

STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY  
RESPONSIBLE RESPECTFUL RESILIENT



# STRATHAVEN ACADEMY

## School Handbook 2024 – 25



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If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1023      Email: [education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## 1. Introduction by the Head Teacher

It is my pleasure to present the School Handbook for Strathaven Academy 2024/25. This handbook has been designed to provide you with key information in relation to all aspects of the school. I hope that it provides a flavour of the culture and ethos of Strathaven Academy - *a positive and purposeful community committed to meeting the needs of every pupil and to providing education of the highest standard.*

We strive to provide a rich and inclusive education with a varied range of learning experiences both within and beyond the formal curriculum, and indeed within and beyond the school building. Expectations of young people from employers and from Further/Higher Education have never been higher. Our pupils must therefore develop and demonstrate skills, attributes and abilities and secure accredited achievements and qualifications that will enable them to enter the competitive world beyond school. Working together, school staff, parents and our many partners seek to support and challenge our pupils to achieve their full potential. We will strive to ensure that our curriculum and our approaches to Learning and Teaching develop the skills, abilities, personalities and talents of our pupils to their fullest extent.

We continue to seek improvement in the quality of the service we provide. Ongoing communication with parents/carers and partners is an important part of that process, and you are most welcome to contact us here at the Academy regarding any aspect of your child's education.

Please visit our school website, follow us on X (formally Twitter) or download Parentsportal to keep up to date with key information, including the school improvement plan.

We look forward to collaborating with you over the coming years to ensure that you and your child enjoy a successful and happy partnership with Strathaven Academy.



Waheeda Huq  
Head Teacher

## **2: About our school**

Strathaven Academy is one of 17 Secondary Schools throughout South Lanarkshire Council.

South Lanarkshire Council is the fifth largest authority in Scotland. It covers the following main areas; Clydesdale in the south which features extensive rural areas, Cambuslang, Rutherglen, Blantyre and Uddingston to the north as well as the towns of East Kilbride and Hamilton.

The Council's Plan Connect sets out the Council's vision which is, "to improve the quality of life for all within South Lanarkshire".

For Education Resources this means delivering services of the highest quality as well as striving to narrow the gap. It is about continually improving the services for everyone at the same time as giving priority to children, young people, families and communities in most need. The priorities for schools and services are set out in the Education Resources Plan which confirms the commitment to provide better learning opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.

The context for Education Resources includes major national and local developments. These include a commitment to implement all aspects of the national programme, Curriculum for Excellence (CfE); a commitment to work in partnership with colleagues to meet the challenges of 'Getting it Right for Every Child; and an awareness of the need to seek continuous improvement on our Journey to Excellence.

It is hoped that with your support and the support of other parents that the school can work together in creating an environment where children can be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced across Scotland for all 3–8-year-olds – wherever they learn. It aims to raise standards; prepare our children for a future they do not yet know and equip them for the jobs of tomorrow in a fast-changing world.

Curriculum for Excellence enables professionals to teach subjects creatively, to work together across the school and with other schools, to share best practice and explore learning together. Glow, Scotland's unique, world-leading, online network supports learners and teachers in this, and plans are already in place for parents across the country to have access to Glow.

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's 'learning journey' from 3-18, helping their progression from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and beyond, ensuring the change is smooth. They'll ensure children continue to work at a pace they can cope with and with challenge they can thrive on.

Curriculum for Excellence balances the importance of knowledge and skills.

Every child is entitled to a broad and deep general education, whatever their level and ability. Every single teacher and practitioner is responsible for literacy and numeracy – the language and numbers skills that unlock other subjects and are vital to everyday life.

It develops skills for learning, life and work to help young people go on to further study, secure work and navigate life. It brings real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helps young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links knowledge in one subject area to another helping children understand the world and make connections. It develops skills so that children can think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

There are new ways of assessing progress and ensuring children achieve their potential. Pupils sit new qualifications, National 4 and 5, and our well-regarded Highers and Advanced Highers are updated to take account of and support the new approaches to learning and teaching.

There's personal support to help young people fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities with additional support wherever that's needed. There will be an emphasis by all staff on looking after our children's health and wellbeing – to ensure that the school is a place where children feel safe and secure.

Ultimately, Curriculum for Excellence aims is to improve our children's life chances, building on Scotland's reputation for first class education.

Strathaven Academy  
Bowling Green Road  
STRATHAVEN  
ML10

Phone: 01357 524040  
Email: [office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk)  
Website: <https://strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk>  
Twitter [@StrathavenAcad](https://twitter.com/StrathavenAcad)

School Roll:

S1	176	S2	180
S3	180	S4	178
S5	163	S6	126

Strathaven Academy is a non-denominational, co-educational S1-S6 secondary school with a current roll of 992 pupils. The current roll reflects a number of additional pupils from outwith our Learning Community Schools who choose to attend Strathaven Academy rather than their Learning Community Secondary School.

