

Strathmore Primary School Handbook 2014/2015

Confident Individuals Successful Learners Responsible Citizens Effective Contributors
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**Strathmore Primary School
St James Road
Forfar
DD8 1LE
Tel: 01307 473377
Fax: 01307 465109**

e-mail: strathmore@strathmore.angus.sch.uk

This handbook is available in alternative formats. Please contact the Head Teacher.

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Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome to Strathmore Primary School!

I, along with all the staff, would like to extend a very warm welcome to both you and your child and hope that you all enjoy being part of Strathmore. You are the first educators of your child and we at Strathmore are here to work with you to continue your child's learning. Communication is fundamental in ensuring that we work successfully together to help your child to settle into Strathmore and to achieve their best in learning therefore, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the management team, on 01307 473377.

One of the aims of our school is to work in partnership with pupils, staff, parents, the wider community and other agencies to ensure that everyone in Strathmore is **safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible** and **included**. In Strathmore, we believe that **everyone** has a voice and that **everyone's opinion matters**.

Curriculum for Excellence aims to develop skills that enable our children to feel confident, to learn successfully, to grow up to be responsible citizens and to contribute effectively in all situations. We aim to develop these skills by providing learning experiences that interest and stimulate your child in a bright, safe, welcoming environment.

Our school handbook has been produced through working with our staff, parents and pupils to ensure that it is useful and of purpose for you. As a result, we hope you find it informative and you feel able to refer to it in the future.

We all look forward to getting to know your child and you and if we can be of any help please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Scott
Head Teacher



CONTACT DETAILS

School Name: Strathmore Primary School

Address: St James Road, Forfar, DD8 1LE

Tel: 01307 473377

Fax: 01307 465109

E-mail: strathmore@strathmore.angus.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Jennifer Scott
Depute Head: Mrs Jane Webster
Principal Teachers: Mrs Ashley Arbuckle
Mrs Anne McGregor

Pre-School Team: Mrs Diane Ewan Senior Early Years Practitioner (SEYP)
Mrs Linda Smith Early Years Practitioner (EYP)
Mrs Valarie Ogilvie Early Years Practitioner (EYP)
Miss Alison Glen Early Years Practitioner (EYP)
Mrs Laura Robertson Early Years Assistant (EYA)

Class Stages:

P1a	Mrs Diane Maclean	P1b	Mrs Anne McGregor & Mrs Heather Bruce
P2a	Mrs Kirsty Dowie	P2	Mrs Donna Sherriffs
P3	Miss Julia Macpherson	P3/4	Mr Colin Hutchison
P4	Miss Jaime McPherson	P4/5	Mr Bruce Ollerenshaw
P5	Mrs Karen Henderson	P6	Mrs Gill Halliday
P6/7	Mrs Caroline Kerr	P7	Mrs Anne Page & Miss Emma Conway
RCT	Mrs Marion Skeen & Mrs Edna Fairweather		

Additional Support Needs Teacher Mrs Hazel Craddock

Clerical Staff Mrs Stella Mazella

Early Intervention Assistant Mrs Jennifer Cargill and Mrs Lesley Duthie

Support for Learning Assistant Mrs Vicky Howe
Mrs Mhairi Legge
Mrs Rhona Prophet

Primary School Assistant Mrs Elizabeth McInally
Mrs Tracy Scorgie
Mrs Heather Whitton
Mrs Joyce Wilson

Visiting Teachers

Mr Colin Smith	Kodaly
Mrs Pam Fletcher	P.E.
Mr Steve Rose	P.E.
Mr Scott Petrie	Music
Mrs Winsome Hardie	Art

Instrumental Tuition

Mrs Little	Violin/Viola
Mr Crabb	Brass
Mrs Douglas	Cello/Double Bass

School Roll: 319 pupils

Pre-school: 69 pupils (40 morning and 29 afternoon)

Primary 1 to Primary 7 Session Times

Morning Session - 9.00 am – 12.30 pm

Morning Interval -10.30 am – 10.50 am

Afternoon Session - 1.30 pm – 3.20 pm

Pre-School Session Times

Morning Session – 8.45 a.m. - 11.55 a.m.

Afternoon Session - 12.20 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS



<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/11/06125905/0>

Once your child has been allocated a place in the pre-school class you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum and to share information about your child.

Parents seeking a place for their child are welcome to visit the school and can do so by contacting the Head Teacher to arrange an appointment.

