

**St. Mary's  
Primary School  
Standards & Qualities  
Report/School  
Improvement Plan for  
parents  
2024-2025**



*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 Carlisle High School.*

*The current school role is 135 pupils split over 6 classes. We also have a Nursery Centre for children aged 2-5 years. This has a current role of 70 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. This session, class configuration allowed for: P1, P2, P3/4, P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7. 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 135 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.*

## St. Mary's Vision, Values and Aims

### **SMALL** Legends (St. Mary's are Leaders of Learning)

#### Vision Statement

We believe that our unique community is the best place to cultivate a legacy of excellence and equity in education, rooted in our Catholic faith. We envision a successful future for each and every one of our pupils and that they are well equipped to navigate an ever-changing world with resilience, wisdom and grace. We are committed to encouraging our pupils to be the best they can be: today, tomorrow and for years to come.

Our core values reflect those of the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland:

Faith

Education

Kindness

Inclusive

Helping Others

Respect

#### Our Aims

- oTo provide high-quality teaching and learning experiences for our learners empowering them to discover their potential.
- oTo promote our strong unique Catholic ethos, creating a community of faith and learning – welcoming and inclusive to all.
- oTo provide a nurturing and safe learning environment for all our learners, ensuring they are well supported and cared for.
- oTo build strong, positive relationships between staff, pupils, parents and parish community.
- oTo cultivate a climate of sustainability: develop awareness of cherishing our planet, making eco-friendly choices and safe guarding nature for a greener future.

# Review of '23-'24 progress

## Successes

Strategic  
Priority:  
pedagogical  
practice in  
Numeracy

- All staff engaged in CLPL and received training in the CPA approach.
- Almost all staff have received training in Maths Recovery
- Recommended resources purchased to support the CPA approach to Numeracy and Maths
- Teacher lessons reflect changes in practice regarding the CPA approach. All staff feel confident further to training.

Strategic  
Priority:  
moderation  
of writing

- Almost all staff identified an increase in target setting experiences across P4-7.
- All staff engaged in moderation of writing and agreed it is consistent.
- All staff confidently use benchmarks as part the the assessment process.
- Staff confidently use data to plan appropriate interventions for writing.

- Awareness raising whole school assemblies on diversity celebrating our similarities and differences.
- HWB diversity books purchased for whole class/whole school use to promote representation.
- P7 studied the novel 'Planet Omar' during Diversity and Equalities Week, February 2024.
- Most children show raised awareness of Race Equality via learner conversations and whole school pupil voice discussions

Strategic Priority:  
Develop knowledge  
and understanding  
of equality and  
diversity across the  
school.

- In P3, almost all of targeted children showed increase in improved health and wellbeing as indicated in GWB assessment and in Boxall profile.
- In P4, all of targeted children showed increase in improved health and wellbeing as indicated in GWB assessment.
- In P5, all (100%) of targeted children showed increase in improved health and wellbeing as indicated in GWB assessment and in Boxall profile.
- In P6, all (100%) targeted children showed increase in improved health and wellbeing as indicated in GWB assessment and in Boxall profile.

Strategic Priority:  
Increased HWB  
for targeted  
pupils through  
Nurture

# 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.

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

## ELC

- Reintroduction of PEEP to target parental engagement.
- Lunches to be delivered within the playroom setting to create a more relaxed, nurturing setting.
- All staff to use new trackers.

# Notable Achievements

Staff undertook Rainbows training to support bereavement and loss. 12 week programmes for upper and lower school successfully implemented

Opportunities for P5-7 pupils to access music tuition. Weekly lessons in clarinet, flute and saxophone. What a success! Our pupils have made remarkable progress.

Curriculum Rationale created following on from new Vision, Values and Aims, reflecting unique ethos of St. Mary's and local context.

Consistently performing well and achieving awards in local sporting events.

Parent Council and local business group donations allowed the development of the outdoor space. Work has almost been completed on the outdoor classroom.

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

The school continues to fund swimming for P5 - no cost to pupils. All pupils experienced theatre production at no cost

Use of Participatory Budgeting and Pupil Equity Fund allowed all children to experience a school trip at minimal cost.

Additional science experiences at all stages during Science Week. P4/5 undertook the Clyde in the Classroom Project successfully releasing brown trout at Lanark Loch.



# Priorities for '24-'25



Continued focus on raising attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics through implementation of the CPA approach and Maths Recovery Programme

Developing in Faith-Promoting equality and inclusion for all. To create an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God.

Expansion of Play Pedagogy to various stages in the school.

Increased attainment in overall Literacy for targeted children through a sustained focus on increasing attainment in writing.

ELC  
Develop Literacy opportunities in the playroom with a focus on rhyme and mark making

ELC  
Raised awareness of the UNCRC with nursery children and staff, with a focus on SIMOA.