



Education Resources

Neilsland Primary School Handbook 2024-2025



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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.



EDUCATION RESOURCES



Neilsland Primary School

Highstonehall Road, Hamilton ML3 8LU Tel 01698 286405

Head Teacher: Mrs Pamela Kelly

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the staff and pupils I would like to welcome you to Neilsland Primary School. We are delighted that you are considering sending your child to our school and look forward to working with you. At Neilsland we take great pride in ensuring that we offer a warm welcome to all pupils, parents, carers and members of the local and wider community.

We make every effort to offer a high standard of learning and teaching in a safe, caring and motivating environment. At Neilsland we work hard to ensure that all children are supported and encouraged to develop the skills and attributes which will allow them to reach their full potential now and in the future.

Partnership with parents/carers is central to achieving our aims and we look forward to working together with you to provide a rich and stimulating education for all our children.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Kelly

Pamela Kelly
Head Teacher

1. Introduction

Neilsland Primary School is situated in the Laighstonehall area of Hamilton. The original school opened in 1957 and on the 24th October 2013, we moved in to our new building. The new school has 7 classes, nurture area/library, a dining room and a gym hall.

Within our school community we aim to provide our children with opportunities to learn in a happy, caring, safe and stimulating environment, where every child is valued as an individual and where success is celebrated.



Neilsland Primary is one of 124 primary schools throughout 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 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 all schools in South Lanarkshire are set out on the back page of the handbook.



Scan the QR code or follow this link <https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1418999363354492930> to see inside the school and meet some of the people who work there.

2. About Our School

Neilsland Primary School is a non-denominational establishment covering stages Primary 1 – 7 and provides equal opportunities for all pupils. (A copy of the Equal Opportunity Policy is available, on request).

School Address	Neilsland Primary School Highstonehall Road, Hamilton ML3 8LU
Website Address	www.neilslandprimary.co.uk
Email:	office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk
Parent Council Email :	neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com
Twitter	@neilslandps
Phone Number	01698 286405
Present Roll	174

Class Structures

Within Neilsland Primary we have pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7. Uneven distribution of the school roll often makes it necessary to form a 'Composite Class'. This is a class which has children at 2 or more stages e.g. Primary 3 and Primary 4 pupils. The formulation of classes is firstly based on pupil working groups. No parent should be concerned that their child's education is being compromised by being in a composite class. However, if you would like further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Our normal school hours on Mondays to Fridays are as follows:

School Hours	9.00 to 10.45 (P1 and P2 pupils 8.55)
	10.45 to 11.00 – Interval
	11.00 to 12.30
	12.30 to 1.15 – Lunch
	1.15 to 3.00 (P1 and P2 pupils 2.55)



Please be advised that on days when the weather is poor, children will be allowed to enter the school from 8.45am.

On the last day before the Christmas and Spring breaks (Terms 1 and 2), school closes at 2.30pm. At the end of Term 3 in June school closes at 1.00pm for all children.

Pupils can enter and leave the school from the red, blue or yellow gates which are marked. If your child is being picked up at home time, please ensure they know which gate they are being collected from.

Sharing Concerns

Most parents/carers have a concern at some point whether about their learning, friendships, behaviour or general wellbeing and may wish to contact the school. Our policy is to deal with

worries or concerns quickly and sensitively. Parents/carers should contact the school either by telephone (01698 286405) or email office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk. A member of staff will always be available to discuss any issues. We hope to help resolve any concerns satisfactorily, however, if a parent/carer wishes to do so, complaints should be made in writing to the Head of Education (Area). The Head of Education for the area is **Mr Stewart Nicolson**.

Prospective Pupils

If you have been offered a place for your child in our school or are considering enrolling your child you are very welcome to come to visit the school.

3. School Ethos

Our Vision and Values

At Neilsland Primary School we ensure that everyone in our school community is welcomed, included, safe and respected. We are all happy to achieve, play and grow together.



In Neilsland Primary School we are committed to working together to maintain an open, happy, respectful and achieving culture where all feel valued and welcome.

We aim to see that our learners are active participants in their own learning. We work well together by listening to one another. Many children are members of pupil voice groups, such as Pupil Council, Reading Champions, Attachment Ambassadors, JRSO, Eco Committee and Peer Mediators. These groups work with staff and are involved in decisions made in school.

