

**St. Mary's
Primary School
Standards & Qualities
Report/School
Improvement Plan for
parents
2023-2024**



St. Mary's is a Roman Catholic Primary School. The current school building is 12 years old. We serve the community of Lanark and the extensive Clydesdale area stretching as far south as Abington and east to Biggar. We belong to the Holy Cross Learning Community, though our feeder school is St. Aidan's High School (NLC). Our children have the option of transferring to Lanark Grammar School and dependant on catchment, our children may attend Biggar High School or Carluke High School.

The current school role is 130 pupils split over 6 classes. We also have a Nursery Centre for children aged 2-5 years. This has a current role of 88 with a capacity for 114. The Senior Leadership Team consists of a Head Teacher, 2 part-time Principal Teachers (2 days per week) and an Early Years Depute who is responsible for the Nursery. The PT remit involves co-ordinating and developing Additional Support Needs within the school while supporting the EY Depute with ASN within the Nursery and tracking and monitoring. This session, class configuration allowed for: P1, P2, P3/4, P4/5, P5/6 and P7. Allocated teaching staffing was 6 full time fully qualified members and 3 part time fully qualified teachers, including additionality awarded as part of post-Covid recovery. 4 members of Support Staff provide pupil support throughout the school. Of our 130 pupils, 12% live within SIMD 1&2, 34% (living within varied SIMD) are in receipt of a free meal and 13% have English as an additional language and 3% are care experienced.

St. Mary's has a very unique ethos. We pride ourselves on faith traditions and our Roman Catholic beliefs permeate all aspects of school life. We have strong links with the parish of St. Mary's and our parish chaplain Fr. John-Paul plays an active and key role in the life of the school. We have an intrinsically welcoming and inclusive ethos and our pupils and staff promote our school values (based on Gospel values) in all aspects of school life. We have a strong nurturing environment for the pupils in our care and have strong school-home partnerships.

The school is supported by an active Parent Council. Regular meetings promote positive links and fundraising initiatives have very much supported the school financially with targeted initiatives.

Pupil Leadership groups are in place and all pupils are member of a group.

Our core values are:

Faith

Respect

Kindness

Education

Helping others

Inclusive

Our staff, pupils, parents/carers and parish priest were involved in the process of creating our new shared vision and aims to be launched in September 2023.

Review of '22-'23 progress

Successes

- Revised approach to spelling
Working collaboratively with local school to develop revised planning.
- Focus on pace across the lower school informed planning.
- Revised approach to be implemented in P1 in August '23 and rolled out across the school from this point.

- Revised approach to spelling
New decodeable readers purchased to support knowledge of phonics and to be used as core reading.
- Further 1-1 intensive phonic programmes implemented for targeted children in P1, P2 and P3.

- Interdisciplinary Learning
New resources purchased for inter-disciplinary approach when delivering Social Studies and Science lessons, providing a range of learning experiences resulting in positive outcomes.
- Review of IDL approaches has ensured a comprehensive and progressive approach across the school while taking account of the local context and resources available.

- Outdoor Learning
Additional resources purchased for all classes to support high quality outdoor learning experiences.
- All staff and almost all children reported increased opportunities for outdoor learning experiences.
- Agreed format for incorporating outdoor learning experiences within existing planning.

Vision, Values and Aims

- A need was identified to create a new shared vision and aims to reflect the changing school profile and consider the aftermath of the pandemic.
- Values are firmly embedded.
- Parents, pupils, staff and parish consulted.
- Parent and pupil focus groups created.

Correlation between attendance and attainment

- 80% of targeted pupils had a decrease in number of latecoming observed weekly, monthly and overall across the year.
- 66% of targeted pupils have increased attendance to more than 90%.
- 80% of pupils have decreased instances of latecoming.

Catholic Mission - serving the Common Good Wellbeing and inclusion of all pupils)

- Fundraising activities (Lenten Fun Fridays/ Advent Festive Fun Fridays) for business partner, St. Andrew's Hospice , SCIAF and Syrian Earthquake appeal to show support for our own school community.
- Successful COTSD initiatives: Pre-loved uniform store is well used, Hallowe'en/Christmas swap shops/clothing store, subsidised trips from Parent Council and PEF spend
- Our Mini Vinnies supported the local SVDP and in turn they supported our families by providing supermarket vouchers.
- Parent Council supported and subsidised seasonal initiatives.
- Focus on school values during assembly and part of pupil achievement (Star of the Week).
- Family events organised by Parent Council - open to all.
- Use of Laudato Si resource to raise awareness of caring for our planet/sustainability initiatives.
- Interventions targeting our most vulnerable learners to raise attainment and close the poverty related gap.
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Challenges/Areas for Action

- Continue to closely monitor targeted pupils who have concerns concerning attendance/latecoming.
- Early intervention conversations with parents/carers and supports put in place.

- After launch of new vision and aims, develop curriculum rationale.

- Continue to have a sustained focus on raising attainment across Literacy and Numeracy.
- Continue to identify pupils in need of Nurture and target.

Notable Achievements

Re-establishment of Parent Helpers: in class support for pupils, after school clubs, Lanimer group working with children.

Building a sense of community by creating and participating in parish and community events: Carol concert held in church, coronation events in conjunction with local burgh, Lanimer celebrations – strong school/parent partnership

Pupil Leadership groups established. All children part of a leadership group.

P7 Pupils received the 'Champions for Change' award for their work on challenging sectarianism on their joint project with Lanark Primary and their work with Nil By Mouth.

All stages offered 1 or more opportunities for after-school or lunchtime club.

Consistently performing well and achieving well awards in local sporting events.



Priorities for '23-'24



Whole school approach to raising attainment in numeracy through pedagogical practice

Develop robust practice in moderation and assessment of writing.

Develop knowledge and understanding of equality and diversity across the school.

Develop robust practice in moderation and assessment of writing.

Increased attainment in Numeracy for targeted group.

Increased performance in HWB for targeted children through Nurture group.