

# Balfron High School

## Handbook 2026-2027





# Balfron High School



## Schools, Learning and Education

Stirling Council is committed to working in partnership with our communities to deliver the best possible services for all who live and work in the Stirling area.

We have a clear focus on achieving the highest standards in our schools and nurseries so that the children, young people and citizens of Stirling benefit fully from our services.

Education is key to every child's future and enables us to create a fairer and more inclusive society, where our young people have the skills and confidence to contribute successfully when they leave school.

We attach great importance to lifelong learning, giving children the best possible start in life from nursery, through school, to life beyond school.

We want all children and young people growing up in Stirling to be: safe and happy; listened to and respected; engaging in a wide range of active learning opportunities; and achieving positive outcomes.

We will realise this ambition by listening to and learning from children and young people, putting them first; promoting inclusion across all schools, nurseries and communities; and by delivering high quality services.

The needs of our children and young people will be best met by working effectively together with parents, carers and a range of partners. We want parents and carers to be involved in their children's learning and believe that this partnership will be key to achieving success for all children and young people.

We look forward to working with you as your child embarks on, and progresses through their education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryony Monaghan".

Bryony Monaghan  
Head of Education and Chief Education Officer  
Stirling Council  
September 2025



# Balfron High School



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to introduce the Balfron High School prospectus for 2025-26. The purpose is to give you an insight into our vision, organisation and a flavour of everyday life at our school.

Balfron High School is a vibrant and caring learning environment where the needs and aspirations of our young people are at the heart of our planning and practice. We are committed to preparing our pupils to the highest standards for life beyond school. We do this by ensuring that relationships between staff and young people are positive, productive and supportive.

At Balfron High School we have a strong ethos of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life. We are committed to recognising and celebrating the success of our young people. The curriculum is broad and varied with a wide range of choices for pupils as they move into the senior phase. In addition, we offer a large number of co-curricular activities, at lunchtime and after school, covering a breadth of disciplines. We are keen to support every young person to find their thing.

I hope that this prospectus will serve to provide a useful initial source of information for those who are making contact with us for the first time, as well as an update for those who already have links with our school. We are keen to develop and maintain the highest standards of communication with you. We will do this via school bag mail, post, e-mail, text or phone. Please do not hesitate to contact the school, your child's Form Class Leader or a member of the Leadership Team for any information or advice. We would be delighted to help.

It is worth noting that the school has a comprehensive website that also holds key information <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronhighschool/>. We also have a monthly newsletter for parents/carers that you can view this through the website link: [Balfron Highlights](#)

I believe that a strong partnership with parents/carers is a crucial factor in safeguarding the success of our young people. I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child is given every opportunity to achieve and enjoy their time at Balfron High School. We will create opportunities for them to find their thing. Join us in encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone and seize every opportunity!

Elaine Bannatyne  
Head Teacher



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

## Page No

Vision, Values and Aims	5
Transition from Primary to Secondary School	6
S1 Outdoor Team Building Day	7
Balfour High School House Structure	8
Home School Communication	9
Pupil Support and Flexible Learning	9
Additional Support for Learning	10-11
Attendance	12
Absence Alert System	12
Healthcare	13
Your Contact Details	13
School Uniform	14
The Curriculum	15-16
● S1,2 Curriculum	17
● S3,4 Curriculum	18
● S5 and 6 Curriculum	19
● Arrangements for choosing courses	20
● Visits out with School	21
● Religious Observance	22
● The Library Resources Centre	22
● Instrumental Tuition	22
● Vocational Support	23
● Personal, Social and Health Education (PSE)	23
Co- Curricular Activities	24
School Productions	25
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	25

Work Experience	25
Pupil Voice	26
House Captains	26
The Prefects	26
Parent Council	27
Homework	27
Recording Pupils' Progress	27
Standards of Good Behaviour and Relationships	28-29
Exclusions	29
Anti-Bullying	30-31
ParentPay	32
Summary of Attainment for Balfour High School over the last 5 Years	33





# Balfour High School



## VISION, VALUES & AIMS

**Our Straplines underpin our ethos and aspirations**

**Building Futures Together**

**Find Your Thing**

### Our vision

We are committed to providing a **caring, inclusive and high achieving school community** where young people have a positive and meaningful experience. We have high expectations and are ambitious for all of our young people. We are committed to ensuring that they are equipped with the resilience and mind-set to compete and contribute confidently and compassionately in a modern, ever changing world. We recognise that all young people are different and we are committed to providing experiences that support individuals to **find their thing**. This is based on the right blend of knowledge, skills, attributes and qualifications that will provide the foundation for our learners to succeed in life beyond school.

### Our core values

To ensure that our young people thrive, we believe that a values-based approach is central to setting our tone and getting it right. To that end, we expect that everyone in our community demonstrates **honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility and trust**.

### Our aims

Our aims support the highest levels of attainment and achievement. To that end, we:

- are optimistic and welcoming with positive, purposeful relationships
- have a relentless focus on high quality learning, teaching and assessment
- know our young people well through our integrated pupil support structure
- provide a flexible and equitable curriculum with pathways for everyone
- offer many and varied opportunities that help young people 'find their thing'
- have zero tolerance to underperformance
- collaborate and plan with parents/carers, partners and our young people
- understand and provide the right interventions, at the right time, in the right way
- are solution focused and forward thinking
- use data, observations and views to understand ourselves and how to improve
- are ambitious for ourselves and each other
- are proud to be Balfour

### Our behaviour expectations

Learners should be **Ready, Respectful, safe**



# Balfron High School



## TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Balfron High School is a 6-year comprehensive school. It is co-educational and non-denominational.

Transition from Primary 7 (P7) to Secondary 1 (S1) is an important time for all young people. For some it is a time of anxiety, for others a time of great excitement. For all it is a time of great opportunity - the chance to make new friends, learn subjects in new ways, and experience a different school day.

To make the process as smooth as possible, we work closely with all of our associated primary schools prior to transition.

Special enhanced transition groups are already working to support young people who may be especially anxious about or have difficulties in the transition process. In early February, details are requested from primary school about the number of pupils in each P7 class and whether any of the children are placing requests. It is important to note that any pupil who has a place at an associated primary school via a placing request, is not automatically accepted into Balfron High School. A placing request via Stirling Council must also be made for a high school place if the child does not live in the catchment area.

During the period February to May, there is a series of visits by Balfron High School staff to P7 classes. The Head Teacher visits all classes at the start of this process. This is followed by a member of Flexible Learning and one of the Deputies and Principal Teachers of Pupil Support. All pupils will have the chance to meet some S1 pupils during these visits. We are keen to get to know young people well before they formally arrive. This year, visits and meetings may be online if in person visits cannot take place. However, we are hoping that an in school 3 day induction can take place in June.

Classes for S1 will be made up of a mix of pupils from across the spread of schools. We encourage all pupils to have a positive approach to a new start with a new group of friends in S1. At the end of May, the class lists will be shared with Primary Head Teachers, and they will have a chance to comment and make changes, based on their knowledge, and needs of young people.

There is a team building activity day at Auchengillan for all in S1 in September to further support transition. We believe that this is a critical factor in making the transition to Balfron High successful as positive relationships are fostered between pupils and staff and among classmates.

Our associated primary schools are Balfron, Buchlyvie, Drymen, Fintry, Killearn, Kippen and Strathblane Primary Schools.

## SCHOOL ROLL FIGURES

The roll of the school in **January 2026 was 876**, broken down by year groups as follows:

NOTE: S1 means first year, and so on.

S1: 143

S2: 153

S3: 154

S4: 165

S5: 152

S6: 109

## S1 OUTDOOR TEAM BUILDING DAY TO AUCHENGILLAN

The S1 team building activity day is an important part of the transition process. It takes place in September each year.

The aims are:

- to provide pupils with a day of enjoyable outdoor activities
- to give them the opportunity to learn new outdoor skills
- to enhance their personal and social development
- to build links, relationships and a strong, positive ethos in each House
- to develop some important core skills such as communication, emotional intelligence, innovation, problem solving, leadership, teamwork and critical-thinking



## BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE STRUCTURE

We are very proud of our House structure made up of Campsie, Endrick and Lomond House.

**Campsie** refers to the link with the hills, which rise above the school. The house colour is green to represent the hills.

**Endrick** refers to the link with the river which flows through the area. The house colour is blue to represent the river.

**Lomond** is both the mountain (Ben) and Loch of that name. The house colour is red to symbolise the beautiful sunsets in the Western sky which often illuminate the Loch and silhouette the Ben.

Every Form Class is supported by a Form Class Leader, who, where possible, follows the class through school years. Every Form Class belongs to one of the three Houses and is assigned a 'Home Area'. There are six Home Areas in the school. A vitally important part of the Form Class Leader/Pupil Support teacher's role is to encourage all pupils to do their best, achieve their maximum potential in terms of both personal and academic success. They meet most mornings for form time. More importantly, the Form Class Leader develops a strong relationship with their form class and is responsible for monitoring their progress, recognising their achievements and providing pastoral support for these pupils. Form Class Leaders have a responsibility for giving parents, as well as pupils in their class, advice or support regarding progress, attainment, career and course choice, as well as support in personal, emotional or health matters. Committed to building strong relationships, Form Class Leaders also teach their own group of pupils Personal and Social Education in S1 to S2.

