primary school a 'request to remain form' must be completed. If you move out with your catchment primary, this may affect your right to transfer to the associated Secondary School. Please note the secondary school is determined by the pupil's permanent home address and chosen denomination. If you require further information, please contact Education Support Services on <u>edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> or 0303 123 1023.

Primary – Secondary Liaison

One of the main aims of the transition process is to get to know each individual Primary 7 pupil by gathering information which will help support the pupil when they come to Lesmahagow High School in August. To do this we engage with the key personnel in the pupil's life: parents, P7 teacher, Primary Head Teacher, and Support for Learning/Inclusion staff. It is about building relationships which will help raise awareness and reduce pupils' and parents' potential concerns.

A full programme of Primary/Secondary liaison runs throughout the year and regular meetings are held between our own teachers and those of our associated primaries. In the second term, members of the Senior Management Team, the Pupil Support Team and Support for Learning/Inclusion Staff visit all primary schools to meet with the P7 pupils and to discuss the needs of individual pupils with our primary colleagues.

There is typically a two day visit to the school in June for all incoming S1 pupils, where they meet and work with the pupils in their new S1 class and, through following their S1 timetable, meet their new teachers. They will also meet their Principal Teacher Pupil Support and Support for Learning/Inclusion staff, who will support them in all aspects of their education throughout their time at school. Our transition programme also includes other activities to enhance the transition for those who require it.

For pupils with additional support needs, there are further transition visits to allow pupils to get to know one another prior to starting in August. This enhanced programme is in recognition of the fact that pupils with ASN come from a wide range of primary schools and will benefit from enhanced support in making this significant change.

Joint working is continuing to take place with our associated primaries to enhance curriculum provision at transition through the ongoing implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). This focus includes an emphasis at transition in Literacy, Numeracy, Modern Languages and Science (with other areas to come on board at a later date).

We hope that all of the above activities help us to gain an understanding of individual pupils, their curricular experiences and individual progress and, therefore how best to meet their needs.

10. Support for Pupils*

Getting it right for every child.

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people. The aim is to help them to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential.

Most children and young people get all the help and support they need from their parent(s), wider family and community but sometimes, perhaps unexpectedly, they may need a bit of extra help. GIRFEC is a way for families to work in partnership with people who can support them, such as teachers.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, you can speak to the named person who will work with you to provide support and decide how to move forward. Your school will let you know who this is. It is likely to be the Head Teacher in a primary school and a principal teacher (pupil support) in Secondary.

More information can be found on: <u>www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright</u>

Support for All (Additional Support Needs)

Lesmahagow High School supports many pupils with a wide range of Additional Support Needs. This support was expanded further in August of 2020 when the school gained a specialist provision (Inclusion Support). The Inclusion Support Team is a growing provision which is flexible in its approach to meeting the needs of pupils. The Inclusion Support Team utilise a range of strategies across the curriculum to ensure all pupils have the same opportunities, experiences and entitlements as others within the school; these experiences are delivered in innovative and creative ways which engage, enthuse and motivate learners.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Acts 2004 and 2009 set out an integrated approach to the delivery of services and support for young people. There is a wide range of factors which may give rise to additional support needs. Such factors fall largely into the following four categories:

- Learning environment;
- Family circumstances;
- Disability or health need; and
- Social and emotional factors

It is important to recognise that a young person may have additional support needs arising from one, a combination, or indeed all of the above factors. Likewise, additional support needs can be prolonged or enduring or indeed short lived. Notably, pupils who are particularly able or talented also fall into the category of having identified additional support needs. Indeed, almost all learners may require some additional support at some point in the school career. The school actively plans to meet the wide range of needs learners have. The two main plans which exist to support this are:

• Additional Support Plan (ASP). This plan now includes individual targets alongside the inclusion of a designated section for pupils who are "looked after away from home". The ASP will detail the factors giving rise to additional support needs as well as detailing the young person's strengths and targets/ development needs.

• Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP). Where a CSP is required, it will have been recognised that the young person will require support from services out with Education. The premise for opening a CSP is that interventions/support are/is significant enough to require coordination. The CSP is a statutory document which is subject to regular monitoring and review. Currently, we have seven young people within the school who have a CSP.

Inclusion is at the heart of Scottish education and is central to ensuring that all young people are provided with every opportunity to achieve their full potential. Whilst Inclusion has always featured as a key aspect of comprehensive education, recent legislation aims to ensure that each local education authority and individual school has a responsibility for meeting the individual needs of each individual pupil. The emphasis is therefore firmly centred on meeting individual needs.

It is important to recognise that Additional Support Needs legislation does not sit in isolation within Scottish education. It is interlinked with other prominent policies and developments such as the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) agenda.

Should you have any concerns or queries relating to any aspect of Inclusion in general, or to the needs of your daughter/son in particular, staff working in this area will be glad to offer you any assistance.

Supporting young people's learning across the school is the shared responsibility of all staff, however there are specific designated staff who have a lead role in taking forward Inclusion and in supporting staff, teaching and non-teaching, to

ensure that all pupils are supported in accessing an appropriate curriculum and in meeting the wide range of pupils' needs across the school.

South Lanarkshire Education Resources have published a series of leaflets available which cover information for parents and carers about the Additional Support for Learning Acts.

In keeping with duties set out in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended) the guidance states that handbooks should specifically mention Enquire, the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning.

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government to provide information on the framework for supporting children who require additional support for learning and to encourage positive partnerships between families, schools and local authorities to ensure children get the right support.

Enquire – the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning through:

Phone Helpline: 0845 123 2303

Address: Enquire Children in Scotland Rosebery House 9 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

Email Enquiry service: info@enquire.org.uk Advice and information is also available at <u>www.enquire.org.uk</u>

Enquire provides a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets including the parents' guide to additional support for learning.

If you would like to order our leaflets, postcards or guides to share with parents and carers of pupils in your school, please contact us on <u>info@enquire.org.uk</u>

Attachment Strategy for Education Resources

Attachment – what we do to support children and young people

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people by creating emotionally supportive learning experiences in our nurseries and schools.

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy supports the action in the 'Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire's Children Services Plan 2021-23', following the launch of the Attachment Strategy in 2020, to provide staff training in Attachment and Trauma based practice.

What does it set out to do?

The aim of the strategy is to promote better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people and to ensure that all education practitioners understand the importance of attachment and how positive relationships can make a difference to outcomes.

How can I find out more?

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources have published a series of leaflets and posters for parents/carers which aim to share information on attachment theory and on how this can inform the ways in which we support children and young people.

These are available in schools and on the SLC Staff Learning Centre Sway accessible by teachers and staff.

Child Protection

All staff in educational establishments in South Lanarkshire Council receive an annual Child Protection update and are required to follow the advice and guidance contained within relevant Education Operating Procedures. They must also complete a mandatory Learn on Line Course "Child Protection in Education".

South Lanarkshire's children's services partnership works together to support children, young people and their families so that children grow up in communities where they are safe, healthy, active, achieving, respected, responsible and included, and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They are committed to continuously improve our services to ensure children, young people and their families get the right support at the right time. Sometimes children and young people need additional help to make sure that they are *"cared for and protected from abuse and harm in a safe environment in which their rights are respected"* (CPC South Lanarkshire Child Protection shared vision). The Child Protection Committee has the overarching responsibility to ensure that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people as effectively as possible.

All staff have a responsibility to report any suspicions that a child has been abused or is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. Robust procedures and guidance are in place to support education staff to: -

- be alert to signs that a child may be experiencing risks to their wellbeing,
- report concerns to the head of establishment or the child protection coordinator without delay.
- be actively engaged in support and protection and development of wellbeing.

If you would like more information, or have a concern of a child protection nature, please contact the head of the educational establishment which your child attends.

