

Areas for School Improvement 2017-18

Raising attainment for all

- ~ Introduce improvement methodology to support current priorities
- ~ Further develop effective processes for assessment, moderation, tracking & monitoring
- ~ To improve the use of data to evidence and support continuous improvement

Improvement in Literacy for all

- ~ To develop a reading culture incorporating coherent and progressive approaches to reading and reading for enjoyment
- ~ Develop the 2+1 modern languages approach across the school and cluster

Improvement in Numeracy for all

- ~ To undertake further meaningful moderation and collaborative activities across the school
- ~ To continue to develop holistic assessment practices to be used more widely to improve outcomes for learners

Improvement in all children and young people's wellbeing

- ~ Improve children's confidence and ability to share their feelings through the introduction of 'Emotion-works' resource
- ~ Develop a 'nurture' approach within our school

Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people

- ~ To develop an effective approach to career's education and World of Work

Our achievements in session 2016-17 have included:

Successful residential camps in P5 and P7

Engagement with JYHS Confucius Hub—mandarin lessons in P6 and P7

Celebration of Roald Dahl—whole school event, Scottish Poetry Competition

'Orchard Project' with the Woodland Trust—successful community 'Apple Day', Launch of Pollination Project

Theatre/music — 'Macbeth, Is This a Dagger?', 'Oor Rabbie', 'Travelling by Tuba', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', Fischy Music, Rookie Rockstars, P5 and P6 Sound and Image workshop, West Lothian P5 Brass day at Strathbrock

Class outings—skiing, Hopetoun House, Botanics, Museum on the Mound, Bible World Bus, New Lanark, Howden Park theatre, Almondell, Sky Academy, BBC studios, Scottish Parliament, Five Sister's Zoo, Butterfly World, Vogrie Park,

Community events—brass concert, choir sing at senior's Christmas meal, Spring Clean, Harburn Festival

Series of transition events—German Language Adventure, Science Fair, Health Conference

Successful Parental engagement activities—PATPAL, Family Learning festival, Burns Supper,

Successful Parent Council events—Halloween disco, Christmas Fayre, Family Fun Run

Successful Nursery Christmas Singalong, end of term graduation & parent Bingo night, Teddy Bear Picnic

Successful Harvest, Christmas, Easter, end of term, cluster and parent/carer assemblies

Fundraising for a variety of charities—Jeans for Genes, MacMillan, Children in Need, Kids Love Clothes, Fair Trade, Jak's Den, Bags to School,

Success in a wide range of sporting activities—cluster festivals

Thank you to everyone in the school community for their continuing support.



Bellsquarry Primary School

Report on Progress 2016 - 17 and Future Developments 2017 - 2018

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About our School

Bellsquarry Primary School and Nursery Class are pleased to share progress made in Session 2016/17 with parents/carers and the wider community.

The school enjoyed a successful year, ensuring continuous whole school improvement in line with our identified priorities and we are confident in our capacity to continue to do so. Evidence indicates that there is positive impact on learning, teaching and outcomes for learners, with the school and nursery continuing to ensure that our areas for development are in line with local and national advice/guidance, meet the requirements of Curriculum for Excellence and meet the needs of our children.

Staffing changes included the appointment of a Principal Teacher (PT) to replace our PT who took up a Depute post in another school and the appointment of an Early Year's Officer in our nursery.

The school benefits from a supportive and proactive Parent Council, including an enthusiastic fundraising team who organise a variety of events throughout the school year. The Parent Council have a Facebook page and a twitter account for sharing information with the parent forum.

We actively encourage parents/carers to be part of their child's learning at Bellsquarry and we host a range of planned opportunities to help develop Parental Engagement and enhance the experiences of the children. These have included PATPAL events, class assemblies, Meet the Teacher session and planned staff/parent consultations.

We update our school blog regularly with photographs and information about what is happening across the classes and in the school community. We have also just set up a school twitter account to keep parents informed.

Bellsquarry Primary and Nursery class have an open door policy and we welcome feedback from our parents about what we are doing well and how we can improve.

What we planned to improve last year?

Area for development 1

To raise attainment in numeracy to ensure equity for all learners.

Area for development 2

Raising attainment through further embedding and developing learning, teaching, assessment and moderation practices, both in school and within the cluster. All leading to improved outcomes for learners.

How well did we do in 2016-17?

Priority 1

We have made good progress

All learners have had access to high quality teaching and learning opportunities, including progression from pictorial to concrete to abstract stages of early arithmetical learning strategies.

We have used coordinated approaches to high quality staff training through effective implementation of SEAL, Number talks, Sumdog and Maths working walls. Staff have engaged in professional reading, research, discussion and observation of effective pedagogy in maths.

Number Talks have been implemented across the school to ensure thinking is visible and children show a more developed confidence in mental agility.

A programme of family learning events was established including an I-Solve open event, and I-Count transition event and a successful family learning festival with a focus on numeracy.

What does this mean for our learners?

There is a positive learning ethos across the school, with learners purposefully engaged.	Learners are increasingly motivated by the improved variety of learning and teaching approaches, leading to improved outcomes.
Increased confidence in talking about mental maths strategies.	Children are excited and motivated by the challenge of maths.
Greater parental understanding of numeracy learning in school.	Continued focus on raising attainment in numeracy.

Priority 2

We have made good progress

We have continued to develop the profiling and reporting process across P1-7 stages, following the West Lothian agreed format piloted last session. We have introduced online Learner's Journals in our Nursery class.

We have continued to improve mechanisms to allow for increased professional dialogue at each level and for moderation.

Teachers have a shared understanding of what 'achievement of a level' looks like. We have improved tracking and monitoring systems in light of The National Improvement Framework and the new benchmarking tool.

What does this mean for our learners?

Pupils learning needs are identified and supported well.	Data is used effectively to further develop learning.
Staff and learners actively involved in/committed to self-evaluation for improvement.	Children have an understanding of their progress in learning.