The Form Class Leaders (S1 – S5) are managed by their Principal Teacher (Learning and Teaching / Pastoral Care). Sixth year students are supported by their Principal Teacher (Learning and Teaching / Pastoral Care) who are also responsible for preparing pupils for life beyond school.

Linked to each house is a Principal Teacher of Pupil Support under the leadership of a Depute Head Teacher. We have one Principal Teacher of Staged Intervention who provides support to all pupils on Stage 3 or 4.



## HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Strong and positive partnership between parents and school is essential if pupils are to have maximum support. If a parent feels concern at any time regarding the progress or general well-being of a child, **the appropriate Form Class Leader should be contacted**. If, during the session, it is felt that any pupil is underachieving because of effort, or lack of application, or if a pupil's behaviour falls below the standard expected, the parent will be contacted and may be asked to come to school to discuss the issue in order to agree and plan towards improvement. Parents can email or call to arrange a time to speak to their child's Form Class Leader. Parents of all S1 pupils are invited to attend a meeting with their child's Form Class Leader after the team building day in September.

## PUPIL SUPPORT & FLEXIBLE LEARNING

*Every child and young person is entitled to personal support to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities which Curriculum for Excellence can provide.*

The Pupil Support team works hard to safeguard this. Most of us need help with learning at one time or another. For our pupils, this may be due to a need for temporary support due to absence or due to having a problem with a particular aspect of learning. Very often, and in the first instance, the necessary support will be provided by the subject teacher in the class. It may be that a pupil has a specific learning need and he or she will require support throughout their time in school, including special arrangements for national examinations.

At Balfron High School, a PT ASN leads a team of specialist Support for Learning teachers and assistants. They work with pupils and spend part of their time assisting pupils in mainstream classes and working along with subject teachers. Some of their time is also spent working with individual or small groups of pupils for special short-term or long-term tuition. They also provide a consultancy service to other members of staff, advising on how best to support the needs of individual pupils. Finally, they maintain important links with partners, such as the associated primary schools, or Psychological Services and ASN Outreach Team.

Teachers and pupils also have the help of ASN teachers and Support for Learning Assistants. These assistants provide support to individual pupils in mainstream classes.



## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

### Additional Support Needs

Children and young people who need extra or additional support than other children or young people their age, to help them access and make progress in their learning are considered to have **additional support needs**. They may only need support for a short time, or they may need support the whole time they are in education.

A child or young person may have additional support needs for lots of reasons including (this list aims to give examples and is not exhaustive):

- A physical disability
- Being a young carer
- Changing school a lot
- Being bullied
- Having a communication difficulty
- Being looked after by the local authority
- Having a long term illness



### Staged Intervention

Staged Intervention is the process used to identify, assess and plan to meet a child's needs. Every school and nursery has a Pupil Support Co-ordinator with responsibility for ensuring appropriate support for children with additional support needs. For most children the support they require is provided from nursery or school, for example, differentiated materials, additional time, movement programmes, and support groups.

Some children with more complex needs may require input from support services within Stirling Council such as ASN Inclusion Service or the Educational Psychology Service, whilst some may require input from other partner agencies, such as Speech and Language Therapy, to provide more enhanced interventions.

Agreed actions will be recorded and reviewed during staged intervention meetings in collaboration with the child, family and staff. Where there is more than one agency supporting a child and this is significant and long lasting, a Coordinated Support Plan may be appropriate

If you have concerns about your child, in the first instance, contact your child's Form Class Leader.



# Balfron High School



## Advice and support services

### **For children and young people:**

All children and young people have the right to be involved in decisions about the support they receive. The following services provide further information about understanding rights and expressing personal views:

**My Rights My Say** – a children's service supporting children aged 12-15 to use their rights. They provide advice and information, advocacy support, legal representation and a service to independently seek children's views about the support they receive with their learning.

**Reach** - a website dedicated to children and young people aiming to help them feel supported, included, listened to and involved in decisions at school. It has information and advice for pupils about their rights to additional support for learning; practical tips for all sorts of school problems; young people's real life stories; and positive examples of pupil participation

### **For parents and carers:**

Parents and carers have the right to be involved in discussions about the additional support for learning options available to their children. There are a number of services for parents and carers to access advice, information and support. These include:

**Parentzone** – Education Scotland's website to find out more about specific support needs, what you can do to support your child, and where you can get further information.

**Enquire** – the national advice and information service on additional support for learning for families, teachers, education authorities and others caring for or working with children and young people with additional support needs.

**Let's Talk ASN** – national advocacy and legal representation service supporting parents, carers and young people (16+) with a right of reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal in exercising their rights

## Mediation

Mediation support services are available to families with children who have additional learning needs. Good communication among parents and carers, school and Stirling Council Education Services is the key to positive relationships and partnerships.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 includes a requirement for education authorities to have in place arrangements for mediation, involving independent mediators, to aim to resolve disputes between parents and carers and the authority and/or school, regarding a child or young person who has additional support needs.

Stirling Council's independent mediation provider is Resolve Mediation Service. You can find out more about the service and mediation here <https://resolvemediation.org.uk/>.

## ATTENDANCE

It is important that the school and parents/carers work together to achieve good attendance as there is a strong link between good attendance and achievement. The school aims to encourage attendance by creating a welcoming and supporting ethos. If there are difficulties with your child's attendance, the school will contact you to discuss ways of resolving this.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or for any other reason, we ask that parents should notify the school as early as possible in the day. We are delighted to have an Integrated Pupil Support Worker who will work closely with families to support those who are struggling to attend regularly.

### Maximising Attendance

Parents should also give careful consideration to the impact on a young person's education when taking holidays during term time. The school will not give permission for young people to attend holidays in term time. All schools are required to record attendance and absence of pupils and report on these figures to parents, the Council and the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government's guidance – Included, Engaged and Involved: Attendance in Scottish Schools - issued to all local authorities in December 2007 provides guidance on how attendance and absence at school is recorded. This document clarifies that the majority of family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence and that schools may only authorise a family holiday during term time under very exceptional circumstances.

Regular attendance scans are undertaken by the Pupil Support and Leadership teams. When a child's attendance drops below 90%, parents will be notified by letter and asked to come in to talk to the Headteacher about how best to support their child's progress.

Persistent late coming also causes regular interruptions for some classes. It disrupts learning and teaching not only for the latecomer but for the whole class.

At no time during the school day should a child be removed by a parent from the school without informing the staff of the school. This includes lunchtime "disappearances". If a child is reported missing we will try to contact the parents and, if required, we will ask for help from the emergency contact or neighbours. If we fail to locate the child the Police will be informed. Please help us to keep your child safe. Poor attendance falls into the Council's Staged Intervention Framework and action will be taken to address patterns of poor attendance.



# Balfron High School



## ABSENCE ALERT SYSTEM

Balfron High operates a first-day absence alert system. This means that parents/carers of any child absent from school without prior warning will be contacted via text. A return message is requested to confirm awareness of the absence and to provide a reason. The aim of this system is to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of our attendance monitoring.

We request that if your child is unable to attend school you contact the absence line on **01360 441616** or email us on [balfronhs@glow.sch.uk](mailto:balfronhs@glow.sch.uk) to inform us of the reason for absence, and the likely date of return of your child. You can also notify us on [ParentPortal](#). Should a pupil's number or pattern of absences give cause for concern, parents will be contacted and a meeting arranged to review reasons and plan support.

## YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Your child's contact details will be transferred to Balfron High School at the start of the new session. It is important that these contact details are accurate and up-to-date. In addition to schoolbag mail, we regularly communicate with parents through e-mail and text.

Please alert us to any changes in your details in writing, or by completing the Google Form via the link on the parent notice board. You can also request a data update form from the school office, which is necessary if a change of address is required.



Are your  
**CONTACT  
DETAILS**  
up to date?

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

### A Health Promoting Community & Gold School of Sport

We are a Health Promoting School. An important part of this initiative is to encourage pupils to adopt a healthy, balanced diet.

A second aspect of the initiative is to encourage a commitment to personal well-being through exercise and fitness.

Neil Thompson is our Active Schools Co-ordinator with the remit of increasing pupil and staff participation in sports and leisure activities.

The third strand is to develop healthy attitudes to the use of alcohol and drugs.

Finally, foundation of the healthy school will be healthy positive relationships throughout the school community. To be truly effective, the school must also recruit the support and involvement of parents and the wider community in the initiative.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM



Our uniform is gender neutral and everyone is welcome to wear trousers

School uniform includes the following

- A school blazer
- A standard plain white school shirt, with a collar
- A school tie
- A plain black V-neck sweater or a plain black school cardigan
- Black trousers or black skirt: ***Trousers and skirts should be an appropriate style and length for school.***
- Black shoes or completely black trainers
- Dark outer jacket – outerwear only. Must be removed when inside school.

### Unacceptable Clothing

- Jeans, jeans-like materials, combat trousers.
- Hoodies, Denim Jackets
- Tracksuits, jogging bottoms.
- Trainers (all black including laces are accepted)
- Very short skirts, bodycon skirts
- Footless tights or leggings

### For PE indoor activities pupils should:

- Wear the appropriate footwear with laces tied.
- Wear black/white/navy t-shirts with short or long sleeves.
- Wear black or navy tracksuit bottoms or shorts.
- Remove all jewellery and watches.

### For Outdoor physical activities or swimming pupils should:

- Wear appropriate footwear, metal studded boots for grass and moulded studs for Astroturf.
- Wear T-shirts, tracksuit bottoms or shorts.
- Waterproof jacket if required.
- Bring goggles/towel and shampoo or swimming. Girls should wear a swim suit (not bikini).

