



Education Resources



Murray Primary School Handbook 2025



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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: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

1. Introduction

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 lives and prospects for everyone in 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.

The priorities for all schools in South Lanarkshire are set out on the back page of the handbook.

Head Teacher Welcome

On behalf of our pupils, staff and families I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Murray Primary School. We are delighted that your child will attend our school and we look forward to working in partnership throughout your child's education. This handbook is designed to help you and your child become part of the school and settle in with ease.

2. About our School - Contact Details

School Address:

Murray Primary School
Napier Hill
East Kilbride
G75 0JP

School Phone No: 01355 222566

School Office Email Address: gw14murraypsoffice@glow.sch.uk

School Website Address: www.murray-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

School Twitter Feed: [Twitter@MurrayPrimaryEK](https://twitter.com/MurrayPrimaryEK)

We work in close partnership with our Parent Council Group.

Email: murrayprimaryparentstogether@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MurrayPrimaryParentsTogether

Murray Primary School Roll

Stage	Number of Children
Nursery	41
P1 to P7	205
Total in establishment	246

3. Ethos - Our School Building and School Context

Murray Primary School is a non-denominational primary school situated within The Murray area of East Kilbride in South Lanarkshire. We provide education for pupils aged 4 to 12 years from Primary 1 to Primary 7. Our school building has 2 floors and comprises 7 mainstream classes, 3 classes within our Additional Support Needs (ASN) Base and a large Nursery Class. Pupils aged 3 to 5 years attend our Nursery Class. We currently have 205 pupils in our school and 41 pupils in our Nursery Class. Our school is part of the Calderglen Learning Community.

Murray Primary School is a new school building which opened in June 2012. Accommodation and learning areas within the school building include 2 Nursery Playrooms, an outdoor Play Area for our Nursery pupils, Classrooms, Gym Hall and Assembly Hall with stage, Dining Hall with outdoor picnic tables, Break Out areas, Quiet Rooms and a "Chill Zone" to provide pupils with an area to meet their needs for sensory, therapeutic or energetic play.

Our extensive school grounds include a Multi-use Games Area, known as our MUGA pitch. This is timetabled for Outdoor PE, playtimes and lunchtimes and After School Clubs. Our Senior Playground is for pupils from P4 to P7. This provides a vast playground area and has a range of "Trim Trail" play equipment, a Garden Area, an Outdoor Classroom, a Hobbit Hut and a Picnic Area.

Our Infant Playground is for pupils from P1 to P3. Just beyond the perimeter of our school grounds in the Senior Playground there is a gate to a Forest Area which we have access to. We are able to use this area for Outdoor Learning and Forest Schools sessions. Our 4 Infant classrooms for Primary 1 to 3 pupils benefit from an outdoor classroom area adjacent to each classroom providing an enhanced outdoor learning environment.

Our school building and extensive grounds enable us to provide different environments to provide a wide range of enhanced learning experiences for our pupils.



Our school vision “**Learning Together, Achieving Forever**” is aspirational with a focus on improving outcomes for all. We are committed to our mission of “**Making Murray Marvellous!**”

Our core values are;

Inclusion Respect Kindness Friendship Honesty Ambition Achievement

Our Aim is for everyone in our school community to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. We place a high value on nurturing our inclusive and positive ethos. We encourage the participation of all, value and embrace diversity. We pay very close attention to the care and welfare needs of all of our children, their families and our staff. We are a happy, active, supportive and hardworking staff who aim to ensure that all children achieve to their maximum potential.

Throughout the school we ensure that we focus on positives by utilising a range of strategies designed to promote positive relationships. We use strategies such as Restorative Practice to enable children to resolve any disputes. We ensure that regular teaching and dialogue which relates to responsibilities, awareness of others and tolerance, support the developing awareness within our pupils of the need to consider ourselves and others within a working school community. This foundation allows pupils to feel secure within Murray Primary, to have good relationships with others and to learn and achieve to the very best of their abilities.

The children at Murray Primary are highly motivated to learn and achieve. To foster this high level of motivation we ensure that pupil achievements within the classes are recognised through a range of approaches including classroom reward incentives, displays, reporting to parents and carers, weekly awards presented at Assembly. Our pupils are delighted when staff praise and recognise their efforts at a very personal level.

Murray Primary is a highly motivated school where the principles of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child are embedded in our practice. Our core values are promoted through all relationships and within our curriculum. We promote positive relationships within the school and foster an ethos which encourages all pupils to respect themselves and others. We place a very high value on nurturing our inclusive and positive ethos which encourages the participation of all and which values and embraces diversity.

We closely track and monitor pupil achievement and attainment. The achievements of our pupils both in school and outwith school are celebrated at whole school weekly assemblies. The children are encouraged to share their wider achievements and we ensure achievements are made visible to all and celebrated in school. Our pupils are very proud of their achievements and are keen for photographs to be shared in school and on our school Twitter feed. All pupils have opportunities to engage in wider opportunities to enhance their school experience and develop their skills and talents.