We operate a house system with four house captains. This allows the children to belong to a smaller group than the school as a whole. The children are encouraged to earn points through good behaviour, good work, taking care of the school grounds and participating in any event both within or outwith the school. The house system motivates our children and encourages teamwork and pupil leadership within the school. House events take place throughout the year.



We have very well behaved pupils who understand that we are all responsible for our own actions. We promote positive behaviour with a series of rewards and positive recognition in a variety of ways. Each class has its own points system.

Children's achievements are celebrated in class, at weekly assemblies and at sharing the learning showcases. Each week staff members nominate children for a special award based on one of our school values. We regularly tweet photographs of children's school and wider achievements.

Pupil Voice

We value the opinions of our children and there are opportunities available for pupils at all stages in the school to be involved in the various pupil groups – Pupil Council, Eco Group, JRSO Group, Reading Champions, House Captains and Peer Mediators and Attachment Ambassadors. These groups meet regularly and their views and activities have had a positive effect on the school and wider community.

Here are some comments from some of our pupils;

This is a great school. Everyone is really kind.
P4 pupil

We learn maths and reading. I'm getting very good at both and the teacher helps me when I need it.
P2 pupil

Our school is fun and exciting. We get to make lots of friends and the classwork is good.
P7 pupil

The teachers explain my learning so that I understand it. When I need help I get it easily.
P5 pupil.

P.E. is great fun and so are the after school clubs.
P2 pupil

I feel safe in our school. We get lots of support from everyone. It is easy to make friends.
P3 pupil

School and community links

We actively foster links with individuals and agencies in the community.

These include Road Safety, Health Agencies, Credit Union, Canine Concern, Community Police and local businesses. Contact with other members of the community is also developed and the school has strong links with Trinity Parish Church, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Hamilton Foodbank.

To enhance the ongoing work of classes, every opportunity is used to involve members of the community, and for visiting places of interest.

The school uses the local museums, country parks and visitor centres. Experts in a variety of fields also visit the children in school and provide a valuable service in this way.

We support different charitable organisations throughout the year including Macmillan Cancer Support, Guide Dogs Scotland, Poppy Scotland and Chris's House. Each class takes responsibility for organising events over the course of the session. Parent, staff and pupils are always extremely generous and supportive of our ventures each year.



Learning Community

Neilsland is part of the Calderdale Learning Community. A learning community is made up of local education establishments including a secondary school, the local primary schools, early years establishments, early years partners and schools and bases which provide additional learning services. It is about working together to plan better outcomes for children and young people.

The Learning Community develops ways of working between establishments and with other agencies and organisations to ensure services are responsive, accessible and are delivered as effectively as possible.

All the establishments and services in a learning community share priorities for improvement and are involved in the deployment of additional support to meet the needs of the child and family.

Each Learning Community is managed by a Head of Education (Area). The Head of Education for the area is **Mr Stewart Nicolson**.

4. Staff List

Head Teacher	Mrs P. Kelly	
Principal Teacher	Mrs C. Brock	
Principal Teacher (Equity)	Mrs J. Marnie	
Class Teachers	Mrs J. Marnie Miss R. May Ms G. Cassidy Ms H. Craig Mrs K. Kennedy	Mrs C. Gilroy Mrs A. Cullie Mrs C. Mark Mr C. Connor
Specialist Support Teacher	Mrs J. Cowan	
Educational Psychologist	Miss H. Kyle	
Support Staff (Classroom)	Mrs K. Gardiner Mrs J. Barnes Mrs L. Lamont Mrs N. Edwards Miss R. McKay Mrs A. Nisbet Mrs S. Aitken	
Support Staff (Clerical)	Mrs H. Fairfull Mrs G. Hare	
Janitor	Mr S. Minto + Cleaners	
Dining Staff	1 Cook + 2 Dining Assistants	
School Chaplain	TBC	

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:

- If you know in advance of any reason why your child is likely to be absent from school, please tell someone at the school, telephone us or let us know in via email.
- Notify the school before 9.10am on the day of absence in the morning. Let the school know the likely date of return and keep them informed if the date changes. This is noted in the absence book.

If we do not have notification of an absence, we will telephone the child's contact number(s) to find out where the child is. This procedure means that any children who do not arrive in school when expected can be tracked very quickly thus helping to ensure the safety of our children.