The parents of children who will be entering school in August will be invited to a meeting with the Head Teacher in June to discuss what school life will be like for their children. Arrangements will also be made for the children to come to school for half a day in the term before they start school.

All other prospective new pupils and parents are welcome to visit the school by arrangement with the Head Teacher.



PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Parents/carers can enrol their child provisionally at anytime by collecting an application form from the provider of their choice. For children eligible to start for the first time in August of any particular year or who are moving to an alternative provider for the start of a school year, the application should be in the hands of the preferred provider by the end of February. Any applications received after the end of February will be treated as a "late application" and will not be considered until

the next intake date in September (discretion will be used where a child moves into the area).

All children in their **pre-school** year (3½ - 4½ years old) are eligible for a place at anytime throughout the school year.

Children in their **ante-pre-school** year (3 years old) are eligible for a place at specific times throughout the school year.

When enrolling, the parent/carer will be asked to produce their child's birth certificate and two proofs of residence (e.g. council tax/utility bill) otherwise the application form will not be processed.

Aims

The general aims of our setting are to:

- care for the well being and safety of each of our pre-school children
- promote the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of each of our pre-school children.
- encourage children to learn through play; to explore, appreciate and respect their community and environment.
- provide a safe, healthy and stimulating environment where children feel happy and secure.
- provide a well balanced curriculum which is planned to meet the needs of the individual child.
- ensure practice reflects current legislation and guidelines e.g. National Care Standards, Birth to Three Guidelines, 3-5 Curriculum Framework, A Curriculum for Excellence etc.
- encourage parental and community involvement in the life of Strathmore Primary and Pre-school.
- communicate effectively with parents, involving them in their child's learning and experiences.



SNACK PROVISION

A weekly amount £1.50 per child will be collected by a member of staff from parents for the provision of a daily snack. In line with the Scottish Government guidance, this amount charged will be for the purpose specified and not used as a means of raising funds for wider purposes.

Children participate in the preparation of a daily healthy snack. Parents can request a special diet for their children if there are medical, cultural or religious reasons for doing so.

CLOTHING

We aim to develop children's independence skills. Please help by dressing your child in clothes which are easy to manage - elasticated trousers, velcro shoes etc. We do have a change of clothes available should any 'unplanned mishaps' occur, but please feel free to provide your own. Name tags on clothes are also advised to help in their identification.

Aprons are provided for the 'messier' activities, but accidents can happen, so please do send your child in play clothes.

Outdoor play is an integral part of the early years curriculum. We will go out on cold and rainy days too, so please always leave appropriate outdoor clothing.

VISITS

Opportunities to visit local places of interest, e.g. the shops, the library, the post office, the garden centre form part of the early years curriculum and are considered important for the children's developing knowledge and understanding of their local community. Parents are asked to sign a general consent form at the start of session giving permission for your child to attend these outings. Prior notice of the visits will always be given.

PHOTOGRAPHS / VIDEO FOOTAGE

Photographs and video footage are taken as part of the on going work of the group. These materials are used to support all areas of learning and provide appropriate information for parents about their child's learning and development. On occasion these materials will be used for training purposes. You are again invited to give your consent.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Strathmore's school uniform was agreed through consultation with pupils, parents and staff. The wearing of school uniform is strongly encouraged. Casual clothing should only be worn to school on special occasions such as charity events.

Girls	Black skirt, pinafore or trousers
Boys	Black trousers
All pupils	White polo shirt with school sweatshirt or white stiff-collared school shirt school tie with black cardigan/pullover



PE Kit White t-shirt and black shorts for gym
 Black gym shoes or trainers with non-marking soles
 (T-shirt and gym shoes in a bag with pupil's name)

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from others.

We appreciate the cost of school uniforms and have done our best to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum. We encourage all pupils to take pride in their appearance by wearing the appropriate school uniform and we value the support given by parents on this issue.

PE Kit

Each child needs shorts, gym shoes and T-shirt. It is generally best to keep a gym kit in school every day although teachers will inform pupils of the particular days when gym kit is required. Outdoor shoes / trainers cannot be used in the gym for P.E. / sport activities. No jewellery, particularly earrings should be worn during PE activities.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents should contact the school immediately on 01307 473377 if they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or if you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team please contact Mrs Arbuckle regarding children in Pre-School, Mrs McGregor P1 & P2, Mrs Webster P3 & P4 and Mrs Scott P5-P7.

