



Education Resources

***Saint Mark's Primary School Rutherford
Handbook Information
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 by the Head Teacher

Welcome to St Mark's Primary School.

Our school Vision, Values and Aims were created through consultation with our whole school community and they are at the heart of what we do. Our school vision is that **“St Mark’s is a place of faith and learning: where we love and care for each other, work hard and always try our best, following the example of Jesus our teacher.”** As a Catholic school our ethos reflects Gospel values and as such we recognise the importance of inclusion, nurture, and the spiritual development of our young people. Our school values are **Respectful, Hardworking, Kind, Caring and Honest, and Resilient** and we have created our school aims to reflect these.

Within St Mark's we recognise that literacy and numeracy skills are essential platforms to future learning. All staff work hard to provide excellent learning and teaching, and to ensure that all pupils make strong progress at each stage of learning. We have a relentless focus on raising attainment, developing knowledge, understanding and skills, and increasing the ambition, aspiration and expectations of our children. We want our children to have a 'growth mindset', meaning that they feel confident to try, to learn from mistakes, and not to give up. We have high expectations of behaviour and attitude, and encourage our children to demonstrate effort, respect, tolerance, kindness and forgiveness.

We want you to feel very welcome to the school and very involved in your child's education as a parent of Saint Mark's Primary School. There are many opportunities for you to have your views heard and to take an active part in the life of the school. I hope this handbook will answer many of the questions you have about our school. Should you have any other questions or concerns please feel welcome to contact us.

The staff of Saint Mark's Primary School look forward to working in partnership with you now and in the future. As Pope Francis says, "You will build the future, with your hands, with your love, with your passions, with your dreams. Together with others."

Elaine O'Donnell
Head Teacher



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.

2. About our School

Name	St Mark's Primary School and Nursery Class
Address	Kirkriggs Avenue Blairbeth Rutherglen G73 4LY
Phone Number	0141 634 4238
Website	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/si/stmarksrutherglen/
Email	gw14stmarksrgoffice@glow.sch.uk
Stages of education	Early years (age 3) – end of primary 7
Present Roll	165
Denominational Status	Roman Catholic

Have a Concern?

Formal parent/teacher evenings are arranged twice a year, normally in October and March. If you have a concern regarding your child's progress, behaviour or another school matter you should contact the School Office and a member of staff will get back to you. Regular Newsletters and ParentsPortal provide information for parents on a wide range of school matters.

Child Unwell? Please Let Us Know

Please notify the School Office between 8.30am and 9.30am if your child is going to be absent from school and give a reason for the absence. You can leave a message on the answer machine or speak to a member of office staff.

Every day we carry out an Absence Check at 9.30 am. When a child has been identified as absent and no notification has been received from home, the office staff will telephone parents or the emergency contact to find out where the child is. **Please phone before 9.30 am.**

Complaints Procedure

The quickest, easiest and often the most effective way to complain is to contact the School Office directly and speak to the Head Teacher or Principal Teacher, let them know what the problem is and what would put things right.

You can make a formal complaint:

In person: By making an appointment and calling into the school office.

By phone: Call and speak to a member of the management team detailing what you are unhappy about.

In writing: Write to the head teacher detailing the nature of your dissatisfaction.

When making a complaint you should let us know:

- Your name.
- Your address.
- Your phone number.
- What you are complaining about.
- What we can do to put things right

3. School Ethos



Saint Mark's Primary is situated in the Blairbeth area of Rutherglen, Saint Mark's is a Catholic, co-educational primary covering stages Primary 1-7 and with a full time Nursery class. We have an invaluable and happy working relationship with the parish community and our school Chaplain, Father Stephen Reilly. The ethos of the school is built on the partnership of home, school and community.

Saint Mark's Primary was first established in November 1956 on the grounds of Blairbeth House. It is said the owner of this house granted the land to the council on the agreement that the only building to be erected would be used to educate children. We worked happily in our original school building until 2012 when it was demolished and replaced with our beautiful new school which officially opened in May 2014.