The Child Protection Committee's website has a range of useful information for parents/carers to help them keep their children safe. <u>www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk</u>

11. School Improvement

The main emphasis of the school's improvement agenda for the last few years has been on ensuring high quality learning and teaching for all young people.

Over the next 3 years, we continue to develop the curriculum and regularly evaluate the experiences of pupils through each stage. Pupils and parents will be involved in these evaluations and instrumental in helping us to improve attainment, achievement and health and wellbeing for all. **The School Improvement Plan** for 2023-26 concentrates on the following:

1. Health and Wellbeing

- 2. Inclusion, Equity and Equality
- 3. Raising Attainment and Leadership of Change
- 4. Skills for Learning, Life and Work
- 5. Sustainability

A full copy of the school improvement plan can be downloaded from the school website.

We offer a range of experiences to pupils that offer them the opportunity to achieve:

- Class Representative
- Pupil Council
- Rights Respecting Schools Group
- Outdoor education trips
- Theatre trips
- Various Trips London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Auchengillan
- Charity work
- Community involvement
- Classroom helpers
- Sports ambassadors
- Work experience
- Clubs and activities
- Various sports teams
- Inter-House events
- Duke of Edinburgh Award

12. School policies and practical information

School Meals

Healthy eating is something that the school supports and a range of meals are available at lunchtime that meet the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020.

The secondary school menu includes a range of options available from breakfast, mid-morning and lunchtime.

- A meal deal for £2.40 consisting of a choice of main meal served with two portions of vegetables/salad and seasonal fresh fruit selection
- A selection of Grab 'n' Go snacks that are individually priced including panini, pizzini and freshly prepared baguettes and sandwiches with selection of fillings
- "Beat the Queue" use our new Pre-order Fusion Mobile App where midmorning snacks and lunches can be ordered via mobile phone and pick it up during mid-morning and lunch break avoiding queues. See South Lanarkshire Council website for details on how to sign up.

Fresh drinking water is also available with all meals

NB School Meal prices are reviewed annually and may be subject to change

Adapted diets

If your child requires an adapted diet for medical reasons, please speak to the school office who will provide the request form for you to complete. In addition, if you have a halal or vegan diet request for your child please speak to the school office who will provide you with a request form.

*Free School Meals

Children of parents who receive the following benefits are entitled to a free lunchtime meal for their child

Income Support, Universal Credit (where your take home pay is less than £796 per month), Job Seeker's Allowance (income based), Employment and Support Allowance (income related), Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (where your gross annual income does not exceed £9552 as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs), Child Tax Credit Only (where your gross annual income does not exceed £19,995 as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs) or receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. (Please check current criteria with SLC website – there is auto enrolment)

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from us there is no need for you to apply online, we will use the information we hold to automatically award free school meals (P4 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

We would encourage parents of pupils who are in receipt of any of the above benefits to take up this opportunity of having a meal provided for their child when they are at school. All secondary schools operate a cashless school meals system which protects the anonymity of pupils entitled to a free school meal.

We encourage all pupils to remain in school at lunch times.

*Education Maintenance Allowance

EMA is available to young people between 16 and 19 years of age and is awarded depending on your household's gross taxable income and the number of other dependent children living with you.

The online application form and information is available from South Lanarkshire Council website <u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u>

If the online form is not an option, please contact your school office for assistance.

Clothing grant

In certain circumstances the Council provides support to parents/carers for the purchase of school wear.

Applications can be made online at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk. If you are required to submit evidence of your Tax Credit income is important that a copy of this evidence is attached to your online application. Should you require further information, or you are unable to submit an application online then please contact the helpline number **0303 123 1011** (option 5).

School uniform

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child(ren) to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. The wearing of a uniform helps staff and the pupils to distinguish

between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of the life of the school. Any proposals on the dress code and on what constitutes the school uniform will be the subject of discussion with the Parent Council and where appropriate consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in all schools such as:

- the wearing of football colours
- clothing with slogans that may cause offence (anti-religious, symbolism or political slogans)
- clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- clothing which can be deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety grounds such as shell suits, combat style clothing, dangling earrings, loose fitting clothes particularly in practical classes
- articles of clothing that could be deemed to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so
- Footwear that may be deemed to damage flooring.