Whole school and class reward systems and praise are used effectively to enthuse and motivate learners, giving them rewards for achieving success. We have a House system which fosters a strong sense of community throughout the school. The House system encourages pupils to take on leadership roles and work collaboratively on projects and is a key part of our school rewards system.

We make every effort to engage with local community groups and encourage their participation in school events and projects. We are further supported by a range of community partnerships we have with local shops and business partners, Community Police, Fire Service, East Kilbride Central Library and Active Schools. We ensure that these links enable us to enhance our curricular experiences for our pupils.

4. Murray Primary School Staffing List

Position	Name
Teaching Staff	
Head Teacher	Mrs Tremble
Depute Head Teacher	Miss Wiseman
Principal Teacher	Mrs Reid
Primary 1 Teacher	Mrs Gunn
Primary 1/2 Teacher	Miss Chrystal
Primary 3 Teacher	Miss Campbell
Primary 4 Teacher	Miss Devlin
Primary 5 Teacher	Miss McBride & Mrs Walker
Primary 6 Teacher	Mr Angus
Primary 7 Teacher	Mr Kinnen
Class Contact Cover Teachers	Miss Murray, Miss Allan & Mrs Walker
Early Intervention Teacher	Miss Craig
Specialist Support Teacher	Mrs Stewart
Additional Support Needs Base Classes	
Primary 1/2/3/4	Mrs Dalby
Primary 4/5/6/7	Mrs Smith
Primary 5/6/7	Mr McBride
School Support Staff	
School Support Assistant Team Leader	Mrs Fergusson
School Support Assistant	Mrs Aitken
School Support Assistant	Miss Blunt
School Support Assistant	Mrs Buchan
School Support Assistant	Miss Convery
School Support Assistant	Miss Cord
School Support Assistant	Miss Cunningham
School Support Assistant	Miss Docherty
School Support Assistant	Mrs Jessamine
School Support Assistant	Mrs McRitchie
School Support Assistant	Mrs Meikleham
Early Years Staff	
Early Years Team Leader	Mrs Harris
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs Carey
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs Currie
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs Haazen
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs MacMillan
Early Years Practitioner	Mrs McGhie
Early Years Practitioner	Ms Stewart
Early Years Specialist Support Teacher	Mrs Glavin
Early Years Support Assistant	Mrs Brennan
Facilities Staff	
Janitor	Mrs Scott
Cook in Charge	Mrs Park
Catering Assistant	Mrs Dunlop
Catering Assistant	Ms Edgar
Catering Assistant	Mrs Love
Catering Assistant	Mrs McLaren
Cleaning Assistant	Mrs Connor
Cleaning Assistant	Mrs Dougan
Cleaning Assistant	Mrs Lyon
Cleaning Assistant	Mrs McLeod
Cleaning Assistant	Ms Walters

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 and 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;

Telephone the school and either speak to a member of our Office staff or leave a message to inform us that your child will be absent. If you know that your child has a medical or dental appointment, please inform us of this in advance.

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.

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. (See section 7).

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 such as snow or heavy frost, if the school cannot open at the usual time, we will delay the start until 10.00am. 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 www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or email education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

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.

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 in writing.

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. Parental Involvement

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

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

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:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13457/parents_as_partners_-_strategy_2019

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

- 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 [Parent Councils](#)

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.

7. 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 forward looking, coherent, flexible and an enriched curriculum that provides young people with opportunities to engage with the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need to flourish in life, learning and work.

The curriculum places learners at the heart of education and at its centre are four fundamental capacities - successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors. It 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 taking this forward our school will work closely with South Lanarkshire Education Resources and other services to enrich the curriculum, to provide 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 are as follows:

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

If you want to know more about Curriculum for Excellence, please visit [Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence \(scotlandscurriculum.scot\)](http://scotlandscurriculum.scot)

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.

At Murray Primary our Class Teachers plan for all aspects of each child's learning based on the experiences and outcomes within the subject areas of Curriculum for Excellence. Teachers also plan for aspects of learning as part of interdisciplinary learning topics, where the pupils cover aspects of learning from several subject areas. Learning across the ethos and life of the school and covering opportunities for personal achievement are built into the regular planning structures undertaken by class teachers. Throughout our curriculum we provide opportunities for our pupils to develop skills for life, learning and work and set learning within real life contexts. Our pupils have opportunities to prepare and present their learning at special assemblies, attend trips and outings to enhance their learning and represent our school by participating in sporting festivals and tournaments.

Spiritual, social, moral and cultural values (Religious Observance)

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.

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.