As part of South Lanarkshire Council's investment in improving school buildings, the current Strathaven Academy opened to pupils in session 2009/10.

All school accommodation can be made available as far as possible outwith school hours for use by the community. Such use by groups, clubs etc. will be in accordance with approved letting procedures and enquiries should be directed to Community Resources – East Kilbride Arts Centre 51 - 53 Old Coach Road, East Kilbride, G74 4DO, Tele: 01355 578157, Fax: 01355 261280

## **STRATHAVEN LEARNING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

### **CHAPELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mrs E Alexander  
Glasgow Road,  
Chapelton, Near Strathaven  
ML106RS  
Tel: 01357 300243

### **GILMOURTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Ms L Hepburn  
Drumclog, Near Strathaven,  
ML106QF  
Tel: 01357 440331

### **GLASSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mrs A Donnelly  
Alston Street,  
Glassford, Near Strathaven,  
ML106TG  
Tel: 01357 521124

### **KIRKLANDPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mrs D Laing  
Kirklandpark Avenue,  
Strathaven  
ML106DY  
Tel: 01357 520177

### **SANDFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mrs L Crawshaw  
Stonehouse Road,  
Sandford, Near Strathaven  
ML106PD  
Tel: 01357 520345

### **WESTER OVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mrs June Moir  
Ashkirk Road,  
Strathaven  
ML106JT  
Tel: 01357 521870

## **INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Education Resources is a key partner in developing an approach which promotes the delivery of better integrated services to children, young people and their families.

Our vision for children and young people in South Lanarkshire is to ensure that they live in a community where they feel safe, included, nurtured and respected. They should be part of a society where they have the opportunity to maximise their full potential and have access to good quality health, education and leisure services and to have coordinated support for the most vulnerable.

Learning communities will strengthen the integration agenda at both strategic and local levels to enable a more collaborative approach in delivering services to all children.

A support team for Integrating Children's Services works across four education areas, and within the Council, enabling all services to children and families to plan and work together, to achieve our vision.



## **SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **HEAD TEACHER**

Ms Huq                      Responsible to the Executive Director of Education Resources for the overall management of the school.

### **DEPUTE HEAD TEACHERS**

Ms E Barr                  Responsible for S6 pupil conduct

Mr I Fleming                Responsible for S5 pupil conduct

Mrs Kane                  Responsible for S3 & S4 pupil conduct

Miss P Hamilton         Responsible for S1 & S2 pupil conduct

The Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers also have a responsibility for specific aspects of school management and for a group of subject departments.



**CREATIVE AND AESTHETIC FACULTY**

<i>Mr A Simpson</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mr G Wellcoat</i>	<i>Teacher Art &amp; Photography</i>
<i>Mr P Collins</i>	<i>Teacher Art &amp; Photography</i>
<i>Mr R Holmes</i>	<i>Teacher Art &amp; Photography</i>
<i>Miss B McTavish</i>	<i>Teacher Art &amp; Photography</i>
<i>Mrs M Smith</i>	<i>Teacher Health &amp; Food Technology</i>
<i>Mr I Sinclair</i>	<i>Teacher Health &amp; Food Technology</i>
<i>Ms L Grant</i>	<i>Teacher Health &amp; Food Technology</i>
<i>Mrs K Glover</i>	<i>Teacher Health &amp; Food Technology</i>
<i>Mr R Herbertson</i>	<i>Teacher Music</i>
<i>Mrs C Mitchell</i>	<i>Teacher Music</i>
<i>Mrs A Loudon</i>	<i>Teacher Music</i>
<i>Mr A Wilson</i>	<i>Teacher Music</i>

**ENGLISH FACULTY**

<i>Mrs H Bradshaw</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Ms H Atterson</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mrs J Reilly</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mr D Shirreffs</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mrs R Weir</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Miss A Carruthers</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mrs J Kane</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mr J Dunn</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mrs M Blackwood</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Ms L Dickson</i>	<i>Teacher English</i>
<i>Mrs L Breddy</i>	<i>Teacher Drama</i>

**MATHS FACULTY**

<i>Mr C McGugan</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mr J Seils</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>
<i>Mrs V Leck</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>
<i>Mrs C McAfee</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>
<i>Mrs A Aird</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>
<i>Mrs C Williams</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>
<i>Mr C Maxwell</i>	<i>Teacher Maths</i>

**MODERN LANGUAGES**

<i>Ms Baran</i>	<i>Faculty Head 0.8</i>
<i>Mr R Greenberg</i>	<i>Faculty Head 0.2</i>
<i>Ms S Browning</i>	<i>Teacher Spanish/French</i>
<i>Ms D Allan</i>	<i>Teacher Spanish/French</i>
<i>Miss C McDonald</i>	<i>Teacher Spanish</i>