Please inform the school of any changes to the following:-

- home telephone number
- mobile telephone number
- emergency contact details



If you know they have a hospital/dental appointment, please let us know 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).

Information on emergencies

We make every effort to ensure the school remains open during term-time for pupils. However, on occasions circumstances may arise which can affect the school. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, power failures or through any other circumstances that may impact on the school day. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know as soon as possible. We shall keep in touch by the most appropriate method at the time normally through text message, and via our social media channels.

In cases of severe weather in the morning such as snow and a heavy frost and if there is a reason the school cannot open in the morning at the normal time, we will adopt the protocol for a delayed start until 10am.

If this is the case a message via social media and on the council's website will be posted.

The Council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk 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 www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or email education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

a. 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

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.

Family holidays should be avoided during term time as this both disrupts the child's education and reduces learning time. If holidays are taken during times when the school is open parents should inform the school in advance by letter.

If your child is taken on a family holiday during term time, then in line with Scottish Government advice this will be classified as an unauthorised absence. However, in exceptional circumstances schools may register a family holiday during term time as an authorised absence when for example, parents are able to demonstrate they have been unable to obtain leave during the school holiday period.

Clearly, absence with no explanation from parents will mean that the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

In our approach to raising attainment and achievement it is recognised that attendance at school is something that should be continuously encouraged. Parents/carers, children and the school all have a part to play in encouraging and stressing the importance of attendance at school.

The school holiday dates, and in-service dates are available from the website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

6. Parental Involvement

South Lanarkshire Council recognises the importance of parents as partners in the education of their child and has published a strategy entitled, 'Making a difference - working together to support children's learning'. This is available from the Council's website:

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13457/parents_as_partners_-_strategy_2019`](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/13457/parents_as_partners_-_strategy_2019)

Parents, carers and family members are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Children between the ages of 5 and 16 spend only 15% of their time in school! Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's learning children do better at school and throughout life. Parental involvement can take different forms but we hope you share the same aims and agree that by working together we can be partners in supporting children's learning.

As a parent/carer we want you to be:

- Welcomed and given an opportunity to be involved in the life of the school.
- Fully informed about your child's learning,
- Encouraged to make an active contribution to your child's learning,
- Able to support learning at home,
- Encouraged to express your views and involved in forums and discussions on education related issues.

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

To find out more on how to be a parent helper, or a member of the Parent Council and/or the Parent Teacher Association contact the school or visit our website. We have also produced a guide on the role of a Parent Council which was produced by parents for parents,

Parentzone Scotland is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science. Information is also available on Parentzone Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education.

Parentzone Scotland also has details about schools, including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6 and links to the national, local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels.

Some useful information contacts for parents to find out more on education are as follows:-

- Parentzone- www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk
- Engage Parent Forum- www.engageforeducation.org
- National Parent forum for Scotland- www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone
- South Lanarkshire Council- www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

We value parental feedback and regularly ask for opinions and thoughts from our parent body. Here are some recent comments;

It's like a family!
P1 Parent

I love the nurturing care and support given to all children. My children are very happy to come to school.

P1 and P4 Parent

I feel the school has lots of strengths such as every staff member knows every child and their families and the quality of the teaching staff is fantastic. The school are very good at keeping parents informed on anything that is happening with their child.

P4 and P6 Parent

The school is very approachable should there be any questions or issues. The school gets to know each individual child and always makes everyone welcome.

P3 Parent

Staff know the children really well. A nurturing caring environment has been created. There is an equitable approach within the school. There are many opportunities for after school activities (eg dance class). Lessons are well-structured.

P4 and P7 Parent

Parent Council

The Parent Council is very active within Neilsland Primary School. The purpose of the Parent Council is to create, maintain and enhance links between the school, parents, carers and the wider community. They are the parents' voice in school matters. Parent Council members are fully involved and supportive of all aspects of school life. The Parent Council is consulted on matters such as curriculum development, establishment planning, policy development and budget as well as council and government initiatives. The Parent Council also organises social events and sponsored fundraising activities. These events are both enjoyable and entertaining for the children and more importantly they are very successful in terms of funds raised for the school. These funds are used by the school to greatly enhance many aspects of the children's school experience.



All parents are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings and become involved in the work that they do in partnership with school staff. To find out more about how to be a parent helper or a member of the Parent Council just contact the school.

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 a forward looking, coherent, more 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.