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. All concerns are fully listened to and acted upon with the focus at all times being to find a solution to make the situation better for all.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

At Strathmore Primary School we continually review our procedures when parents/carers have a concern or complaint. We take very seriously any issues you may have with the school and always aim to improve situations by working in partnership to find a way to make it better.

If you have an issue or concern you wish to draw to our attention, please contact the school on 01307 473377.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

All parents are members of the Parent Forum and as such can join the Parent Council. At Strathmore we offer a range of ways parents can help in school, some of these are listed below:

parent helpers

- Walking to and from events e.g. church/swimming
 - Lunchtime activities
 - Trip helper
- Helping with school website
 - Supporting in the Library



Helping in class

- Golden Time activities, such as baking, knitting, sewing, craft making, playing games
- Reading stories together
 - Art & Craft
- Helping with school trips
- Playing games to help learning



Throughout the school term we are always keen to share particular knowledge and skills you may have to further enhance the learning experiences of our pupils. During our 'People Who Help Us' and 'Healthy Living' topics we were delighted to invite parents involved with agencies such as the police, fire brigade, ambulance and guide dogs into school to take part in small talks with the children.

If you have any particular speciality e.g. local knowledge or craft that you would like to share with the children, please contact the school as we would love to have you help.



Our Strathmore Gardening Club meets every week after school and is planned and organised by parents. We are very proud of the work they do which can be evidenced through the Eco-Garden. The gardening club are also very supportive of fund-raising events and help throughout the year and are happily busy through rain, hail or shine!

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with Mrs Webster or Mrs Scott.

During each school year all parents are invited to join us in the first term for our 'Meet the Teacher Evening' where you can meet your child's class teacher and visit their classroom. At this meeting class teachers will share with parents the format for homework along with ideas of activities to support learning and the completion of homework.

Parents are also invited to attend two Parents Evenings in November and February. At these meetings parents will have the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher for a 10 minute interview and hear about their child's progress. This is also an opportunity for parents to hear how they can best support their child's learning.

OUR PARENT COUNCIL

Parent Councils are now established in all Angus primary and secondary schools. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their children's learning.

The basic principle under-pinning the Act is the desire to have children become more 'confident learners' through closer working between each family and school. It is anticipated that this can be done in three ways. These are: -

1. Learning at Home: direct parental involvement in the child's learning at home and in the community.
2. Home/School Partnership: closer working partnerships between parents and the school – such partnerships being essential to ensure that the child gets maximum benefit from its school experiences.
3. Parental Representation: Parent Councils will be parent led and school supported, with all parents being automatically members of the 'Parent Forum', with the Parent Council representing their views.

Information about the role of Parent Councils, including access to the newly established Parent Council Blog, <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/AngusParentCouncilGroup/> can be obtained from the Angus Council web site Parents as Partners <http://www.angus.gov.uk/parentsaspartners/> .

You can find out more about your Parent Council by contacting the Head Teacher.

The aim of the Strathmore Primary School's Parent Council is to work alongside the school. To be a support mechanism for all and encourage parents to become involved with the school. Our Parent Council strives to provide the best environment for the school through fund raising, helping out at events and supporting in classes. By working with staff and pupils, our parents are able to develop an understanding of the work involved and have the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences.

Mrs Jacqui Williamson, Parent Council Chair

At Strathmore Primary we are very proud of the partnership we have through our Parent Council. At Strathmore, our Parent Council supports our staff and pupils through organising various fundraising events such as coffee mornings, beetle drives, discos for the pupils and the selling of school ties and uniforms. Our Parent Council also works in partnership with the school by supporting events throughout the year, for example, proving refreshments during the Christmas Nativity Show for members of the community and by sharing their experience and knowledge during curricular evenings.

At present our Parent Council is focussing their fund raising events to provide outdoor adventure equipment for the playground. At present we have been able to purchase our outdoor Trim Trail equipment and we will be continuing our fundraising efforts to add to this over the next term.

Our parents and staff
who formed our Marafun
teams to raise money for
our school.
Well done to all!



What we think of our school!



Strathmore Primary is fun. It brightens your day just like the sun.

I enjoy football at Strathmore Primary.

Strathmore Primary, proud to serve the town.

I enjoy art because there are different things to do and you can do your own thing.