8. Assessment and Tracking Pupil Progress

Assessment within Murray Primary takes a variety of forms. Class teachers plan and assess pupil progress on a daily basis. This assessment is based on the learning intentions and success criteria as set out in the Learning and Teaching plans. The teacher will assess what the children say, make, write or do. This ongoing assessment allows the teacher to know how best to help each child with their learning and what to plan for their next steps. Feedback is provided for children either verbally or in written form. The class teacher keeps records of this ongoing assessment. From time to time the teacher will want to check up on a key aspect of learning for example at the end of a concept or area covered, at the end of a level or when they believe an outcome has been achieved. Again, the teacher will plan this assessment and decide how best the child can demonstrate achievement. At these key points, the teacher will record the child's progress and gather evidence of achievement. Teachers will also use this information to continue to plan for next steps in learning. Assessment may focus on learning associated with one key aspect of learning or may focus on a child's achievement in more challenging or unfamiliar situations which require the child to draw together their learning and transfer skills from one situation to another.

Regular and continuous formative assessments, planned standardised assessments throughout the year and teachers' professional judgements based on the benchmarks inform us of attainment and achievement of all learners in Murray Primary School. Annual standardised assessments are carried out in primaries 2 to 7 and baseline assessments completed in Primary 1. This provides further information to supplement professional judgement.

Through the careful approach to record keeping of assessment, specifically within core subjects of Literacy and Numeracy & Maths, each child's progress is tracked to ensure appropriate progression in learning. Each teacher meets termly with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss each child's specific progress within core subjects and more generally across all curricular areas. Some pupils have their learning planned for them on an individual basis within an Additional Support Plan. Where this is the case, the child's progress is monitored each term.

9. Reporting

We provide parents with a pupil report annually so that you can see what your child is doing and how they are progressing. In addition, there will be parents' meetings which offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child is 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 visit in person to discuss your child's education.

Our 'pupil reports' will help you to get to know more about the curriculum which each child follows and will describe their strengths, achievements and areas for development so you know what encouragement and support you can give.

In Scottish Primary Schools pupils in P1, P4 and P7 participate in Scottish National Standardised Assessment programme. Pupils complete online standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy.

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

Our 'learner reports' will describe your child's 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.

10. Enrolment and Transitions

Enrolment – how to register your child for school.

To register your child for school you should complete our online registration form. This can be done using the South Lanarkshire website.

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

If you have any difficulty in identifying your catchment school, please email Edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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.

If your child is due to start school in August 2025, you can enrol online from Monday 6 January 2025. Your catchment school will contact you between Monday 13 to Friday 17 January 2025 to confirm your enrolment.

If your child attends the nursery of your catchment school, please do not assume that they will automatically be transferred. You must register them as normal at the school that is in the catchment area for your home address

If parents want their child to go to another school, they must enrol in the first instance with their catchment school and intimate that they wish to make a placing request. An online placing request form is available from the SLC website – www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or by contacting edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone **0303 123 1023**.

Change of School/Placing Request

Normally children attend the school in their catchment area. 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.

If you move outwith your catchment primary school a 'request to remain form' must be completed. If you move outwith 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 edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or **0303 123 1023**.

Transition from primary to secondary school

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.

11. 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:
www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright

Support for All (Additional Support Needs)

Throughout their time at school, children can have an additional support need. These needs may be short term e.g. a broken leg, a bereavement, or long term e.g. a diagnosis or identification of a specific need.

Children's learning and wellbeing needs are supported through the process of Staged Intervention. This process recognises a need for support and tracks and monitors the success of these supports. Most interventions are provided by the class teacher but for some children, interventions will need to be provided by other staff in school and/or visiting specialists such as Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists etc. Staff in school will inform you of the level of support your child requires.

In Murray Primary School, we also have an Additional Support Needs (ASN) base. This includes 3 classes of 10 children who have significant ASN. Pupils in the base have been placed in our school through the South Lanarkshire Council Primary Allocations process.

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: 0345 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 www.enquire.org.uk

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 info@enquire.org.uk

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 theory and its application 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 establishments and for parents/carers which aim to share information on attachment theory and on how this informs 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.

12. School Improvement

For Session 2024/2025 our School Improvement Plan priorities are shown below.