**School blazers can be purchased from**

**Trutex, 35B Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8AH  
(e-mail [glasgow@trutex.com](mailto:glasgow@trutex.com))**

**or**

**Online at [Border-Embroideries.co.uk](http://Border-Embroideries.co.uk)**

**or**

**The Parent Council Clothing Co. We have a pop-up shop over lunchtime most Wednesdays in reception.**

**School ties can be purchased from the school**

## CURRICULUM at BALFRON HIGH SCHOOL

To provide a learning environment that gives all young people the opportunity to become

### Successful learners

#### With

- Enthusiasm and motivation for learning
- Determination to reach high standards of achievement.
- Openness to new thinking and ideas

#### And able to:

- Use literacy, communication and numeracy skills
- Use technology for learning
- Think creatively and independently
- Learn independently and as part of a group
- Make reasoned evaluations
- Link and apply different kinds of learning in new situations

### Confident individuals

#### With

- Self-respect
- A sense of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Secure values and beliefs.
- Ambition

#### And able to:

- Relate to others and manage themselves
- Pursue a healthy and active lifestyle
- Be self-aware
- Develop and communicate their own beliefs and view of the world
- Live as independently as they can
- Assess risk and take informed decisions
- Achieve success in different areas of activity

### Responsible citizens

#### With

- Respect to others
- Commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life

#### And able to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it
- Understand different beliefs and cultures
- Make informed choices and decisions
- Evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues
- Develop informed, ethical views of complex issues

### Effective contributors

#### With

- An enterprising attitude
- Resilience
- Self-reliance

#### And able to:

- Communicate in different ways and in different settings
- Work in partnership and in teams
- Take the initiative and lead
- Apply critical thinking in new contexts
- Create and develop
- Solve problems

## THE CURRICULUM

**Every child and young person is entitled to expect their education to provide them with:**

- a curriculum which is coherent from 3 to 18
- a broad general education, including well planned experiences and outcomes across all curriculum areas from early years through to S3
- a senior phase of education after S3 which provides opportunities to obtain qualifications as well as to develop the four capacities.
- opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work (including career planning skills) with a continuous focus on literacy, numeracy and health and well being
- personal support to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities which curriculum for excellence can provide
- support in moving into positive destinations beyond school

**Our curriculum:**

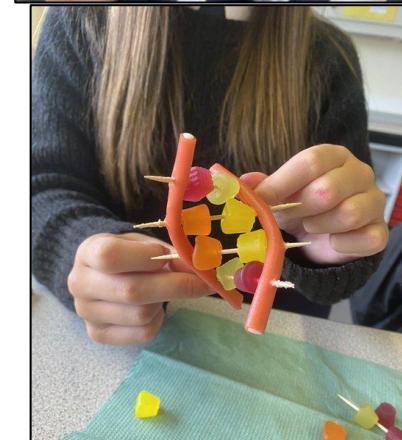
- provides progression from the primary curriculum
- builds on existing achievement
- allows pupils to progress at an appropriate rate

**Pupils in S1 & S2 will follow a broad and general course which covers eight curricular areas:**

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Detailed information on Curriculum for Excellence can be found on the Curriculum section of our website, and on the Education Scotland website.

Almost all classes are mixed ability, in which teachers take account of the differing needs and abilities of their pupils.



## Curriculum

The curriculum was reviewed and updated for 2023-24. Every year group has 25 minutes of Form Class 4 days per week (not Tuesdays). All pupils in first and second year for session 2022/2023 are studying the following:

S1

Period s	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	1	1	1	13	14	1	1	1
	English				Maths				French				Social			Science		
	1 8	1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2	2 3	2 4	2 5	2 6	2 7	2 8	2 9	2 30	2 31				
	BDT		PE		HE/HW B		Music		Art		R E	PS E	IC T					

S2

Period s	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	1	12	1	1	1	15
	English				Maths				Mod Lang				Social subjects				
	1 6	1 7	1 8	1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2	23	24	25	2	6	27	2 8	2 9	30	31
	Science				D and T				Mu s	Di g Ar t	Ar t	R E	PS E	PE	ROTA		

## The Broad General Education (S1-2)

Science, Social Subjects & Business Technology are taught as integrated subjects in S1 with a class having the same teacher for the whole year. In S2, these are taught as discrete subjects - Science, (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Social Subjects (Geography, History and Modern Studies), with each subject taught in rotation by a subject specialist. Technology (Practical Craft Skills, Graphic Communication and Design Technology) are taught 1 period a week each with a different teacher allocated to each subject period. In Modern Languages, all pupils study French in S1 and will experience some teaching in Spanish and German before making choices for S3. There are 2 periods for Art, traditional Art, and Digital Art. There are 2 periods of rota, which incorporates Business, Drama, Music Technology and Home Economics. All pupils will also follow a core programme of Personal and Social Education (PSE), Religious Education (RE) and Physical Education (PE). The PSE programme is delivered by the Form Class Leader in S1 and S2.



## The Broad General Education (S3)

All S3 pupils will continue to study English and Maths and will also study 6 chosen subjects. These subjects will be chosen from across all curricular areas maintaining breadth as well as allowing for depth of study. All pupils continue follow a core programme of PSE, RE and PE. Pupils then choose to continue with 5 of their 9 chosen subjects into S4 studying for a maximum of seven national qualifications.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
English				Maths				Subject 1			Subject 2			PE	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Subject 3		Subject 4		Subject 5		Subject 6		PSE	RME	Leadership					

## Senior Phase

**The S4 curriculum structure is shown below:**

Periods	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	English				Maths				Col A				Col B			
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Col C				Col D				Col E				PE	RE/PS E		

Towards the middle of S3, with support and advice, pupils opt into seven National Qualification courses. The current courses available for study at National 3, 4 and 5 are:

Art & Design, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Design & Manufacture, Digital Art, Engineering Science, French, German, Geography, Graphic Communication, History, Modern Studies, Music, Music Technology, Physical Education (PE), Physics, Practical Woodworking, Retail and/or Travel and Tourism (Skills for Work), and Spanish. Some pupils attend Forth Valley College as part of the SCOTS programme (this is with guidance only).

All pupils study English, Mathematics, and core PE, RE, and PSE.

At the end of S4, most pupils will be presented for seven National Qualifications accredited by the SQA.

\*Please note, subject availability is dependent on staffing.

## Senior Phase

**The S5 curriculum structure is below:**

Period s	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	13	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8
	Col A						Col B						Col C					
	1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2	2 3	2 4	2 5	2 6	2 7	2 8	2 9	3 0	31					
	Col D						Col E						HWB					

Pupils entering S5 must study five subjects. The aim is to have progression from the course of study in S4, and to reflect the strengths, interests and career aspirations of the pupil. The courses offered are at National 4, 5, and Higher level. In addition to continuing with courses from S4 new courses for S5 are Dance, Energy, Enterprise and Employability and RMPS offered at various levels. All pupils in S5 and S6 will have one period of Health & Wellbeing each week.

**The S6 curriculum structure is below:**

Period s	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1 0	1 1	1 2	13	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 8
	Col A						Col B						Col C					
	1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2	2 3	2 4	2 5	2 6	2 7	2 8	2 9	3 0	31					
	Col D						Personal Study/Service						HWB					

In S6, all of the above levels and courses previously mentioned for S5 are available with the addition of Higher Sociology and Higher Photography, and various sports courses. Advanced Higher level is offered wherever possible, which extends and deepens thinking and prepares pupils well for university. One column is a study/service column.

In S6 there are Leadership opportunities available for all, as well as work experience options which include volunteering in a primary school, the local community or supporting teachers in younger classes; reading and scribing for younger pupils, paired reading, eco schools, flexible learning courses including language, involvement in the yearbook, charities committee, Duke of Edinburgh. The range of additional opportunities can change from year to year. This gives an opportunity to further develop valuable skills for learning, life and work.



## ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHOOSING COURSES

At the end of S2, S3, S4 & S5, pupils are supported in making appropriate choices, through a programme of assessment, advice and consultation. We are committed to inviting parents to attend interviews with FCLs from S1 to S3.

The school ensures that all pupils receive the best possible personal and professional advice. Information and course videos for all S3, S4 and for S5/S6 courses on offer are provided on our website.

The process of choosing a course is introduced at a parents' information meeting with the leadership team in February. Pupils and parents are given information on the range of subjects available and the process for selecting courses. The next stage involves advice to pupils on course choices during Personal and Social Education (PSE) lessons and form class, over a period of several weeks.

Pupils receive regular tracking data on their performance in each subject. At a meeting between the pupil, parent and Form Class Leader the pupil's choice of subjects is discussed. Every pupil studies English and Mathematics in S4 as well as core PE, RME and PSE.

Thereafter, pupils are given a free choice for the four remaining subjects. The pupils are asked to select their subjects and list them in order of priority. The pupils are also asked to choose an alternative sixth subject in the event that the lowest priority choice cannot be fitted into a timetable format. If this sixth subject is needed, discussion will take place between the school, pupil and parents.

Other sources of information can be obtained from the Depute Head Teacher, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and the Flexible Learning Teacher for the house. Thereafter, each pupil receives confirmation of their course for the following year. For S5 and S6, there is a requirement to study 5 subjects in S5 and a minimum of 4 subjects in S6. Similar free choice arrangements are in place.