ETHOS

In our school we are committed to providing appropriate opportunities for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values through both the ethos and the curriculum. This will be undertaken in partnership with parents and will take account of the individual needs of pupils and the views of parents.

Our school welcomes and encourages diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others, compassion and justice. It is a fundamental principle of our school that all who are involved in the life of our school both has the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement the Council policy for Equal Opportunities and Racial equality and ensure that all pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are firmly committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

At Strathmore Primary School, we encouraged links with the local community through parents, our Parent Council, and other local bodies. As part of the curriculum, children visit places of local interest. Pupils also use Forfar Swimming Pool, and for Cross Country Running we use the Reid Park.

Visitors are regularly invited into school to talk to classes, (e.g. Community Police Officer, Dentist, Vet, Country Park Ranger). Where possible we also try to include at least one live theatre event and one author visit per session.



I learned about the parts of a fire engine.

I learned about the exercises to help people.



We support various charities during the session. The School Council help to decide which charities we, as a school, will sponsor. We have established a good relationship with the Salvation Army to whom parents kindly donated foodstuffs at Harvest Festival to be distributed to the needy of our community.

Reverend Barbara-Anne is a regular visitor to school. She works with our pupils in class and joins in with whole school assemblies and our end of term services held at East and Old Church. Barbara-Anne and the congregation of East and Old Church have worked in partnership with the school to establish a 'Heavenly Bites' café. Our P6 and P7 pupils visit the church every week and prepare and serve a two course lunch to members of the local community.

Each year, we invite the elderly from our community to come to watch our Infant Nativity. The Parent Council serve refreshments and the pupils make a small gift and a card to those in attendance.



Tayside Contracts provide a free breakfast club which runs from 8.15-8.45 every morning where the children are given a healthy breakfast.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Our Aims:

- To ensure a culture of mutual **respect** throughout the school that promotes equality and **inclusion** where everyone feels valued
- To promote self worth and value across the school community producing **confident individuals**
- To ensure high expectations of all pupils behaviour enabling them to be **successful learners**
- To provide a framework that encourages pupils to make the right 'choices' and become **responsible citizens**
- Use a solution based approach to resolving conflict and produce **effective contributors**
- To develop a sense of belonging and pride in our school through celebration of success and achievement

Our behaviour policy runs in tandem with Strathmore's Anti-bullying Policy and as such is part of our shared vision to create a **safe** secure learning environment where everyone can fulfil their potential. Thus our behaviour policy applies to staff, pupils and parents.

Strathmore's behaviour policy has two key themes. These are:

- With rights comes **responsibility**
- With choice comes consequence.

Both of these themes give ownership of behaviours to the members of our community.



Good to be Green Behaviour Policy

How do we promote good behaviour?

Children are given clear guidelines about appropriate behaviour and expectations based on our 'Golden Rules' which all staff expect the pupils to abide by.

Golden Rules

1. We listen
2. We are honest
3. We are kind and helpful
4. We are gentle
5. We work hard
6. We look after property

The 'Good to be Green' system

- Golden Time will take place weekly in Primary 3 to Primary 7. Pupils will start each week with 5 minutes of Golden Time. They will be given the opportunity to earn an additional 25 minutes (5 minutes per day) by following the 'Golden Rules'.
- Golden Time will take place daily in Primary 1 and Primary 2. Pupils will start each day with 5 minutes of Golden Time. They will be given the opportunity to earn an additional 5 minutes of Golden Time for that day.
- Each child has a pocket on a wall chart that contains three coloured cards, GREEN, YELLOW and RED.
- At the beginning of each day the pupils start by being 'GREEN' on their chart.
- Should a pupil break a Golden Rule they are given a verbal warning which should be sufficient to remind the pupil what is expected.
- If the pupil continues to behave unacceptably they are issued with a YELLOW card. It is pointed out to the child that they have a choice about how to behave and they may be given time out to reflect on their behaviour.
- If the pupil corrects their behaviour (makes the right choice) they will earn 5 minutes of Golden Time.
- A RED card is issued if the pupil's unacceptable behaviour continues.
- If a child ends the day on a RED card they will not earn 5 minutes of Golden Time.
- BEYOND RED - If the pupil continues to behave unacceptably they will be given a reflection task to complete during a supported playtime or lunchtime.
- At the end of each day the pupils will keep track of their coloured cards in a green homework diary. There will be a column for classroom behaviour and a column for playground behaviour.
- If a child ends the day on GREEN or YELLOW they will earn 5 minutes of Golden Time.