- Further develop “Play Based Learning” in P2 & P3 and “Creative Enquiry” from P4-P7 based on Play Based learning pedagogy and approaches.
- Raise pupil attainment through increased levels of confidence and expertise in the delivery of high-quality STEM teaching & learning experiences.
- Further extend the SLC Skills Framework to enhance pupil knowledge and understanding of skills development and how these equip pupils for life, learning and work.
- We continue with our commitment towards adopting a whole school approach towards Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC.) This is a range of strategies and tools to support communication and ensure that all children have a voice.
- In session 2024/2025 we have used our Pupil Equity Funding to put in place a non-class committed teacher. This teacher has a key focus on early intervention and raising attainment. She has delivered timetabled support and interventions to raise the attainment within a targeted group of pupils in literacy and numeracy.
- *A percentage of our Pupil Equity Fund is known as the Participatory Budget. We consult with our pupils, parents and carers on how the participatory budget is spent. This allows our families the opportunity to express their views on the school’s spending plans.*

13. School policies and practical information

School/Nursery Meals

Nursery Class

All children attending a local authority nursery will be provided with a free lunch. Nursery lunches and snacks are based on nutritional requirements from the NHS “Setting the Table” guidance. Nursery age children will also receive milk and a healthy snack free of charge under the Milk and Healthy Snack scheme 2021. This will be provided by the establishment.

Primary Pupils

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

Breakfast Club

Our school has a Breakfast Club which operates every day during term time. The Breakfast Club is free and open to any pupil from P1 to P7 to attend. There is no need to book. Mrs Park and Mrs Dunlop from our school Catering Team deliver the catering for the Breakfast Club. The selection available includes cereal, toast and milk. School Support Staff Mrs Aitken and Miss Cord support the children at the Breakfast Club. All primary aged pupils are also offered a free breakfast within their school.

For their lunch each day pupils have the option to choose from four meal options everyday. These are all served with vegetables or side salad. All meals also come with fresh chilled drinking water, salad selection, seasonal fruit and depending on the day - soup or a dessert.

Milk will be available for those pupils entitled to free school meals through the free school meal eligibility scheme at lunchtime.

Pupils in:

Primary 1 - 5 receive a free school lunch.

Primary 6 - 7 meal cost is £2.62

Cost of milk – 30p

School lunches and milk can be paid for through your Parentpay account or Paypoint facilities in local shops.

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

Adapted diets

If your child within Nursery, Primary or Secondary requires an adapted diet for medical reasons please speak to the school/nursery 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 £9,552 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.

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 (P6 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

We would encourage parents of children 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. Arrangements are in place to ensure anonymity is protected of children who receive free meals and we encourage all children to remain in school at lunch time.

At Murray Primary School, children in Primary 1-7 can attend Breakfast Club from 8:15am-8:45am each school day.

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.

At Present the Murray Primary School Uniform is as follows:

Murray Primary School Uniform

Casual: Navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan, Yellow polo top, Navy trousers/skirt/pinafore
Formal: Navy jumper/cardigan, White shirt/blouse, Navy trousers/skirt/pinafore
School tie (available at school office £3.50)

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 damage flooring.

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. This also now includes nursery children aged 3 and 4 years old.

Applications can be made online at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk. If you are required to submit evidence of your Tax Credit income or your Universal Credit Statement, it is important that all pages of this evidence is submitted with 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

School Day

9:00am-3:00pm

School starts 9:00am

Break 10:30-10:45am

Lunch 12:15-1:00pm

Home time 3:00pm

Nursery Day

8:45am-2:50pm

Nursery lunch 11:30am

2024/25 school holidays (approved)

These school holiday and in-service dates have been approved by the Education Resources Committee.

August 2024

- Monday 12 August - teachers return
- Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 August - in-service days (all schools)
- Wednesday 14 August - pupils return to school

September 2024

- Friday 27 September and Monday 30 September (September weekend holiday)

October 2024

- Monday 14 to Friday 18 October (October break)

November 2024

- Monday 11 November (in-service day)

December 2024 and January 2025

- Friday 20 December (schools close at 2.30pm)
- Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January 2025 (Christmas/New Year break)
- Monday 6 January 2025 - pupils return to school

February 2025

- Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February (February break)
- Wednesday 19 February (in-service day)

April 2025

- Friday 4 April 2025* (schools close at 2.30pm)
- Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April (Easter/Spring break)
- Tuesday 22 April - pupils return to school

May 2025

- Thursday 1 May (in-service day - all schools)
- Monday 5 May (May day)
- Friday 23 May and Monday 26 May** (Local holiday)

June 2025

- Wednesday 25 June (schools close at 1pm for summer break)

*Good Friday falls on Friday 18 April 2025

Pupils attend school for 190 days and teachers attend for 195 days.

*School holiday dates and in-service dates are available from the website
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk*

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_information/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:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/784/privilege_transport_to_school

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: school_transport@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

tel: 0303 123 1023

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.

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. www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk

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 GDPR, with South Lanarkshire Council defined as the data controller. The Council have established a data protection policy that applies to all of its 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 (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 services 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 also 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 the 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.

The NHS, to support health initiatives in accordance with the legal obligation on the Council in terms of section 39(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978.

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:

(https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200235/meta/1730/general_privacy).

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) (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Appendix A

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

http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/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 factfile - 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.

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

Schools and local authorities should consider the most relevant school, local and national policies and include details or links for parents to sources of further information.

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