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



Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities and clubs are an important part of our school life. They provide our children with a more relaxed and social atmosphere where they have opportunities to try out new activities and acquire new skills or further develop existing skills. A wide variety of extra-curricular activities are offered each session and we try hard to offer every child from Primary 1 to Primary 7 the opportunity to attend at least one activity.



Spiritual, social, moral and cultural values (religious observance) Rights of Parents / Carers

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that there is a statutory obligation on local authorities to provide religious observance and religious education in schools. Religious and moral education is a statutory core subject for all pupils attending primary and secondary education, and it is their entitlement to have this taught in a meaningful and progressive way. National guidance advises schools that they should plan and deliver religious and moral education as both a specific subject discipline and one which contributes to high quality interdisciplinary learning. Religious and moral education should, therefore, also contribute to learning and development through the other contexts for learning, that is the ethos and life of the school community and the opportunities provided for personal achievement. The programme and content for religious education in all South Lanarkshire schools are developed by staff working groups following the national guidance set out in Curriculum for Excellence. In shaping our programme, the national advice for primary schools is that we should teach well planned experiences across Christianity, world religions and developing beliefs and values. Parents have a statutory right to withdraw children from participation in religious and moral education. This should be done in writing. However, national guidance also indicates that without this aspect of their education, learners will not enjoy the full benefits of Curriculum for Excellence since this area of their education contributes to pupils thinking for themselves and making their own decisions about what they believe to be true about human living. Where a child is withdrawn from religious observance, schools will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.

During the course of the year children are given the opportunity to take part in class assemblies held in the school hall. Parents are invited to see their child perform.

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 on the register.

8. Assessment and tracking progress

We operate a policy of continuous assessment from Primary 1 to Primary 7 in order to build a clear picture of each child's progress; to ascertain strengths and areas for further development, to involve pupils in their own learning, to decide on what requires to be taught next and to determine if the

pupils are working at a level appropriate to their ability. Assessment also enables teachers to plan programmes of work and to check on the effectiveness of teaching methods and resources.

We formally assess pupils in reading, writing, spelling and maths. The results of these assessments are recorded, assessments kept and the information used to plan for the following term. We use these assessments and tracking sheets in reading, writing, talking & listening and in maths to ensure and evidence progress for all our pupils.

Assessment reflects on-going work – by observation and interaction with pupils, by sharing criteria with children, by giving constructive feedback, by well-structured questioning, by peer assessment and by setting assessment tasks. Staff ensure that children are made aware of the learning intentions and success criteria at the start of each lesson. Records of summative assessments are kept, both for teaching purposes and to keep parents up to date with their child's progress.

All class teachers engage in regular professional dialogue with the Head Teacher and Principal Teacher to track pupils' progress across the curriculum.

Some learners may require more specific diagnostic assessments at times. You will be informed if any of these assessments are to be undertaken.

9. Reporting to Parents

Neilsland Primary School recognises that good teamwork among parents, children and school is the key to a successful education for your child.

Reporting will be ongoing and comprise of a range of activities which can include children presenting their learning, newsletters, open sessions, class blogs and ongoing oral discussions. Parents are very welcome to contact the school for feedback on their child at any point in the session.

We will provide you with reports 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 in school 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 learner 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.

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.help@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 2024, you can enrol online from Monday 8 January 2024. Your catchment school will contact you between Monday 15 to Friday 19 January 2024 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 11 ½ and 12 ½, 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 on events designed to support P7 before they move on to secondary school.

The children of Neilsland Primary School normally transfer to Calderside Academy, Calder St, Blantyre, Glasgow G72 0AX, Tel 01698 717180

Visits by Calderside Academy staff to P7 in Neilsland Primary School are a feature of the Primary/Secondary Liaison, as are visits to Calderside Academy by P7 pupils.

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)

We are committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education to all our children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having additional support needs, have a common entitlement to both a broad and balanced curriculum, which is accessible to them, and to be fully included in all aspects of school life.

We are committed to inclusion and believe that all children should be equally valued in school. We will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and to develop an environment where all children can flourish and feel safe.

Teachers organise their daily routine and programmes of study so that children learn at a pace suited to their needs. However, there are times when extra support is required when a child is not making progress, has been ill or when pupils require more challenging work. This is highlighted to the Head Teacher or Principal Teacher during planning discussions and tracking and monitoring meetings and an initial referral for support through the South Lanarkshire Council staged intervention process will be completed, indicating how the class teacher can be supported to meet the child's needs.