The school is well resourced and includes a large Nursery room, Computer Suite, General purpose room and a well-stocked library. Children have lunch in a bright lunch hall on the ground floor and we have a wonderful hall for P.E. activities as well as for school performances on the stage. We place considerable emphasis on giving children access to the outdoors and we have a very well-equipped playground which encourages play and adventure. We are also very fortunate to be able to offer a breakfast club in our school which is available for all pupils free of charge, running from 8.15am every morning.

We have worked together as staff, pupils, parents and parish to create our School Vision, Values and Aims, and create a Positive Behaviour Policy called The St Mark's Way. These are both fully embedded in our school life and central to how we care for and support one another.



Our Vision, Values and Aims



We will treat each other with respect,
so that everybody feels safe, happy and included.

We will always try our best to work hard and challenge ourselves,
so that we keep learning and improving.

We will always try to be honest, show understanding and be forgiving,
so that we become responsible, kind and caring people.

We will encourage each other to be resilient when things are challenging,
so that we don't give up and have the courage to keep trying.

We will work as a team with our families, priest and wider community,
so that our school is a happy place to be where everyone achieves their full potential.

4. Staff List

Head Teacher Mrs E. O'Donnell
Principal Teachers Mrs E. Armstrong
Mrs L. Livingston

Nursery Class:

Early Years Team Leader Ms J. Weir
Early Years Worker Ms L. Brown
Early Years Worker Mrs P. Dick
Early Years Worker Ms J. Rodger
Early Years Worker Mrs J. Sannachan
Early Years Worker Mrs J. Bordon
Early Years Worker Mrs S. Ahmed
Early Years Support Ms M. Simpson

Class Teachers:

P1 Mrs. L Aiken / Mrs. M Thomson
P2 Mrs P. Roberts
P3 Mrs. C. Tognini / Mrs L. Alexander
P4 Miss Barrie/ Mrs McBride
P5 Mr. JM Preston
P6 Mrs. C. Daly
P7 Mrs. M. Linskey / Mrs. J Sutherland

Additional Teachers: Mrs Gray

Area Specialist Support Teacher: Mrs N. Davenport

Support Team Leader: Mrs A. Welsh

Support Staff:

Mrs K. Thomson
Mrs J. Connelly
Miss L. Spence
Mrs M. Rusk
Mrs E. Donnelly
Mrs J West
Mrs H MacDuff

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Reilly

Janitor: Mr J O'Donnell

Catering

Mrs L. Wallace – Catering Supervisor
Ms A. Glen
Ms J. Neely
Ms M. Shearer

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:

Let us know by phoning the school by 9.30am on the first day of absence.
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).

Emergency Information

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

Severe Weather Protocol

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

Communication

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

Parental Responsibilities

- Inform the school of any changes to your contact details.
- If unsure about the school's status, visit the website 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 by letter.

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

Encouraging School Attendance

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

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

6. Parental involvement/Parent Council

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.

Spiritual, social, moral, and cultural values (religious observance)

Roman Catholic Schools

The religious education in our school is based on "This is Our Faith", a document which has been designed to provide guidance on the experiences and outcomes of Catholic Religious Education and guide teachers in shaping the learning of young people in Religious Education. The document offers a programme based on scripture and tradition. This is Our Faith encourages the awareness, knowledge of and progression in sacramental development at all stages of the primary school.



As a Roman Catholic school, Religious and Moral Education and Religious Observance play an essential part in the education of our children. Our work in this area is carried out in close partnership with Saint Mark's Parish Priest, Father Stephen Reilly, who visits the school regularly and provides a monthly school mass in which the children are fully involved. They participate in Readings, Prayers, Offertory Procession and Singing.

The staff also work closely with the Parish Priest in the preparation of our children for the Sacraments and other religious events. The school is very involved in the life of Saint Mark's Parish.

In a letter of guidance issued by the Scottish Government in February 2011, it is acknowledged that Catholic schools take a distinctive approach to the provision of Religious Observance:

Scottish Government Ministers welcome the tradition that, in Roman Catholic denominational schools, Catholic Liturgy will largely shape the nature and frequency of religious observance activities in the classroom and in the wider school community. So, at times, children and young people will be invited to participate in, and sometimes to lead, prayer and reflection in classrooms and at assemblies. At other times, to honour particular occasions or feasts, chaplains will lead school communities in the celebration of Mass and other forms of liturgical celebration.