Updated curriculum information is available from February each year.



## VISITS AND EXCURSIONS

We are delighted to offer a range of day, residential and international excursions. The geographical location of the school offers unrivalled opportunities, which are fully exploited.

The school is located in the heart of the Scottish countryside with Loch Lomond, the Trossachs, and the Campsie and Perthshire hills all close at hand and yet within easy reach of the technological and cultural facilities of Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh. In addition, several longer excursions are offered. Prior to each activity out with school, parental consent is required - this is arranged via a parental consent form issued to pupils by the member of staff in charge.



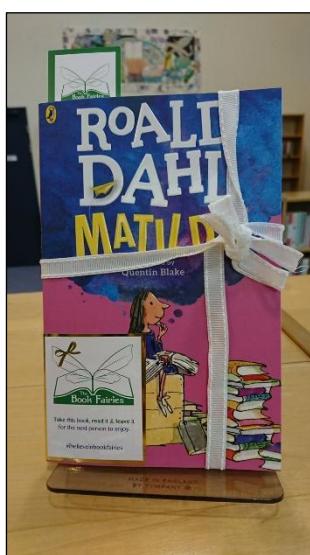
## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

The school has responsibility to provide the opportunity for religious observance. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious observance. The school will make arrangements to provide young people from religions other than Christianity with opportunities to observe the conditions of religious festivals e.g. Ramadan. We have a designated room to support this.

## THE LIBRARY

The Library is an essential source of information and support in all areas of the school curriculum. A structured programme for developing learning and study skills introduces pupils to the use of the library early in their secondary career. Pupils may use the library at lunchtimes, a different year group having access each day.

### Book Fairy deliveries



### Chess at lunchtime in the Library



## INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

The school is served by visiting tutors who provide instruction in piano, strings, woodwind, brass, bagpipes, percussion, guitar and singing. Demand in some areas is sometimes greater than staff and instrument availability. Further details can be obtained from the Stirling Council web site. There are no charges for lessons.

There is a School Orchestra, which rehearses after school on Wednesdays. There are also smaller groups, such as the Jazz Band, Rock Bands, Woodwind Ensemble, Brass Group, String Group, Fiddle Group and Junior and Senior Choirs.

School pipers perform regularly at gala days and local village events. The young pipers are also encouraged to join a pipe band, giving them the opportunity to participate in competitive piping.

## VOCATIONAL SUPPORT

Vocational or careers advice is part of the Personal and Social Education programme throughout S1-6 and Aileen Crawford, our Careers Advisor, is available every week in school. Her visits are co-ordinated with the Careers Education programme.

Career planning assistance can then be provided in a number of different ways:

- A short session with the Careers Advisor on a one-to-one basis to answer questions or provide signposting.
- A more in-depth session with the Careers Advisor, along with other pupils.
- Help to access information on the internet.

Links are maintained with universities and colleges. Liaison officers from a wide range of establishments visit the school annually, to give information and advice to pupils. In September of each year, S4, S5 and S6 pupils have the opportunity to go to a higher education convention. Information about university and college open days is passed to pupils.



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION



In addition to career education, there is a programme of health and social education. In S1 to S4 each pupil has a timetabled Personal and Social Education (PSE) period in which these three main strands are taught.

In fifth and sixth years, a programme of events and assemblies throughout the session deals with the central themes of the PSE programme and other aspects are covered in subject classes.



Considerable importance is placed on Study Skills as an essential element of the learning skills of every pupil as mentioned above. Drugs and alcohol awareness and healthy lifestyles are important aspects of the health education programme.

Details of our PSE courses can be found on the electronic noticeboard linked to the school website and Parent Noticeboard.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a wide range of clubs and societies in the school, and an extensive range of weekly inter-house competitions. These take place after school and during lunchtimes. Every pupil is encouraged to participate during their years in the school. Pupils develop skills and enjoy participating in these co-curricular activities and the school encourages pupils to become involved in them. Details can be found on the Parent Noticeboard.



## SCHOOL CONCERTS / PRODUCTIONS

Normally, there are several productions per year. The Music Team organise concerts in December and April when the instrumental and vocal work of the session is showcased. A school production takes place each second year.



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Each year around 60 pupils also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme with some pupils gaining awards at bronze and silver level. This is run by the Balfron Award Group (former & current parents) in partnership with the school.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Pupils are given the opportunity and are expected to take part in the school's Work Experience programme in S4 and S6. The school works closely with local employers who participate in this scheme, which gives pupils an opportunity to experience the world of work in a range of local contexts.



## PUPIL VOICE

Head Prefects and Senior Prefects with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, run regular pupil councils. Items are raised, highlighted, and fed back through Form Class time and assemblies. All pupils' views are sought on a regular basis, both from staff and from sixth year. The views inform future planning of the school.

## HOUSE CAPTAINS

There is a comprehensive programme of inter-house activities that are run weekly. Monthly House Assemblies led by House Captains, encourage, motivate, and feedback to pupils on events.



## THE PREFECTS

All sixth-year pupils are encouraged to apply for the post of school prefect. They must complete an application form showing their commitments. The application for prefectship will be granted if there has been a good record of effort and commitment to the school in previous years. If there have been concerns, these sixth-year students will not be granted prefectship. Application for prefectship can be made again and will be considered at the beginning of each month and will be granted when he/she demonstrates the values and attitudes that are required for prefectship. Every prefect must also agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the Prefect's Contract which requires them to contribute to the smooth running of the school and support the positive ethos which involves their attendance at school functions such as Parents' Evenings and lays down appropriate standards of dress and behaviour. Some prefects are directly elected as senior prefects for each home area.

Head Prefects are elected by their peers and staff. They are expected to organise the Prefect system and to represent the school on formal occasions. Six Prefects are elected as Head Prefects, each linked to a year group. They are the bridge to pupil counsel and influence decision making with the Senior Leadership Team.



# Balfron High School



## PARENT COUNCIL

Parents, carers and family members are important influences on children's lives. Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's learning, children do better at school and throughout life. The role of the Parent Council is to:

- Support the school in its work with pupils.
- Represent the views of all parents.
- Encourage links between the school, parents and pupils.
- Report back to the Parent Forum.

The Chair of the Parent Council is Fiona Galloway. Here are some useful links:

Balfron Clothing Co -	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/The-Balfron-Clothing-Company-106817604515536">https://www.facebook.com/The-Balfron-Clothing-Company-106817604515536</a>
PC Facebook page -	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BalfronHighParentCouncil">https://www.facebook.com/BalfronHighParentCouncil</a>
Email address -	balfronhighschoolpc@gmail.com
Twitter -	@BHS_Par_Council

## HOMEWORK – GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Our Homework Policy and subject homework information are on the school website. We have moved whole scale to Google Classroom. Each class has an online classroom where work is posted and communication with teachers can take place. Parents can sign up to Google Guardian to receive notifications of their child's homework tasks.

## RECORDING PUPILS' PROGRESS

### Assessments and Examinations

In S1-3, pupils' progress is assessed throughout their learning and there are assignments and end of topic tests to further support the evaluation of progress. In S4-6, ongoing assessment of learning continues and there are tests closely related to the requirements of the SQA examinations. In S4, in some subjects, some of the assessment for final certification is based on work produced in class or at home. The prelim exams for S4-6 usually take place in January. The final SQA examinations usually take place in April.

### Policy on Presentation for Examinations

WE have a positive presentation policy. This means we are keen to support all of our young people to sit the exams once embarked on the course. Any changes to a pupil's proposed examination presentations would only be made after appropriate consultation between the school, pupil and parents.

### Reporting to Parents

Dates when reports are issued can be found on the school calendar which is available on the school website and Parent Notice Board. Tracking reports with a snapshot of progress are shared termly along with an opportunity for n in person parents' evening (two in S4-6).

Parents Meetings are arranged in person and online. At the meetings progress in the course and any barriers to learning are discussed. 'Attainment Alert' letters may be issued at any time if teachers feel that parents need to be informed of a specific issue.



# Balfron High School



## STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND GOOD ORDER

Our school ethos is built on developing positive relationships across the whole school community. We constantly endeavour to provide a positive and vibrant learning environment where there is mutual trust and respect and all members of the community, where staff and students alike accept and meet their responsibilities. The building of positive relationships begins in Form Classes and Home Areas and spreads across all curricular areas. By using praise and encouragement we hope to be successful in creating an environment which enables all of us to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

### Principles

Our positive behaviour policy is based on a set of principles which have been discussed and agreed within the school community.

1. Clarity of rules directions and procedures.
2. Building a culture of praise and encouragement.
3. Recognition and reward for good behaviour.
4. Consistency in the application of consequences
5. Stressing pupil responsibility and choice
6. Having a calm and restorative approach
7. Involving parents at an early stage

There is an emphasis on **Positive Behaviour** and through the Pupil Tracking System (Seemis), pupils will be awarded **Weekly Cooperation Merits** where they meet the standards expected of them with regards to effort, behaviour and cooperation.

**Merits** will also be awarded to pupils by teachers for a variety of reasons including **Excellence** and **Improvement** and for taking part in **House Activities**.

**Demerits** may be logged by their teachers for a variety of reasons including, poor cooperation, homework not complete and no equipment.

### Restorative Approaches

In line with Respect Me, Scotland's anti-bullying service, Balfron High School adopts a restorative approach to address and resolve situations which occur. This approach focuses on the harm caused and encourages people to take responsibility for their actions by being aware of the implications of their behaviour or actions.