Some children require an Additional Support Plan (ASP) to monitor and support their progress and these are devised by the class teacher and shared regularly with parents. ASP's are overseen by the Head Teacher and Principal Teacher.

Some support is available to the school from the Learning Community Extended Team for children requiring further support and assessment. In Neilson this service is provided by specialist support teacher, Mrs Julie Cowan.

Following consultation with parents, some children may be referred to an Educational Psychologist. Miss Heather Kyle works with Neilson Primary, on a consultation basis.

Parents will be informed if the school feels their child requires additional support for learning. However, any parent who has concerns at any time about their child's learning and progress should contact Mrs Kelly, Head Teacher or Mrs Brock, Principal Teacher.

South Lanarkshire Education Resources has published a series of leaflets available which cover information for parents and carers about the Additional Support for Learning Acts. These are available through the school or on the South Lanarkshire Council website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Enquire

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.

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 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.



12. School Improvement

Each year we produce a School Improvement Plan which identifies what we plan to do to improve our school over the next 12 months. Some of our improvement priorities may be in response to government guidance, whilst others will be more personally related to the needs of our own school. Staff, children and parents/carers are consulted on the contents of our Improvement Plan and we issue a summary of its contents to parents/carers at the start of each new session. A full copy of our School Improvement Plan is available for any parent/carer who wishes to read this document and it is also placed on our school website.

We provide regular updates on our improvement priorities through items in the school newsletter and the Head Teacher also presents a report at Parent Council meetings.

At the end of each year we review our Improvement Plan to identify the impact that the progress we have made has had on learners. Further information on school achievements are detailed in the Standards and Quality report, copies of which are available on our website or from the school office.

Our priorities for session 2023-2024

 Neil Island Primary School School Improvement Plan 2023/24 			
Our Priorities for 2023/24	Priority 1: Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	Priority 2: Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work	Priority 3: Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work
What do we want to achieve? (Outcomes)	To develop a new curriculum rationale and map, which will be relevant, coherent and progressive, outlining the entitlements and focussing on positive experiences for all learners.	To introduce skills-based learning across all stages and moderate approaches within the Learning Community trio (David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, Townhill Primary School and Neil Island Primary School).	To further develop the use of outdoor learning across the school in order to positively impact on the wellbeing of all, children's engagement and enthusiasm for learning across the curriculum.
How will we know? (Measures)	By December 2023, we will have developed a new curriculum rationale involving all stakeholders which will be relevant, coherent and progressive, focussing on positive experiences for all learners. By June 2024, the creation of a strategic overview will ensure a shared understanding of the purpose and design of our curriculum.	All staff will have an increased knowledge and understanding of skills-based learning approaches. All staff will identify and evidence the key skills being taught within across the curriculum. Most pupils will be able to identify what skills they are developing across the curriculum and how these relate to the world of work. As part of a learning community focus in moderation, staff will have the opportunity to plan, implement and evaluate an agreed set of skills across the curriculum.	All P1-P7 pupils will engage in at least one outdoor learning experience every week and there will be a consistent approach to outdoor learning across all stages and classes. There will be a 5% increase in the number of children who say that they enjoy school. By June 2024 all P5-7 pupils will have engaged with John Muir Award. By June 2024 whole school outdoor learning policy will be developed.
At Neil Island Primary School we ensure that everyone in our school community is welcomed, included, safe and respected. We are all happy to achieve, play and grow together.			

13. School policies and practical information

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.

For their lunch each day pupils have the option to choose from two hot meal options plus a snack option. These are all served with vegetables or side salad. All meals also come with fresh chilled drinking water, salad, 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 morning break or lunchtime.

Pupils in:

Primary 1 - 5 receive a free school lunch.

Primary 6 - 7 meal cost is £2.05.

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 £726 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 £8,717 as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs), Child Tax Credit Only (where your gross annual income does not exceed £18,725 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 so that children who receive free meals are not singled out and we encourage all children to remain in school at lunch time.

South Lanarkshire Council also offers a free Breakfast service. The service runs from 8.25am to 8.45am each school day.

School Uniform

- Navy blue sweatshirt, sweater or cardigan
- White polo shirt or shirt and tie
- Navy blue or grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
- Jacket or blazer
- Soft shoes for indoor wear throughout day



Please label all children's clothing clearly.