Uniform for all pupils in Lesmahagow High School:

- White Shirt / Blouse (no black shirts)
- Lesmahagow High School Tie
- Plain black V-neck Jumper / Cardigan (without logos)
- Black Skirt / Trousers (no jeans/no leggings)
- Plain black footwear (including laces)
- School Blazer

Our school blazers can be ordered online at <u>www.scotcrestschool.co.uk</u>, at the Scotcrest shop in Hamilton and from ALJ Work and Leisurewear in Lanark.

Allergies

Many children in our schools have allergies, and it is crucial for parents to keep the school informed about these conditions.

Health Care Plans

- Allergies can manifest at any time with symptoms ranging from mild to severe.
- Children with moderate to severe allergies often have a Health Care Plan from the NHS, detailing symptoms and interventions.
- Parents must share this plan with the school and provide updates as necessary.

Mild Symptoms

• Even without a Health Care Plan, parents should regularly update the school on any new triggers, medications, or actions required.

Employee Training

- School staff need to know your child's symptoms, treatments, and actions required to prevent exposure and minimise the risk of reactions.
- Employees receive training on allergies and will consult with parents and the NHS for any additional specialist training needed.

Policy Adherence

In supporting children and young people with allergies, school staff will follow South Lanarkshire Council's Safe Systems of Work, risk assessment process, and national guidance on the administration of medicines.

Support for parent/carers

*Clothing grant

In certain circumstances the Council provides support to parents/carers for the purchase of school wear.

Application can be made online at <u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> If you are required to submit evidence of your Tax Credit income, it is important that a copy of this evidence is attached to your online application. Should you require further information or you are unable to submit an application online, then please contact the helpline number 0303 123 1011 (option 5).

School hours/holiday dates

The School Day

Our school day is different from our primary schools. From Monday to Thursday, pupils begin lessons at 8.40 every morning; have 7 periods of different subjects and finish at 3.35 pm.

Period Times – Mon-Thurs			Period Times – Friday		
	Start	Finish		Start	Finish
Tutor Time	8.40 am	8.50 am	Tutor Time	8.40 am	8.50 am
Period 1	8.50 am	9.40 am	Period 1	8.50 am	9.40 am
Period 2	9.40 am	10.30 am	Period 2	9.40 am	10.30 am
Senior Phase			Senior Phase		
Interval	10.30 am	10.45 am	Interval	10.30 am	10.50am
Period 3	10.45 am	11.35 am	Period 3	10.50 am	11.40 am
BGE			BGE		
Period 3	10.30 am	11.20 am	Period 3	10.50 am	11.20am
Interval	11.20 am	11.35 am	Interval	11.20 am	11.40 am
Period 4	11.35 am	12.25 pm	Period 4	11.40 am	12.30 pm
Period 5	12.25 pm	1.15 pm			
Lunch	1.15 pm	1.55 pm			
Period 6	1.55 pm	2.45 pm			
Period 7	2.45 pm	3.35 pm			

On Friday, school begins at 8.40 am with 4 periods and ends at 12.30 pm.

Enrolment

To enrol your child in the school, please contact the school office. Year Heads arrange enrolments, S1/S4: Mr Gray; S2/S5: Mrs Cimmino; and S3: Mrs Docherty and S6, Mr Robertson (Year Head responsibilities reflect session 2025-26). When enrolling your son/daughter please bring your child's full birth certificate and two letters showing proof of your address, e.g. utility bill, Council Tax letter, etc.

Transport*

School transport

South Lanarkshire Council's mainstream school transport policy provides transport for primary school pupils who live one mile or more from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route.

The calculation on the measurement of distance from home to school is measured using a Geographical Information System (GIS), which is used for all measurements to ensure that Council Policy is consistently applied across the Authority.