If Pupil Behaviour is not what is expected, then the following may take place.

### Low level disruptive behaviour

The teacher will adopt relevant strategies within the classroom, such as moving seat, discussion with the pupil or alternative tasks, to ensure effective learning takes place. The teacher may record this electronically on SEEMiS to inform the Form Class Leader.

### Ongoing low level disruption or more serious disruption

If the pupil continues to cause disruption to learning during a class then they will be removed from the class for the remainder of the period. A yellow Restorative Exercise will be issued, explaining the teachers concern, for the pupil



# Balfron High School



to reflect on and complete at home. A parental signature is required. This will be recorded on Seemis for the Form Class Leader to monitor and deal with appropriately.

## Continued Disruption

If the pupil continues to cause disruption to learning then the teacher, in discussion with the Principal Teacher (PT) may feel it is in the best interests of the class to remove the pupil from the class for a period of one week. During a planned removal, the pupil will be given work to complete and the PT will arrange for the pupil to do this work in another area. This will be recorded on Seemis. This will be communicated with the parents via a letter.

The Form Class Leader continually monitors Seemis and discusses each pupil's record with them on a regular basis. If there are continued concerns about a pupil, the Principal Teacher of their Home Area and the Depute Head Teacher for their House, may eventually be involved to try to implement strategies to ensure improvement.

The principles of the Positive Behaviour Policy are adhered to and **early communication with Parents** is crucial to ensure that we work in **partnership**, so **each pupil** at Balfron High School can fulfil their **social and academic potential**.

## EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

Exclusion is regarded as the last resort in a very serious situation, and it is one of the school's targets to reduce the number of exclusions. In a very serious case of indiscipline, however, such as a criminal act, where there is a developing pattern of serious behaviour difficulties which other strategies have not resolved, a pupil would be referred to the Head Teacher, who might decide that exclusion was the most appropriate way of dealing with the problem.

The grounds for exclusion and procedures to be followed are contained in the School General (Scotland) Regulations (1975) as amended. There are only two grounds on which a child may be legally excluded from school:

Where they (Education Services) are of the opinion that the parent of the child refuses or fails to comply, or allow the child to comply with rules, regulations, or disciplinary requirements of the school.

Or

They consider that in all circumstances to allow the child to continue his/her attendance would be likely to be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school or the education well-being of other children.

Before a decision is taken to exclude, however, the pupil's parents would normally be alerted to the difficulties and involved in discussing appropriate strategies for supporting the pupil.

An exception to this would be exclusion resulting from a single act of very serious indiscipline, such as an assault or a drugs-related offence. Exclusion would normally last only long enough to allow the school to draw up an Action Plan for the pupil's return to normal classes. This may involve contact with other agencies, such as the Psychological Service.

The Action Plan must be agreed by the pupil, the parent and the school, before the pupil returns to the school.

## ANTI-BULLYING

The school has a policy to deal with bullying based on the principle that any bullying problem must be tackled openly and honestly. Parents, teachers, victim and bully must all be involved when any problem is identified.

Several strategies are used to try to “bully-proof” the school, and give a clear message that bullying is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The topic of bullying is a feature of the Personal and Social Education Programme for all pupils, and is revisited in each year.

Year-group and House assemblies play an important part in raising awareness of the problem of bullying. One of the successful strategies for tackling the problem is the daily scheme, which places prefects into S1-S4 form classes for the period of registration. Through regular contacts, the Sixth year student can be alerted to any problems, including bullying, and an appropriate member of staff informed. A copy of the schools’ Anti-Bullying Policy can be found on our school website or a copy can be requested from the school.

### Preventing and Challenging Bullying Behaviours

*‘Bullying has a detrimental impact on children and young people's wellbeing. Children and young people have the right to be safe and secure with strong, positive relationships with peers and with adults, in order to thrive and to achieve their full potential. ’*

*Respectme, 2015*

Through the vision, ‘we are committed to providing a **caring, inclusive and high achieving school community** where young people have a **positive and meaningful experience**. We have **high expectations** and are **ambitious** for all of our young people. We are committed to ensuring that they are equipped with the **resilience and mind-set** to compete and **contribute confidently and compassionately** in a modern, ever changing world. We recognise that the right blend of **knowledge, skills, attributes and qualifications** will provide the foundations for our young people to succeed in life beyond school’, Balfron High School endorses and promotes the principles:

- every child and young person in Scotland will grow up free from bullying and will develop respectful, responsible and confident relationships with other children, young people and adults
- children and young people and their parents/carers, will have the skills and resilience to prevent and/or respond to bullying appropriately
- every child and young person who requires help will know who can help them and what support is available
- adults working with children and young people will follow a consistent and coherent approach in dealing with and preventing bullying from early learning and child care onwards.

Balfron High School value cultures where children and young people’s rights are at the forefront; diversity is fostered and respectful relationships, built on mutual trust and understanding, are developed.

# Balfron High School



The guidance within our anti-bullying policy includes an explicit commitment to addressing all forms of bullying, including prejudice-based bullying. It is designed to support young people, staff and parents to be assured that bullying behaviour is not acceptable and therefore addressed in Balfron High School.

- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronhighschool/school-policies/anti-bullying>

Central to this is our work to build capacity, resilience and skills in children and young people, and all those who play a role in their lives, to develop environments where bullying cannot thrive. Underpinning this is Balfron High School's commitment to prevention, early intervention, valuing and meeting individual needs, in line with the principles of *Getting it Right For Every Child*, in order to achieve responsible inclusion for every child and young person.





# Balfron High School



## PARENTPAY - Our online payment service

ParentPay is our preferred method of making payments to school. It is a secure website where you will be able to make online payment using your credit or debit card to top up the lunch card. Further items will be announced as they come online e.g. school trips

### What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like,
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school

### What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school.

### How to get started with ParentPay

You will have received your account activation details, just follow the instructions in the letter to get started with ParentPay. Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

The screenshot shows the ParentPay website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Parents, Schools, Authorities, Caterers, Support, Contact Us, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar is a large image of two young girls. To the right of the image is an 'Account Login' form with fields for Username and Password, and buttons for Login, Activate, and Forgotten Password. Further down the page is a section titled 'I want to know more about...' with links for Parent support & FAQs, Parent account activation, Dinner money admin, ParentPay Communication Centre, and School online payments. At the bottom of the page are three buttons: 'For Parents' (selected), 'For Schools', and 'For Authorities'.

[www.parentpay.com/Parents](http://www.parentpay.com/Parents)



# Balfron High School



## Summary of attainment for Balfron High School over the last 5 years

### Attainment in National Qualifications (Data from Insight)

<i>By end of <u>S4</u> as % of S4 roll</i>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	<b>2024-25</b>
Attaining 5+ @ level 3 or better	88%	92%	92%	88%	<b>93%</b>
Attaining 5+ @ level 4 or better	88%	92%	92%	87%	<b>89%</b>
Attaining 5+ @ level 5 or better	72%	78%	73%	73%	<b>76%</b>
<i>By end of <u>S5</u> as % of S4 roll</i>	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	<b>2024-25</b>
Attaining 1+ Highers at A - C	83%	78%	84%	77%	<b>77%</b>
Attaining 3+ Highers at A - C	71%	66%	70%	64%	<b>63%</b>
Attaining 5+ Highers at A - C	40%	33%	39%	39%	<b>39%</b>
<i>By end of <u>S6</u> as % of S4 roll</i>	2019/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	<b>2024-25</b>
Attaining 3+ Highers at A - C	77%	75%	75%	74%	<b>72%</b>
Attaining 5+ Highers at A - C	63%	64%	57%	58%	<b>60%</b>
Attaining 1+ Advanced Highers at A - C	43%	41%	38%	42%	<b>43%</b>

Level 3: National 3

Level 4: National 4

Level 5: National 5



# Balfron High School



## STIRLING COUNCIL EDUCATION

### STATUTORY INFORMATION

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page No</b>
Enrolment Arrangements	35
Attendance	36
Child Protection	37
Clothing Grants	37
Complaints	38-39
Digital Learning	40
Chromebooks	40-41
Equalities	42
Getting it Right for Every Child	43-45
Inclusion	46
Insurance Information	47
Register of Personal Data Processing	48
School Health Service	48-50
School Holidays	51
2025-2026 School Holiday Dates	52-53
Transport / Unexpected Closures	54
Parentzone	55
School & Nursery Meals	56



# Balfron High School



## Stirling Council

### Schools, Learning and Education

#### Enrolment Arrangements : Primary & Secondary School Education in 2026

The 2026/2027 school year starts on 12 August 2026, this is the only date for beginning school education for that year.

All children who are five years old on or before 12 August 2026 are of school age and must start their primary school education on 12 August 2026. Children who are five years old between 13 August 2026 and 28 February 2027 may start their primary school education on 12 August 2026 or can defer entry to P1 until 2027.

If your child is starting their primary school education in August 2026, or if you are choosing to defer their entry into primary school to August 2027, you must enrol them at their catchment school by 31 January 2026. Details of school catchment areas and further information on our enrolment procedures can be found by visiting our website [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk) or by contacting us on 01786 233220. Should you wish your child to attend a primary school other than their catchment school you are still required to enrol them in the catchment school and submit a placing request for the school of your choice. We have now moved to online enrolments and request that you complete the online enrolment form which can be found on our website [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk). As part of the enrolment process we are required to check the residency of all parents wishing to enrol their child at their catchment school. You will be required to upload a copy of your child's birth certificate, and two of the following – child benefit book/award letter, tax credit/universal credit award letter, two recent household utility bills or a recent council tax bill. If you are unable to use our online enrolment form or upload the necessary documents please contact the school who will be able to assist.