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform promotes 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 damage flooring.



P.E Kit

Shorts, T-shirt and soft shoes

Every child has an outdoor PE slot each week. Pupils should bring tracksuit bottoms, trainers and a warm, waterproof jacket for this activity.

The wearing of jewellery, including pierced earrings, during P.E. sessions is also not allowed for safety reasons. Although it is preferable and safer for earrings to be removed during PE those which cannot be removed can be taped over to prevent any unfortunate accidents.

As the children are wearing uniform, it is important that all items of clothing are clearly marked with the child's name. If desired, the children can wear their shorts under their uniforms. This makes changing for P.E. easier, particularly for younger pupils. P.E. is an important part of the curriculum and all children must take part unless there are physical or medical reasons, which prevent them from participating.

Allergies



A significant number of children and young people in our schools will have allergies and it is important that parents keep the school fully informed on these matters.

Allergies can present in a variety of ways and can occur at any point in a person's life. Symptoms range from mild to severe. Children and young people known to have an allergy with moderate to severe symptoms will likely have a Health Care Plan drawn up by the NHS. This will detail symptoms and appropriate interventions.

It is vital that parents share this information with the school and continue to provide any updated information.

Where symptoms are mild and a Health Care Plan is not in place, parents should still continue to liaise regularly with the school on any new triggers, medications and actions required.

In all cases, our employees need to know your child's symptoms, treatments and any actions required to help prevent exposure to the allergen and minimise the risk of allergic reactions.

Employees in schools will receive training on allergies and will liaise with parents and NHS on any additional specialist training required.

In supporting children and young people with allergies, school employees will operate in accordance with South Lanarkshire Council's Safe Systems of Work / risk assessment 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 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

Our normal school hours on Mondays to Fridays are as follows:

School Hours	9.00 to 10.45 (P1 and P2 pupils 8.55)
	10.45 to 11.00 – Interval
	11.00 to 12.30
	12.30 to 1.15 – Lunch
	1.15 to 3.00 (P1 and P2 pupils 2.55)



School Transport

South Lanarkshire Council has a policy of providing school transport to primary pupils who live more than one mile by the recognised shortest walking route from



their catchment school. This policy is more generous than the law requires. This means that the provision of transport could be reviewed at any time.

Parents who consider they are eligible should complete a form online www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or contact **0303 123 1023**. These forms should be completed and returned before the end of March for those pupils starting the school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made. Applications may be submitted at any time throughout the year and will be considered by Education Resources.

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

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200188/secondary_school_information/545/school_transport or phone **0303 123 1023**.

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 parents' 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

Insurance for schools – pupils' personal effects

South Lanarkshire Council is concerned at the level of claims being received for loss or damage to pupils' clothing or personal effects. Parents are asked to note the Council's position in terms of insurance for pupils' personal effects:

(i) Theft/loss of personal effects

The Council is not liable for the loss or theft of pupils' clothing or personal effects for example mobile phones, tablets etc. and any items are therefore brought into the school at the pupil/parents' own risk.

Parents can assist by ensuring that valuable items and unnecessarily expensive items of clothing are not brought to school.

Teachers and other staff have been advised not to accept custody of any such items.

The same principle applies to musical instruments and other equipment used for activities within the school, which belong to the pupil, but are brought into the school. Parents should be aware that if such equipment is left in school, it is done at the pupil/parents' own risk.

In the case of valuable items such as musical instruments, parents should ensure that these items are covered by their own household insurance.

(ii) Damage to clothing

The Council is only liable for damage caused to pupils' clothing where the damage has resulted from the negligence of the Council or one of its employees. Claims arising otherwise 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 has 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.

Appendix A

This annex gives a list of useful information and the links to the content is now available from the Council's website by accessing the following link

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

The list is not intended to be exhaustive and authors may wish to consider additional sources of school, local and national information, material and resources.

Contact Details

Education Scotland's Communication Toolkit for engaging with parents

The Scottish Government guide Principles of Inclusive Communications provides information on communications and a self-assessment tool for public authorities

Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents - information on choosing a school and the placing request system

A guide for parents about school attendance explains parental responsibilities with regard to 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 literacy, 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

National policies, information and guidance can be accessed from the Scottish Government website on www.gov.scot