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 progress

Assessment is an integral part of learning and teaching. It helps to provide a picture of a child's progress and achievements and to identify next steps in learning. In Saint Mark's we aim to challenge each pupil as an individual, developing strengths and supporting any area of need.

Throughout the school year, our teaching staff work together to plan collaboratively, discuss teaching and learning, share good practice and work together to review the learning intentions and success criteria to meet the needs of each individual in their classrooms. This collaborative process allows us to focus on what we need to assess and when in order to ensure we can track progression in learning and identify when pupils require additional support to help them to succeed.

There is continuous assessment of children's work carried out in a variety of ways through teacher observation, oral questioning, correction/ evaluation of individual pieces of work, as well as opportunities for more formal assessments. Evidence of assessment can be found in what a pupil writes, says, makes or does. These different types of assessment provide evidence upon which a teacher will base professional judgements. The teacher will assess the level at which a child is performing and an appropriate programme of work can then be agreed upon.

Children are encouraged to evaluate their own and their classmates work against set criteria through a self and peer assessment approach. As they develop skills in self and peer assessment, learners will build confidence and take more ownership for managing their own learning.

9. Reporting

We provide parents with reports so that you can see what your child is doing and how they are progressing. 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.

Reporting will be ongoing and comprise of a range of activities which can include children presenting their learning. In addition, there will be parents' meetings which offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child is doing in school and you can contact the school with any matter that you wish to raise.

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)

In St Mark's all staff work together to ensure that all pupils feel included, valued and can succeed. We are very aware of the fact that all children have needs but where a pupil has "additional support needs" we mean that a pupil may require extra support to assist progress within the school environment. This is in line with the authority's Inclusion policy. It could mean extension work for children to challenge them or support for a child or group requiring to consolidate their skills or who need that little bit of extra support. A child may require support for a short time in a particular area, or an extended period throughout their school career. Support may be given on an individual, group or whole class basis.

Support is also provided when necessary to children with English as an additional language.

Our school policy is given a very high priority by all members of staff. The Head Teacher and Principal Teachers consult regularly with Class and Specialist Support Teachers. We work closely with our designated Educational Psychologist, the extended Learning Community Team, Speech and Language Therapists and Behaviour Support Staff as required.

When assessing the needs of individual pupils in our school we always ask:

- What is getting in the way of this child's wellbeing?
- Do I have all the information I need to help this child or young person?
- What can I do now to help this child or young person?
- What can our school do to help this child or young person?
- What additional help, if any, may be needed from others?
- What is the view of the child or young person and the family?

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. These are available on the South Lanarkshire Council website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

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 can inform the ways in which we support children and young people. These are available from schools.

12) School Improvement



Our aims for 2023- 2024	How we did
Embed Play based learning in Primary 1 and 2.	<p>P1 Teacher completed training. P1 Teacher led rest of staff in CPD. P2 Teacher adapted teaching style to incorporate <u>play based</u> approaches. Resources purchased and used. Children engaged in learning and making progress.</p>
Development of learning, teaching, assessment in : - Numeracy - Modern Languages - Listening and <u>Talking</u>	<p>Shared our Moderated Language and Methodology for Numeracy with our Learning Community colleagues and agreed to further consider this as a LC approach <u>taking into account</u> new SLC approaches being developed 2024-25. Increased attainment in Numeracy.</p> <p>Modern Languages was developed as a NCET subject ensuring a coherent and progressive programme of work. This has increased knowledge, skills and attainment of learners, and ensured gaps in learning have been addressed. Pupil feedback has evidenced their enjoyment and confidence in Spanish and French.</p> <p>Assessment approaches agreed for Listening and Talking. Consistent approach across all stages for Listening and Talking agreed.</p>