#### **Gaelic Medium Provision**

Gaelic Medium education is available at Riverside Primary School, Forrest Road, Stirling  
Tel: 01786 237933  
email: [rprsdeps@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:rprsdeps@stirling.gov.uk).

Any parent wishing to enrol their child in our Gaelic medium provision should contact the school for further information.

#### **Notice to Parents and Guardians of Children due to Transfer from Primary to Secondary School**

Children currently in P7 will transfer from primary to secondary education in August 2026. You will receive notification of transfer arrangements through your primary school and your child will be automatically enrolled in their catchment secondary school.

Should you wish your child to attend a secondary school that is not their catchment school a placing request must be submitted.



# Balfron High School



## Placing Requests for Session 2026/2027

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 as amended, and The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, Stirling Council hereby informs parents or guardians who wish to make a placing request for the school session 2025/2026, to do so online **no later than 15 March 2026**. Your right applies to a request that your child be placed in a school other than the school which normally serves the area in which you live. It applies to a primary school or, where appropriate, the transfer to a secondary school, including a school providing for children with additional support needs. You can apply online at <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/placing-requests/make-a-placing-request/>

**It is essential that you enrol your child at their catchment school even if you are making a placing request for another school, this ensures that should the placing request be unsuccessful they still have a place at their catchment school.**

**Please note that school transport is not provided for children and young people attending a school on a placing request**

## Schools Information

Information on local authority schools in Stirling Council is available on our website [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk) or by contacting us on 01786 233220.

Parents wishing to apply for enrolment to Our Lady's RC Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School, St Margaret's RC Primary School and St Modan's High School should contact the school to discuss enrolment policy. Details are also available on the Council website [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)

**Stirling Council  
Schools, Learning and Education  
October 2024**



# Balfron High School



## ATTENDANCE

It is important that the school and parents work together to achieve good attendance as there is a strong link between good attendance and achievement. The school aims to encourage attendance by creating a welcoming and supporting ethos. If there are difficulties with your child's attendance, the school will contact you to discuss ways of resolving this.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or for any other reason, we ask that parents should notify the school as early as possible in the school day.

Parents should also give careful consideration to the impact on a child's education of taking holidays during term time.

All schools are required to record attendance and absence of pupils and report on these figures to parents, the Council and the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government's guidance – Included, Engaged and Involved: Attendance in Scottish Schools - issued to all local authorities in December 2007 provides guidance on how attendance and absence at school is recorded. This document clarifies that the majority of family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence and that schools may only authorise a family holiday during term time under very exceptional circumstances.

Regular attendance scans are undertaken by the leadership team. When a child's attendance drops below 90%, parents will be notified by letter and asked to come in to talk to the head teacher about how best to support their child's progress.

Persistent late coming also causes regular interruptions for some classes. It disrupts learning and teaching not only for the latecomer but for the whole class.

At no time during the school day should a child be removed by a parent from the school without informing the staff of the school. This includes lunchtime "disappearances". If a child is reported missing we will try to contact the parents and, if required, we will ask for help from the emergency contact or neighbours. If we fail to locate the child the Police will be informed. Please help us to keep your child safe. Poor attendance falls into the Council's Staged Intervention Framework and action will be taken to address patterns of poor attendance.



# Balfron High School



## CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

All children in Scotland have the right to be protected from harm.

Schools and nurseries play an important role in the prevention of abuse and neglect through creating and maintaining safe learning environments and teaching children and young people about staying safe from harm and how to speak up if they have worries or concerns.

Schools and nurseries have identified child protection coordinators with a remit to promote safeguarding and a responsibility to act when aware of a possible child protection concern.

[NSPCC](#) have a range of helpful resources for parents/carers

If you are concerned a child or young person is at risk of abuse or neglect, you can contact police on 101 or phone children's services on 01786 471177. You can share your concern with your school/nursery child protection co-ordinator.

## CLOTHING GRANTS

Some families may be eligible for clothing grants. Applications can be made by visiting <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/> and completing the online form.

Supporting documents can be uploaded, scanned to [finservices@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:finservices@stirling.gov.uk) or posted to Stirling Council, Teith House, Kerse Road, Stirling, FK7 7QA.

Closing date for Clothing Grants is 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.



# Balfron High School



## COMPLAINTS

You can complain in person, by phone, email or by letter. We regard a complaint as any expression or dissatisfaction about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us or on our behalf.

### Who can complain?

Anyone can complain who is the parent or legal guardian of a child or a person authorised to complain on his/her behalf. For example, a child's grandparent who is not the legal guardian needs authority from the child's parent or guardian. This would normally mean a note to show that the person responsible for the child has agreed.

### What can't I complain about?

**Here are some things we can't deal with through our complaints procedure:**

- A routine first time request for a service or action – e.g. informing the school that your child told you she is being bullied and asking them to resolve this.
- Requests for compensation from the Council.
- Things that are covered by a right of appeal, e.g. exclusion from school which has its own statutory process. In these cases we will give you information and advice to help you.

You have six months to raise a complaint from the event that you wish to complain about – or from the point when you become aware of a matter about which you wish to complain. In exceptional circumstances, a complaint can be accepted after this timescale.

We have 2 stage complaints procedure.

### Stage One – frontline resolution

In the first instance, please complain to your child's school or nursery, telling them as much as you can about the complaint, what has gone wrong and what you want them to do to resolve the matter. A senior member of staff, either the headteacher or depute head, will be responsible for looking into complaints. Heads are senior managers with a high level of responsibility for your child's learning and welfare and are able to look into most matters. However, the headteacher may refer the Stage One complaint to Schools, Learning and Education centrally, e.g. if it is about the conduct of the headteacher or too complex to be dealt with at front-line service level.

The school or nursery will give you our decision at Stage One within 5 working days or fewer unless there are exceptional circumstances. If we need further time, we will ask you to agree an extension of up to 5 further days. If the Stage One complaint has been referred to Schools, Learning and Education centrally your response will come from there.



# Balfron High School



## Stage Two – investigation

If you are dissatisfied with your Stage One response you can move to Stage Two. Stage Two deals with 2 types of complaints: those not resolved at Stage One and those not appropriate for Stage One, for example the conduct of a headteacher or those too complex for a headteacher to deal with.

To move to Stage Two, you should email [educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk), or you can ask the headteacher of the school or nursery to move the complaint to Stage Two on your behalf.

### When using Stage Two:

- We will acknowledge your complaint within 24 hours.
- You will be contacted by the Investigating Officer for your complaint, who will usually meet you to confirm the detail of your complaint, what you want to achieve, and if your expectations are achievable. In some cases, e.g. your complaint has been made in writing and is clear, there may be no need to meet. It is helpful if you present any evidence that you can offer in support of your complaint, e.g. contact details for witnesses, reports from other professionals, etc. if appropriate.
- We will write to you confirming the details of your complaint what you want to achieve, and what the investigation can cover.
- We will give you a full, written response to the complaint as soon as possible and within 20 working days. If our investigation takes longer than 20 working days we will agree revised time limits with you and keep you updated on progress.

After we have fully investigated your Stage Two complaint, if you are still dissatisfied with our decision or the way we dealt with your complaint you can ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO), <https://www.spso.org.uk/> to look at it.

### The SPSO cannot normally look at:

- A complaint that has not completed our complaints procedure.
- Events that happened or you became aware of, more than a year ago.

## Care Inspectorate

If you have a concern about a care service, in the first instance please raise this with the manager of the service.

You can raise a concern with Care Inspectorate by email at [concerns@careinspectorate.gov.scot](mailto:concerns@careinspectorate.gov.scot).

If you are unable to email or use the online complaints form, please call 0345 600 9527 between 9 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday. This information is regularly updated and available at <https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/complaints>.



# Balfron High School



## DIGITAL LEARNING

### Digital Tools for Learning and Teaching

In Stirling Council schools and nurseries, we use a variety of digital tools for learning and teaching, to share information about the life of the school, communicate with parents and carers, and to celebrate success. Use of many of these tools requires sharing some personal data about your child with the providers of the services. This may include, for example, children's names, classes and photographs. For some services, we will need your consent to share personal data.

### Core Digital Services

Across Stirling Council, we use Glow and Google Workspace for Education Plus for learning and teaching. Data is shared with these services under the legal basis of public task - use of these services is deemed essential for learning and teaching, and we have legal agreements in place with both Education Scotland and Google to ensure that personal data is kept safe (see our Privacy Notices for our use of these services).

Likewise, Seemis is used to securely manage children and young people's personal data, including sensitive category data (such as information about their health). This data sharing is also done under the legal basis of public task, and appropriate agreements are in place to ensure the data is securely managed.

### Digital Services Requiring Consent

For other processes involving digital tools, we will seek consent of parents/carers and the young people themselves when they are aged 12 and over.

## CHROMEBOOKS

### Our Digital Learning Vision

Our Digital Learning Vision is for all young people to leave school with the skills to enable them to use a wide range of digital technologies in the workplace, and to thrive in a digital knowledge society. We will develop educators who confidently and routinely use technology to enhance learning and teaching, and raise attainment across all curricular areas. Key to achieving this vision is to improve learners' access to technology. From 2020, all of our learners now have a school purchased Chromebook for their use.