More details on school transport can be found at the following link including the online application form:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_informatio n/545/school_transport

If you consider your child to be eligible you should complete the online application form. Forms should be submitted before the end of March for those pupils starting school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made.

A privilege transport scheme is operated on mainstream school contracts where a pupil is not entitled to free school transport. Privilege Transport will only be provided where there is a space on an existing school contract and will be from and to designated pick-up and drop-off points. It will not be provided where a service bus is used on the school run. Any spare capacity will be allocated using agreed priorities.

A new application must be made each year.

More details on Privilege school transport may be found here: <u>https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_informatio</u> <u>n/784/privilege_transport_to_school</u>

Pick-up points

Where school transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point. Walking distance in total, including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction, will not exceed the authority's distance limit for school transport.

It should be noted that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while travelling in and alighting from the vehicle. Misbehaviour can result in your child losing the right to school transport.

Parents are asked to note that South Lanarkshire Council does not provide transport for those pupils who attend school via a placing request.

Mainstream School Transport contact details: e-mail: <u>school transport@southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u> tel: 0303 123 1023

South Lanarkshire Council's mainstream school transport policy provides transport for secondary school pupils who live three miles or more from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route.

Insurance for Pupils' Personal Effects

South Lanarkshire Council has noted an increase in claims for loss or damage to pupils' clothing and personal effects. Please be aware of the Council's insurance policy regarding pupils' personal items:

Theft/Loss of Personal Effects

- The Council is not responsible for the loss or theft of pupils' personal items, such as mobile phones or tablets. These items are brought to school at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- To prevent loss, please avoid bringing valuable or unnecessarily expensive items to school.
- Staff members are instructed not to take custody of any personal items.
- This policy also applies to musical instruments and other equipment used for school activities. If such items are left at school, it is at the pupil's and parents' own risk.

• For valuable items like musical instruments, parents should ensure they are covered by their own household insurance.

Damage to Clothing

• The Council is only liable for damage to pupils' clothing if it is caused by the negligence of the Council or its employees. Claims for other reasons will not be accepted by the Council's insurers.

Promoting positive behaviour

It is the responsibility of staff within the school to ensure that parent council members, parents and pupils are involved in the creation of a positive school ethos that encourages good behaviour. Equally, the school whilst trying to promote positive behaviour must support young people should incidents or bullying occur. Parents have a significant role to play in working with the school so that teachers, parents and pupils know what is expected of them in trying to change the behaviour and attitudes that contribute to bullying behaviour.

Our approach is to create an environment where better behaviour will encourage better learning. The school, along with the support of parents, can work together to create a learning environment which young people can enjoy and feel safe.

Incidents of bullying should be reported to the school immediately so that each alleged incident can be looked at. Together we can work towards creating a safer school for children and staff.

In addition, a guideline (Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour) has been produced to support all teaching and support staff and inform them of their roles and responsibilities in respect of dealing with the small number of children and young people who display challenging behaviour. Early identification is crucial so that intervention can be provided to support children and young people to help them address their issues and concerns. Staff training is provided to help develop the skills needed to respond to and manage challenging behaviour. A wide range of appropriate staff development opportunities has been developed for this purpose.

13. Foundation Apprenticeships

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a new nationally recognised qualification, which has been designed to provide learners with knowledge and skills, relevant to occupations in thriving industry sectors, such as engineering/civil engineering, social & health care, creative design & media, finance/ accountancy/ business, scientific technologies, ICT hardware/ software and food & drink technologies. The SCQF Level 6 courses combine classroom and work- based learning delivered in partnership with employers and specialist learning providers or colleges. Foundation Apprenticeships are the same level as Higher qualifications and can be used as entry requirements for Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships, college and university courses. Pupils gain a valuable insight into the workplace by attending work placements during the Foundation Apprenticeship.

Senior phase pupils can participate in Foundation Apprenticeships as part of their S4-S6 curriculum over one or two years. Available options have been agreed on a local basis.