The 'Good to be Green' system in the playground

- Children will be working towards a 'Good to be Green' playtime which will take place every Friday.
- Should a pupil break a Golden Rule in the playground they are given a verbal warning which should be sufficient to remind the pupil what is expected.
- If the child continues to behave unacceptably a written warning recorded on a yellow card will be given.
- Further unacceptable behaviour will result in a written warning recorded on a red card.
- If a child has been issued with 2 or more red cards in one week they will not earn their 'Good to be Green' playtime.

Rewards for GREEN behaviour include:

- Earned 'Golden Time'
- Star of the week/Star of the day
- Class rewards
- End of term awards – to be decided with the children
- Term 1 – 35 or more
- Term 2 – 40 or more
- Term 3 – 55 or more
- Term 4 – 42 or more
- 'Good to be Green' extra playtime
- 40 GREEN DOTS – BRONZE AWARD
- 80 GREEN DOTS – SILVER AWARD
- 120 GREEN DOTS – GOLD AWARD
- 170 OR MORE – 'GOOD TO BE GREEN' END OF YEAR TREAT

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

At Strathmore we know that children work best when they are praised and positively encouraged and appreciated. Pupils are rewarded on a daily basis for good choices and endeavouring to achieve their best through stickers, praise certificates, star of the day rewards and star of the week assemblies.

At weekly assemblies we not only celebrate the star of the week but also other curricular achievements.



Prize giving awards
'Rising Star' award in
ASN.

We also like to celebrate the achievements that our pupils have out with school too. These are celebrated at our weekly assembly and then on our achievement board in the front entrance of the school.



Letter from the Queen thanking us for our Jubilee wishes!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have a range of extra-curricular activities offered to our pupils. During lunchtime staff organise a gymnastics club and a Fun Fitness club. After school, staff organise sporting clubs such as football, badminton and cross country.

Badminton Club



Football Club - whatever the weather!

We also have an after school club to prepare for our act in the The Rock Challenge event in March each year. At lunchtime we have a homework club. We are also very lucky to have dedicated parent helpers who support with an art and craft club at lunchtime and our Gardening Club after school on a Tuesday.

PUPIL COUNCIL

In Strathmore there is an active School Council, which combines together our Pupil and Eco Council. We have pupil representation from each class where members are elected by their class peers at the beginning of session and they hold office for the duration of one year. Each class council member has to apply for the position giving reasons as to why they think they would be best suited to represent the ideas and thoughts of their peers.

The School Council has regular meetings with the staff co-ordinator, which this session is Mrs Henderson, with the aim of identifying how and what the council wish to do to further improve our school.

What we think of our School Council!

Our School Council is smart and organised.

Our School Council is responsible and happy.

Working together, supportive, using one voice at a time.



Our School Council is calm and positive.

People sharing ideas.

Responsible and respectful.

Good vibes and everyone sharing ideas.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The children will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-operative and social.

Assessment is a crucial part of the learning process and your child will have opportunities to identify next steps in their learning. Evidence of progress can be gathered by learners themselves, and by fellow pupils (peers), parents, teachers and other professionals.

A number of approaches are employed including the following:

- Self-assessment – learners will be encouraged and supported to look at and revisit their own work, to develop a better understanding of what they have learned, and what they need to work on
- Peer assessment – learners will be encouraged and supported to work together to help others assess what is good about their work and what needs to be worked on
- Personal learning planning – children, teachers and parents will work together to develop planning for next steps in learning
- Profiles – a statement of achievements both within and out with school, to be introduced at P7 and S3.

Evidence of children and young people's progress and achievements will come from day to day learning and through the things they may write, say, make or do. For example evidence may emerge as a result of children and young people taking part in a presentation, discussion, performance, or practical investigation. Evidence may be captured as a photograph, video or audio clip as part of a particular learning experience.

THE PUPILS AND PARENT VOICE

Our pupils are consulted through the School Council on their views about how to further improve our school. Our weekly assemblies are also considered as a time to consult and listen to the views of our pupils at these times we often gather views on aspect of school life pertinent to the children, e.g. wet playtime arrangements, dining hall rules, playground development and more recently gather the views to update and review our school vision, values and aims.

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of specific focus e.g. World War 2 – The Battle of Britain.