### Use of Chromebooks for Learning and Teaching

A Google Chromebook is a device that is increasingly popular in education around the world. It is essentially a Google Chrome Browser in a small light laptop style device. This means that it is robust, very quick to boot up, has excellent battery life, and can run Google's online learning ecosystem that hinges around Google Classroom and Google Drive, allowing learners to collaborate on projects and tasks, and allowing teachers real-time insight into pupil progress. In addition, there is a wide range of educational apps available, allowing learners to explore new ways to solve problems and demonstrate their learning.



# Balfour High School



## Use of @stirlingschools.net domain

Across all Stirling schools, learners are part of a stirlingschools.net domain. They are allocated an @stirlingschools.net username which seamlessly links their Chromebook to their Google Classroom and Google Chrome browser experience. This @stirlingschools.net username gives the learner access to the full enterprise Google Workspace environment, including among other features, unlimited storage and premium Google Meet tools.

## Up to date information

The most up to date information on our digital offer, can be found in the "Digital Zone" of the school website:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfourhighschool/digital-learning-zone/>



# Balfron High School



## EQUALITIES AND CHILDRENS RIGHTS

Everyone deserves to be treated equally, fairly and without prejudice.

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 means that the rights of all children from birth to 18 years of age are protected by Scots Law and must be promoted and defended in all areas of a child's life. This includes their rights to

- freedom from violence, abuse and neglect,
- education
- be listened to and taken seriously,
- A proper house, food and clothing, and
- relax and play.

When a child feels their rights have been infringed, their views will always be taken seriously.

Educational establishments create inclusive cultures by working in partnership with the wider community to agree positive values, by promoting and celebrating diversity and through delivering appropriate learning opportunities within their curriculum.

Schools and nurseries operate within Stirling Council's duty under the Equality Act (2010) to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people by removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of particular groups which are different from the needs of others and encouraging participation in public life.
- Foster good relations by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies 9 protected characteristics from discrimination, harassment or victimisation:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

Schools and nurseries have a duty to report prejudice based incidents.

## Anti-bullying and Positive Relationships

Approaches to anti bullying reflect *Getting it Right for Every Child* and recognise that bullying impacts on wellbeing. In order to thrive and achieve their full potential, children and young people need learning environments which are safe, nurturing, respectful and free from fear, abuse and discrimination.

All education establishments operate within Stirling's Approach to Respect for All: Preventing and Challenging Bullying Behaviours and will, in consultation with wider communities, create establishment specific anti bullying policy.

## 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 the help and support they need from their parent(s) or carers, wider family and community but sometimes, perhaps unexpectedly, they may need a bit of extra help.



GIRFEC provides Scotland with a consistent framework and shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people

GIRFEC is based on children's rights and its principles reflect the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#).

Key elements of GIRFEC are:

- Wellbeing
- Named Person
- Child's Plan

## Wellbeing

To help achieve a common understanding of what wellbeing means, it is broken into 8 wellbeing indicators:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Active
- Nurtured
- Achieving
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

In practice, the eight indicators can be interconnected and overlapping. When considered together, they give a holistic view of each child or young person. They enable the child or young person, and the adults supporting them, to consider strengths, as well as any obstacles they may face to growth and development.



# Balfron High School



## Role of the Named Person

Children, young people and families need to know who they can contact when they need access to relevant support for their own, or their child or young person's wellbeing.

Within the GIRFEC approach, the role of a named person is to provide a clear point of contact within universal services, if a child, young person or family want information, advice or help.

The support of a named person is available to all children, young people and their families. A named person will predominantly be based within health or education services, usually in the form of a Depute or Head Teacher, or a Health Visitor. However, there is no obligation on children, young people and families to accept the offer of advice or support from a named person.

## Child's Plan

A personalised child's plan is a non-statutory plan which should be considered when those working with a child or young person and their family, identify that they need a range of extra support beyond universal provision to be planned, delivered or co-ordinated.

The child's plan should offer a simple planning, assessment and decision-making process which leads to the right help, at the right time.

The child's plan should reflect the voice of the child or young person at every stage and include a clear explanation of why the plan has been created, the personalised actions to be taken and the expected improvement for the child or young person.

Stirling's educational establishments have long established staged intervention processes, which provide appropriate and proportionate assessment, planning and review to ensure children and young people have their individualised needs met. Your child's school or nursery can provide you with further information on the staged intervention process. More information can also be accessed here:

[Stirling Council Staged Intervention: What families need to know](#)



# Balfour High School



## Independent Advice

Enquire are a Scottish advice service providing help and information, all advice is independent and impartial. Contact the Enquire Helpline on 0345 123 2303.

Enquire also has two websites, one for parents, carers and professionals, <https://enquire.org.uk/>, and one for children and young people, <https://enquire.org.uk/advice-young-people/>.

Let's Talk ASN helps parents of children with additional support needs who may require support in relation to a dispute or potential dispute with an education authority. The service can be used by anyone who has a right to make a reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland.

My Rights, My Say is a children's service which provides advice and information, advocacy support, legal representation and a service to seek children's views independently about their support.



## INCLUSION

### Additional Support Needs

Children and young people who need extra or additional support, than other children or young people their age, to help them access and make progress in their learning are considered to have 'additional support needs'. They may only need support for a short time, or they may need support the whole time they are in education.

A child or young person may have additional support needs for lots of reasons including:

- A physical disability
- Being a young carer
- Changing school a lot
- Being bullied
- Having a communication difficulty
- Being looked after by the local authority
- Having a long term illness

### Staged Intervention

Staged Intervention is the process used to identify, assess and plan to meet a child's needs. Every school and nursery has a Pupil Support Co-ordinator with responsibility for ensuring appropriate support for children with additional support needs. For most children the support they require is provided from school, for example, differentiated materials, additional time, movement programmes, and support groups. Some pupils with more complex needs may require input from support services within Stirling Council such as ASN Outreach or the Educational Psychology Service, whilst some pupils may require input from other partner agencies, such as Speech and Language Therapy, to provide more enhanced interventions. Agreed actions will be recorded and reviewed during staged intervention meetings in collaboration with the child, family and staff. Where there is more than one agency supporting a child and this is significant and long lasting, a Coordinated Support Plan may be appropriate.

If you have concerns about your child, in the first instance, contact your school or nursery.

More information is available on Stirling Council's website. Information on support needs can also be found at Parentzone Scotland.



# Balfron High School



## INSURANCE INFORMATION

### 1. Public Liability

Stirling Council has Public Liability Insurance in respect of claims against the Council for bodily injury to any person or for loss or damage to any person's property for which the Council is legally liable. Negligence or failure to fulfil a statutory obligation on the part of the Council or its employees resulting in injury, loss or damage to property must be established.

#### Pupils' Property

Each session, unfortunately but inevitably, pupils' property is lost, damaged or stolen in school or nursery.

Parents should be aware of the following points:

- a. Parents' house contents policy may give some measure of cover for personal effects of family members.
- b. It is suggested that parents may wish to consider taking out additional individual personal cover.
- c. Pupils should be encouraged not to bring valuables to school or nursery.

The general rule is that pupils bring property to school at their own risk. There may be situations where the school accepts responsibility for pupils' property, but otherwise the Council is not responsible if property is lost, damaged or stolen in school or nursery.

### 2. Personal Accident/Travel Cover – Educational Excursions

The Council has arranged insurance cover for Educational Excursions organised by the Council.

#### A brief summary of the cover is as follows:

**Persons Covered:** Organisers, participants, members, employees and others on excursions or trip organised by or under the auspices of the Council.

**When Covered:** While participating in any activity organised by or on behalf of the Council beyond the limit of the school grounds.

If you require further information, please contact the Council's Insurance Team on 07387 243095 or at [insurance@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:insurance@stirling.gov.uk)



# Balfron High School



## REGISTER OF PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

**Data Protection laws say that the Council must be transparent about how we process personal data.**

This Register of Data Processing sets out the Council's activities that involve the collection and use of personal information and the reason why we can process your information lawfully.

### Privacy Notice

For each activity, we publish a Privacy Notice setting out how personal data is used.

We are legally obliged to safeguard public funds so we are required to verify and check your details internally for fraud prevention. We may share this information with other public bodies (and also receive information from these other bodies) for fraud checking purposes.

We are also legally obliged to share certain data with other public bodies, such as HMRC and will do so where the law requires this. We will also generally comply with requests for specific information from other regulatory and law enforcement bodies where this is necessary and appropriate.

Your information is also analysed internally to help us improve our services. This is covered in our Fraud Privacy statement.

Privacy Notices are available on the Council website, <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/managing-information/register-of-personal-data-processing/>.



# Balfron High School



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

NHS Forth Valley has a statutory obligation to provide health services for all school age children. The aim is to ensure that all children and young people, throughout their school years, are in the best possible health to benefit from their education.

### School Nursing Service

School Nurses are available Monday – Friday between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm all year round, excluding public holidays and weekends. School Nurses are part of the integrated community team and are based in local health centres and clinics.

The School Nurse Team offer health screening, health assessments, health reviews, health promotion and health interventions when required.