Overarching planning and ensure HWB responsibilities of all are embedded within our curriculum.	<p>Reviewed Health and Well-Being Planning. Organised playground activities are provided based on pupil interests. Pupil Committees formed. Culture and Diversity week celebrated. P7 <u>Playzone</u> leadership training and extended P7 Playground project to a Pupil Play Committee.</p>
Raise eco profile of school.	<p>School and Nursery eco committees established. Regular meetings conducted. Whole school approach to eco established. Laudato Si training attended by Principal Teacher.</p>
Introduce the SLC Progressive Framework for skills to staff, pupils and parents to support the development of cross curricular skills for all pupils in SLC.	<p>Head Teacher has delivered comprehensive assembly programme based on 4 capacities, SLC Skills Framework and linking to St Mark's Way and relevant events. Learning profiles were created to encourage pupils to set and reflect on goals and targets. Profiles include a section to <u>self report</u> on their progress. Health and Well Being Journals were also created to gauge how children feel about school life using SHANARRI indicators as a guide.</p>



**St Mark's Primary School and Nursery Class, Rutherglen
School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality 2024-25**

Planning

Introduce SLC Progression Frameworks for all curricular areas.

Play

Continue to embed in p1-2 and plan for p3 and beyond.

Eco

Achieve eco flag and continue to develop school eco pledge.

Nurture

Further developing our Nurture approaches within the school using PEF funding to support this.



Numeracy and Maths

Begin to engage with Maths recovery
Introduce Number Talks and VCPA approaches.

Pupil Voice and Pupil engagement

Continue with committees, masterclasses and ensure explicit opportunities are provided for pupil personalisation and choice in their learning.

Revise Health and Wellbeing Journals

Revise Pupil Target Books

Build on Culture and Diversity Week

You can access the School Improvement Plan on our website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/stmarksrutherglen/>

13) School policies and practical information

School Meals

Nursery

All children attending a local authority nursery will be provided with a free lunch. In addition, if your child attends long mornings or afternoons e.g., over 4 hours 30 minutes they will be provided with a 'brunch' or 'afternoon tea'.

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

All primary schools run a Breakfast service from 8.15am to 8.45am with pupils being offered a selection of toast, cereal or fruit along with a cup of milk.

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 morning break or lunchtime.

Pupils in:

Primary 1 - 5 receive a free school lunch.

Primary 6 - 7 meal cost is £2.17

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.

School uniform

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

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. The wearing of a uniform helps staff and the pupils to distinguish between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

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

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in all schools such as:
the wearing of football colours

- clothing with slogans that may cause offence (anti-religious, symbolism or political slogans)
- clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- clothing which can be deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety grounds such as shell suits, combat style clothing, dangling earrings, loose fitting clothes particularly in practical classes.
- articles of clothing that could be deemed to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so.
- footwear that may 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 begins	9am
Lunchtime	12.35pm -1.20pm
School finishes	3pm

2024/25 school holidays (approved)

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

Types of holiday listed by month	Holiday dates
August 2024	
Teachers return on Monday 12 August 2024	
In-service days - all schools	Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 August 2024
Pupils return to school	Wednesday 14 August 2024
September 2024	
September weekend	Friday 27 and Monday 30 September 2024
October 2024	
October break	Monday 14 to Friday 18 October 2024 Pupils return on Monday 21 October 2024
November 2024	
In-service day - all schools	Monday 11 November 2024
December 2024 and January 2025	
Christmas/New Year	Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 20 December 2024 Schools re-open on Monday 6 January 2025
February 2025	
February break	Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February 2025
In-service day - all schools	Wednesday 19 February 2025
March/April 2025	
Spring break/Easter	Schools close at 2.30pm on Friday 4 April 2025* Schools re-open on Tuesday 22 April 2025
May 2025	
In-service day - all schools	Thursday 1 May 2025
May day	Monday 5 May 2025
Local holiday	Friday 23 and Monday 26 May 2025**
June 2025	
Summer break	Schools close at 1pm on Wednesday 25 June 2025

* Good Friday falls on Friday 18 April 2025

** Lanark schools will close on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 June 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

Transport

School transport

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

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

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

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_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 service or other support. We will provide an additional privacy notice at these times.

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

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.