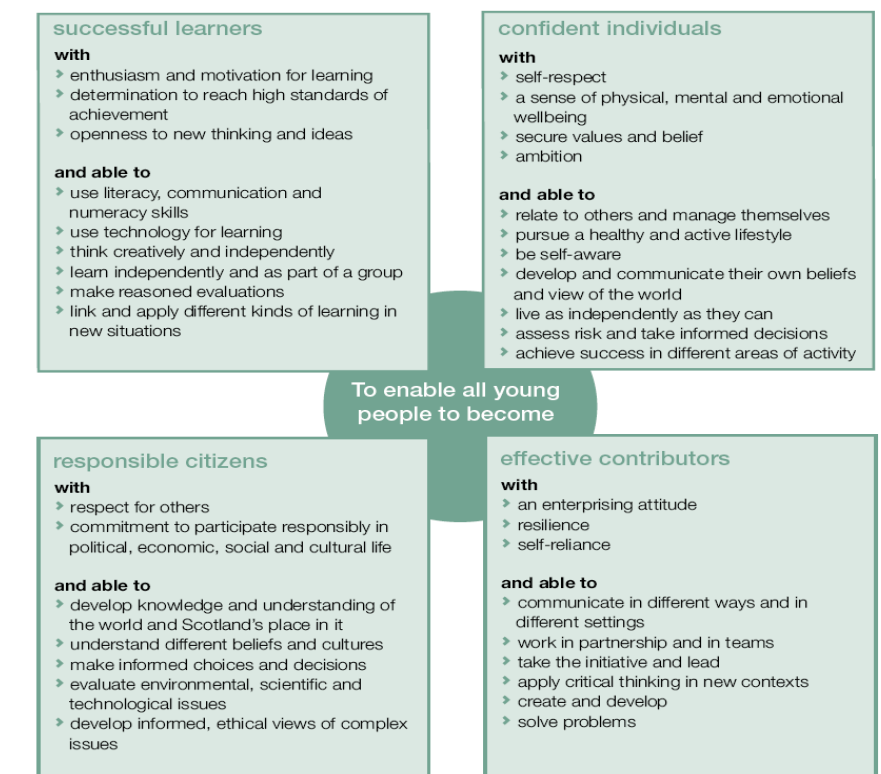
This will be shared with home and parents/carers will be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home e.g. ration book or visit the school to share a talk.

Parents will be invited to share comment regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to feedback comment at any time through their child's homework diary.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Curriculum for Excellence (often shortened to CfE) is the curriculum in Scotland which applies to all children and young people aged 3-18, wherever they are learning. It aims to raise achievement for all, enabling young people to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to succeed in learning, life and work.

The Four Capacities represent the curriculum aims for all young children to become:



The Eight Curriculum areas are:

- Expressive Arts – including art and design, dance, drama and music
- Health and Wellbeing – mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, PE, food and health, substance misuse and relationships, sexual health and parenthood.
- Languages – listening and talking, reading and writing in literacy and English and modern languages, plus classical languages and literacy and Gaidhlig/Gaelic learners (where available)
- Mathematics – including analysing information, solving problems and assessing risk
- Religious and Moral Education (denominational and non-denominational) – learning about Christianity, other world religions and developing values and beliefs
- Science – understanding important scientific concepts across planet Earth, forces, electricity and waves, biological systems, materials and topical science
- Social Studies – understanding people, place and society in the past and present including history, geography, modern studies and business education
- Technologies – including computing science, food, textiles, craft, design, engineering, graphics and applied technologies

Additional important themes across the curriculum are creativity, enterprise and global citizenship, which include sustainable development, international education and citizenship.

LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school maintains close links with **Forfar Academy, Taylor Street, Forfar Tel. 01307 475900** and other Primary Schools within the Angus area. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

Pupils normally transfer to Secondary School in August following completion of their P7 year. You will be contacted by letter and offered a place at the secondary school serving your home address which you may either accept or decline.

Secondary schools have their own arrangements for meetings with prospective parents, and you will be given details of these meetings.

Secondary staff visit P7 pupils to discuss aspects of their transfer with them, and in June the children will spend 2/3 days at their chosen secondary school.

Parents who wish to transfer their children to a secondary school other than that proposed by the Education Authority must submit a written placement request by mid March.

Placing Request forms are available from the Head Teacher or the People Directorate, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar DD8 1AE, Tel: 08452 777 778.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

What do we want to achieve this year (2014/2015)?