More details can be found at:

https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundationapprenticeships/

General Data Protection Regulation as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)

Information on pupils, parents and guardians is held by the school to enable the teaching, registration and assessment of pupils as well as associated administrative duties. The information is stored and used as per the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 with South Lanarkshire Council defined as the data controller. The Council have established a data protection policy that applies to all of its schools. For more information please contact the school.

Education Resources has also prepared a privacy notice (below) which sets out how we will deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority. For more information please contact the school

Privacy Notice

Introduction

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we have produced this privacy notice to inform you how we deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority.

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver effective education services to children, young people and adult learners in South Lanarkshire. In order to do this we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

Using your personal information

The Council is a "controller" of the personal information you provide when enrolling for a nursery or school, applying for an education service or participating in groups or activities provided by Education Resources.

Information we collect from you about you and your child at enrolment

When you enrol for a nursery or school, we ask for the following information:

• parent/carer contact details (names, address, phone, email);

- the child's name, date of birth, gender and address;
- information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion and ethnicity;
- any information you may wish to provide

In line with the data protection policy we have produced this privacy notice to inform you how we deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority.

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver effective education services to children, young people and adult learners in South Lanarkshire. In order to do this we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

Using your personal information

The Council is a "controller" of the personal information you provide when enrolling for a nursery or school, applying for an education service or participating in groups or activities provided by Education Resources.

Information we collect from you about you and your child at enrolment

When you enrol for a nursery or school, we ask for the following information:

- parent/carer contact details (name, address, phone, email)
- the child's name, date of birth, gender and address
- information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion and ethnicity
- any information you may wish to provide about family circumstances.

Information we collect at other times

We will also collect information at other times such as when you apply for a benefit, request a service or other support. We will provide an additional privacy notice at these times.

• If you apply for an education service or benefit, such as school transport, free school meals, clothing grant, placing request or EMA, we will ask for personal

information as set out above. We will also ask for information about your income for education benefits applications.

- If you make a request for additional support such as an educational psychologist or other support for learning we will ask for more detailed information to allow us to provide the most appropriate support for your family. This may include information about family circumstances or medical conditions.
- If there are concerns about your child's wellbeing and/or your child has needs that may require additional support, we will wish to work with you to collect and consider information to enable us to help you get the right support at the right time in line with Getting it right for every child approach.

We require this information to ensure that children and young people are educated appropriately, supported, and that we take account of their health and wellbeing. We will also ask you to update this information annually and to tell us when there are changes to your details.

Information that we collect from other sources

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations, we receive information from other sources such as the SQA, the NHS or Social Work about you or your child, this includes:

- exam results and assessment information;
- information about health, wellbeing or child protection.

Why do we need this information?

We need this information so the Council can ensure it is delivering education services appropriately to all learners:

- for the education of children, young people and adult learners;
- for teaching, enrolment and assessment purposes and to monitor the educational progress of children, young people and adult learners;

- to keep children and young people safe and provide guidance services in school;
- to identify where additional support is needed to help children, young people and adult learners with their learning;
- to maintain records of attendance, absence and behaviour of children and young people (including exclusions);
- to support children and young people moving on each year from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and when they move or leave school;
- to help us develop and improve education services provided for young people, adult learners or families
- In accordance with our legitimate interests as an education authority we will also use your information to create statistical reports.

We will share your information with:

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations we will share information with other bodies or parts of the Council, including:

- The Scottish Government and bodies such as Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Skills Development Scotland and other organisations that support children and young people's learning;
- Other parts of the Council when required for services such as school meals, school transport, education benefits and with Social work in connection with any child protection concerns we become aware of;
- South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited, where children and young people are participating in sports and leisure activities;
- Other schools/local authorities if a child moves or transfers to another school the Council has an obligation to pass on information with regards to pupil records to the new school/local authority.