Parents/Carers of Primary 1 pupils will receive a P1 Health Questionnaire to complete. A member of the School Nursing team will follow up any Parent/Carer concerns highlighted on this form. All Primary 1 children have their height and weight measured in school by a Health Care/Family Support Worker. If you do not wish you to have your child's growth measured, please contact the number listed on the P1 questionnaire form.

#### **The School Nursing team comprises of:**

- School Nurses
- Family Support Workers

Children/young people, parents/carers can request a support/ advice from the School Nursing service by contacting the School Nursing Team at 01786 428270.

Alternatively, self-referrals can be made via the School Nursing website, NHS Forth Valley – School Nursing Service.

Referral to the School Nursing Service can be made by Education, Social Work, GP or any other health care professional using the appropriate Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) documentation and submitting the referral to [fv.schoolnurseteamsecuremailbox@nhs.scot](mailto:fv.schoolnurseteamsecuremailbox@nhs.scot).



# Balfron High School



## SCHOOL AND NURSERY MEALS

School and nursery lunches are an important part of the day, encouraging our children to eat a nutritious meal. The lunchtime experience plays a huge part in developing a child's relationship with food, understanding where food comes from, the health benefits to our bodies and the opportunity to experiment and taste new foods.

The Scottish Government introduced changes to the Nutritional Standards for Food and Drinks Regulations within Schools in April 2021. The changes to the regulations are based on the most up to date scientific evidence on diet and are designed to support the health of children and young people within our education settings. The food and drink provided across the day is designed to support the Scottish Dietary Goals. This will ensure all children and young people receiving a meal have access to nutritionally balanced lunches. We are committed to provide healthy, nutritious and good value for money meal options in all our Nurseries, Primaries and Secondary Schools.

Every P1 to P5 pupil is entitled to a free meal. We would encourage parents to access this meal as there are benefits to having a meal. The focus is on an enjoyable lunchtime experience for all children.

All 3 and 4-year-old children and eligible 2-year-olds are entitled to a free meal if they are in nursery for more than 4 hours accessing a funded session. Parents may still choose to provide a packed meal if preferred. During unfunded sessions, parents can purchase a meal if they choose to do so.

In addition to meals, all nurseries will provide a morning snack and afternoon snack. There will be no cost for this during funded or unfunded sessions. Snacks will include Scottish Government funding milk and a portion of fruit/vegetables.

Our Nurseries and Primary schools offer a three-course lunch menu with a choice of soup main meal, and fruit. The menu runs on a three-week cycle and has plenty of healthy and popular meals on offer for pupils. Menus and current prices can be viewed on the Council's website,

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-menus/>

Pupils and parents have an opportunity to provide feedback and have their say regarding the development of future menus and always welcome suggestions for improvement.

Where a child or young person has an allergy or requires a specific diet, this can be catered for in most circumstances however, this must be communicated clearly to the Catering Supervisor, discussed and a clear plan agreed. Full allergen assessment information will be available in every school kitchen. The Medically prescribed diet policy must be followed at all times and documentation completed by parents.



# Balfron High School



## Parent Pay

Parent pay is a web-based application that provides a facility for parents to pay online for school and nursery meals, trips, music tuition etc.

Parents will benefit from being able to make on line payments for meals using a secure website at any time that is convenient. Parents can view all transactions online and see their running balances. Parents can also pre order pupil lunches via the website. This makes it a safer method of payment, instead of children taking cash into schools and nurseries. For more information, please go to [ParentPay website](#).

## Food for Life Served Here

Stirling Council has been a member of the FFL accreditation scheme since 2012. The FFL accreditation providers must achieve the thirteen standards of the Bronze Food Life which include 75% of all dishes on the menu to be freshly prepared on site.

The Food for Life Catering Mark is an endorsement from the Soil Association Scotland that as caterers we have taken steps to ensure that the food that we serve uses fresh ingredients which are free from undesirable additives and trans fats, are better for animal welfare and comply with national nutrition standards:

- Our meals do not contain any undesirable food additives, hydrogenated fats or GM ingredients.
- Over 75% of our dishes are freshly prepared every day by our cooks.
- All of the meat we use is traceable and from farms which satisfy UK welfare standards.
- All of the eggs we use are free range from cage free hens.
- We offer a seasonal menu.
- We provide ongoing training for our dedicated team of catering staff.
- We ensure our meals comply with the national nutritional standards set out by the Scottish Government.
- We provide information for children about where their food comes from.
- Poultry, eggs and pork are produced in line with the standards set for the Freedom Food Scheme, a welfare minimum or 10% of ingredients are organic. All of the milk we use in our recipes and the children drink is certified local organic milk.
- A range of locally sourced items are on the menu.
- No fish is served from the Marine Conservation Society "fish to avoid list"

We are proud of our Silver Food for life accreditation for all our meals, promoting food provenance, freshly preparing foods free from nasty additives colourings and preservatives. More information about the standard can be found on the Soil Association website, <https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/foodservice/>



# Balfron High School



## Breakfast Clubs

There are currently 13 breakfast clubs being run by Stirling Council and 1 by a Parents group. They operate for 1 hour per day, 5 days per week during term time. On average, 343 pupils attend the breakfast clubs per day. Facilities Management provide a Catering member of staff and schools provide a Support for Learning Assistant (SLA) to set up and deliver the service each morning. FM are currently operating two soft start models which offers pupils hot toast, milk and a piece of fruit in their classrooms every morning (9am – 9.30). Pupils can choose to take anything from the trolley, Pupils can choose to take as much as they like as this is unlimited.

Check out your school website to see if your school is providing a breakfast club service.

In order to ensure a compliant Breakfast service, in line with all relevant guidance on food provision and in line with national and local guidance for schools we are now operating a different menu which consist of:

Day	Options Available
Monday	1 slice of bread toasted, spread with Summer County margarine. Milk to drink
Tuesday	Kellogg's Cornflakes or Kellogg's Multigrain shapes with milk/Porridge or Readybrek Honey to sweeten Tinned Fruit Milk to drink
Wednesday	1 slice of bread or $\frac{1}{2}$ a bagel toasted, spread with Summer County margarine Fresh prepared fruit Milk to drink
Thursday	Kellogg's Cornflakes or Kellogg's Multigrain shapes with milk/Porridge or Readybrek Honey to sweeten Tinned Fruit Milk to drink
Friday	A full Kara roll toasted, spread with Summer County margarine. Fresh prepared fruit Milk to drink

All our Catering staff receive regular training in Food Hygiene, Health and safety, Cross Contamination, Allergen and Special diets policy. Each member of staff hold individual training certificates with all Catering Supervisors trained to Rehis accredited Intermediate Food Hygiene standard.

All kitchens follow our BSI accredited Management system (ISO 9001:2015) along with Cooksafe and HACCP guidance complying with all Environmental Health Guidance.

We constantly strive to improve our service and welcome feedback to develop our menu and other services we provide



# Balfron High School



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

### School Holidays

School holidays are set on an annual basis and reflect the agreed formula by Stirling Council which operates a set pattern.

#### **Autumn term**

Starts on the Monday of the second full week in August.

#### **October holiday**

Two full weeks starting on the Monday of the second full week in October.

#### **Christmas holiday**

Two full weeks to include four public holidays on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd January.

#### **Easter holiday**

The first Monday in April, for two weeks, regardless of when Easter weekend falls.

**A full week is a week that commences on a Sunday.**



# Balfron High School



## STIRLING COUNCIL – EDUCATION 2026-2027 School Dates

<b>Autumn Term</b> Starts Autumn Term Ends	Monday 10 August 2026 Tuesday 11 August 2026 Wednesday 12 August 2026 Friday 9 October 2026	Staff Development Day Staff Development Day <b>Pupils return</b>
<b>October Holiday</b> Starts Ends	Monday 12 October 2026 Friday 23 October 2026	
<b>Winter Term</b> Starts	Monday 26 October 2026	
<b>Winter Term</b> Ends	Tuesday 22 Dec 2026	
<b>Christmas Holiday</b> Starts Ends	Wednesday 23 December 2026 Monday 4 January 2027	
<b>Spring Term</b> Starts	Monday 5 January 2027	
	Monday 8 February 2027 Tuesday 9 February 2027 Wednesday 10 February 2027 Thursday 11 February 2027 Friday 12 February 2027 Monday 29 March 2027	Staff Development Day Staff Development Day Local Holiday Local Holiday Local Holiday <b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>Spring Term</b> Ends	Thursday 2 April 2027	
<b>Spring Holiday</b> Starts Ends	Monday 5 April 2027 Friday 16 April 2027	
<b>Summer Term</b> Starts	Monday 19 April 2027	
	Friday 30 April 2027 Monday 3 May 2027	Staff Development Day Local Holiday
<b>Summer Term</b> Ends	Friday 25 June 2027	



# Balfron High School



## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Stirling Council provides support with travelling to and from school to school age children who live more than two miles from their catchment school, or where there is no safe walking route available.

Further information is available on the Council website

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-travel/>

## UNEXPECTED CLOSURES

While nurseries and schools have contingency planning in place to cope with a number of circumstances, sometimes it is necessary to close nurseries or schools or amend the normal day. e.g., storm damage, power cut.

In the event of this happening, we have to ensure school record of parents' place of employment and childcare arrangements are up to date. Please make sure we have an emergency contact telephone number and address. We will issue an annual update form to check the accuracy of contact details and other information held by the school.

Please make sure your child knows who to go to if you are not at home.



# Balfour High School



## PARENTZONE

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

Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.



# Balfron High School



## SCHOOL AND NURSERY MEALS

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