Raise Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy:

- Increased pupil enthusiasm towards reading through the implementation of the new reading scheme across the school – Oxford Reading Tree
- Increased use of the school and local library to support pupil learning and research skills
- Professional learning opportunities to further enhance pedagogy to better equip all pupils to become successful and keen readers.
- Further develop upon teaching approaches to support mental agility and number calculation across all four operations (+, -, x, -)
- Develop a shared understanding of expectations for pupil learning at particular stages within Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

Better Relationships; Better Learning; Better Behaviour:

- Review of school aims in consultation with staff, pupils and wider school community.
- Implementation of the new whole school behaviour system (Good to be Green) to ensure consistency of expectations, strategies and approaches in all areas of the school.
- Make better use of a variety of data to support the identification of pupil needs, e.g. PIPs analysis, standardised Reading/Spelling and Numeracy assessments.
- Support staff to plan learning and record quality assessment through OTWL2.
- Re-introduce Learning logs to evidence pupil learning and achievements within and out with school.
- Further build upon the existing positive links with parents/carers through increased opportunities to share pupil learning and progress e.g. additional Parent Evening, learning logs shared at home, open events in school.
- Continue to develop Nurturing principles within the school and operate the Sun Room in the afternoon for identified pupils.

Build upon current good practice for Health & Well-being:

- Achieve Green flag for Eco Schools
- Additional training for teaching staff to incorporating the 4 components in PE when planning for 2 hours quality PE.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

How well did we do last year (2013/2014)?

- Children in P6 and P7 worked towards and achieved success at the Angus Rock Challenge event in Webster's Theatre
- Children continued to support in running a lunchtime café called 'Heavenly Bites' with the local church which helped develop important life, social and budgeting skills.
- School staff from P1 – P7 participated in a number of training events to support the teaching of the additional language, French, across the whole school.
- Parental involvement has increased and the success of the Parent Council continues to benefit the whole school community.
- Staff and pupils are familiar with the language associated with GIR and the methods of support available to them to achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes.
- A very successful Nurture Room has operated throughout this session, supporting some pupils in P1 and P2, to further develop upon social skills, friendships, listening and concentration skills as well as building self-esteem and confidence.
- Enhancement of the School Positive Behaviour approaches through whole school implementation of Golden Time, class teachers adopting principles from Bounceback.
- New School council formed, to merge together the previous work led by the Eco Committee and Pupil Council, with representatives from P1 to P7, parents and the school community, e.g. the Ranger service in Forfar and School Chaplain.
- Improvements to the playground led and supported by the Parent Council and School Council.
- The Introduction and use of OTWL2 tool by all staff to support the planning and assessing of pupils learning across the school.
- We had a very successful fundraising event, due to parental support, which raised £3,400 for purchasing a new reading scheme for across the school.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

How do we know?

- The pupils received very positive feedback from, the Rock Challenge judges, staff and parents in response to their creativity and enthusiasm during the preparations for Rock Challenge and the actual performance.
- Positive feedback from the church about the excellent manners and behaviour of our pupils running the Heavenly Bites café.
- Pupils engaged and motivated to learning French and achieving success in their use of French within the classroom contexts across the school.
- Throughout the year we have received very positive feedback from parents, visitors to the school and other p[professionals working within the school.
- Very successful 'Strathie Café' operating every Thursday morning due to the dedication and hard work of the parent council.
- Support from Parents to improve the Library within the school.
- Well attended fundraising events led in conjunction with the Parent Council – e.g. Christmas Fayre, Bring Someone you love to school event, craft club at lunchtime.
- Enhanced links with external agencies to support pupils and their family, e.g. transitions throughout school life, adoption of positive behaviour management strategies, PEEP group led by Speech and Language Therapist and early years worker.
- Staff training events related to Nurture, Attachment, Developmental Trauma, ASN difficulties and pupil workshops focusing on Anti-bullying and health topics.
- More positive playground structures to encourage more positive play, e.g. football rota, trim trail and new activity area.

- Staff completed all training sessions related to OTWL2 and now using the tool to plan pupils learning across the curriculum.
- A new reading scheme (Oxford Reading Tree) has been purchased to further enhancing reading skills across the school.

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at: -

Mandy Finlayson, Whitehills Health Centre, Forfar. Tel: 01307 475263