You have the right to access your personal information as well as the rights of rectification, erasure, restriction and the right to object. For information on these rights and how to exercise them or for information about how we manage your personal information, you can get a copy of our full privacy notice from our website:

(<u>https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200235/meta/1730/general_priva</u> <u>cy</u>).

Our full privacy notice will also provide information on how to make a complaint or to request a paper copy of the privacy notice from the Data Protection Officer.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 came into force on 1 January 2005 and gives a person the right to request information held by Scottish public authorities.

The act refers to information held in a 'recordable' format and relates to information held within documents, not the documents themselves.

Parents wishing to make a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 should submit their request in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer Education Resources South Lanarkshire Council Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Or email: foi.request@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Requests for information can also be submitted using the online form available from the South Lanarkshire Council website (Request it section) (<u>www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</u>)

Appendix A

For a comprehensive list of useful information, please visit the Council's website:

http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_informati on/1264/curriculum_for_excellence/3

Additional Information

Education Scotland's Communication Toolkit: A resource for engaging with parents.

- The Scottish Government Guide Principles of Inclusive Communications: Offers information on communications and a self-assessment tool for public authorities.
- **Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents**: Provides information on choosing a school and the placing request system.
- A Guide for Parents About School Attendance: Explains parental responsibilities regarding children's attendance at school.

Parental Involvement

Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 provides guidance on the act for education authorities, Parent Councils and others

Parentzone provide information and resource for parents and Parent Councils

National Parent Forum for Scotland; www.npfs.org.uk

School Ethos

Supporting Learners - guidance on the identification, planning and provision of support

Journey to Excellence - provides guidance and advice about culture and ethos

Health and wellbeing guidance on healthy living for local authorities and schools

Building Curriculum for Excellence through Positive Behaviour and Relationships outlines the Scottish Government's priority actions around positive behaviour in schools and is also a source of support

Scottish Catholic Education Service's resource 'This is Our Faith' which supports the teaching and learning of Catholic religious education

Curriculum

Information about how the curriculum is structured and curriculum planning

Information about the outcomes a learner can expect to experience and achieve across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, as well as the 8 curricular areas

Advice, practice and resources to support the experiences and outcomes on literary, numeracy and health and wellbeing

Broad General Education in the Secondary School – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Information on the Senior Phase

Information on Skills for learning, life and work

Information around the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' programme

Information for organisations responsible for the planning, management and delivery of career information, advice and guidance services

The Skills Development Scotland website 'My World of Work' offers a number of tools to support career planning

Assessment and Reporting

Building the Curriculum 5: a framework for assessment provides guidance around the assessment framework

Information about Curriculum for Excellence levels and how progress is assessed

Curriculum for Excellence fact file - Assessment and qualifications

Information on recognising achievement, reporting and profiling

The Scottish National Standardised Assessment- in Scotland, pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 complete online standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy as part of their everyday learning and teaching.

Transitions

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - 3-18 Transitions - provides information on the transitions children and young people will face throughout their education and beyond

Career Information, Advice and Guidance in Scotland - A Framework for Service Redesign and Improvement provides guidance on career information, advice and guidance strategy

Choices and changes provides information about choices made at various stages of learning

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice includes specific requirements on education authorities and others under the new legislation in relation to transition

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning

Parenting across Scotland offers support to children and families in Scotland

Support for Pupils

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs

Information about the universal entitlement to support that underpins Curriculum for Excellence

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition) - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended

Getting It Right for Every Child and Young Person, is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers

School Improvement

Scottish Schools Online - provides a range of school information, including contact details, school roll, facilities, website, inspection reports

Education Scotland's Inspection and review page provides information on the inspection process

The Scottish Survey of Literacy & Numeracy

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

Scottish Qualifications Authority provides information for teachers, parents, employers and young people on qualifications

Amazing Things - information about youth awards in Scotland

Information on how to access statistics relating to School Education

School Policies and Practical Information

National policies, information and guidance can be accessed from the Scottish Government website on <u>www.gov.scot</u> with an update on school inspection outcomes being available via the Education Scotland website.