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

<i>Miss N McCleery</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mrs Z Kincaid</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Miss P Hamilton</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mr I Fleming</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mrs L Neil</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mrs H Barran</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mrs S Aird</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mr S Burns</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Mr A Dunlop</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>
<i>Miss J Scott</i>	<i>Teacher Physical Education</i>

**SCIENCE FACULTY**

<i>Mr M Brown</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mr A Cox</i>	<i>Teacher Biology</i>

<i>Ms J McKinven</i>	<i>Teacher Biology</i>
<i>Ms J Matheson</i>	<i>Teacher Biology</i>
<i>Mr J Wood</i>	<i>Teacher Biology</i>
<i>Mr D Gilroy</i>	<i>Teacher Chemistry</i>
<i>Ms E Smith</i>	<i>Teacher Chemistry</i>
<i>Mrs G Rooney</i>	<i>Teacher Chemistry</i>
<i>Mr L Riddell</i>	<i>Teacher Chemistry</i>
<i>Mr S Taylor</i>	<i>Teacher Physics</i>
<i>Mr A Gardner</i>	<i>Teacher Physics</i>
<i>Mrs V Miller</i>	<i>Teacher Physics</i>
<b>SOCIAL SUBJECTS FACULTY</b>	
<i>Mr McNair</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mrs R Greenan</i>	<i>Teacher Geography</i>
<i>Ms R McGinlay</i>	<i>Teacher Geography</i>
<i>Mr R Cassidy</i>	<i>Teacher Geography</i>
<i>Ms L Barr</i>	<i>Teacher Geography</i>
<i>Miss J McMenemy</i>	<i>Teacher History</i>
<i>Mr S McNulty</i>	<i>Teacher History/Modern Studies</i>
<i>Mr D Connelly</i>	<i>Teacher History</i>
<i>Mr C MacPhee</i>	<i>Teacher Modern Studies</i>
<i>Ms S Harvey</i>	<i>Teacher Religious &amp; Moral</i>
<i>Mrs L Logan</i>	<i>Teacher Religious &amp; Moral</i>
<i>Mr M O'Shea</i>	<i>Teacher Religious &amp; Moral</i>
<b>SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	
<i>Mrs S Tullett</i>	<i>Specialist Support</i>
<b>SUPPORT for LEARNING</b>	
<i>Mrs A Gallagher</i>	<i>Principal Teacher of SfL 0.8</i>
<i>Mr A Stott</i>	<i>Principal Teacher of SfL 0.2</i>
<b>TECHNOLOGIES FACULTY</b>	
<i>Mr I Henderson</i>	<i>Faculty Head</i>
<i>Mrs L MacArthur</i>	<i>Teacher Business</i>
<i>Mrs A Stott</i>	<i>Teacher Business</i>
<i>Ms L Allison</i>	<i>Teacher Business</i>
<i>Miss D McCourt</i>	<i>Teacher Business</i>
<i>Mr G Connor</i>	<i>Teacher Technical Education</i>
<i>Mr G Blackwood</i>	<i>Teacher Technical Education</i>
<i>Mrs P McDivitt</i>	<i>Teacher Technical Education</i>
<i>Mr W Simpson</i>	<i>Teacher Technical Education</i>
<i>Miss L McCabe</i>	<i>Teacher Computing</i>
<i>Mr D Watt</i>	<i>Teacher Computing</i>

## **NON-TEACHING STAFF**

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **Support Services Team**

**Mrs C Duffy**  
Mrs M Brown  
Mrs J Hamilton  
Mrs S McLaren  
Mrs C Orr  
Mrs M Mitchell  
Mx C Thomson  
Mrs Z Leggate  
Mrs K Sanderson  
Mrs A Stewart  
Mrs W Brown  
Mrs M Paterson  
Ms J Healey  
Mrs E Middlemas  
Mrs C Rodway

#### **Support Services Team Leader**

School Support Assistant  
School Support Assistant  
School Support Assistant (M/T/Th/F)  
School Support Assistant (M-W)  
School Support Assistant (ASN/HE)  
School Support Assistant (ASN)(W-F)  
School Support Assistant (ASN)  
School Support Assistant (ASN)  
School Support Assistant (M-Th)  
School Support Assistant (ASN)Th/F  
School Support Assistant (ASN)M/T  
School Support Assistant (ASN)  
School Support Assistant (ASN)M-Th  
School Support Assistant (ASN)Th/F

#### **Technician Team**

**Mr P Brown**  
Miss D Noble  
Mr G McIlvenney

#### **Technician Team Lead**

Technician (Science)  
Technician (AV)

#### **Cluster Support Team**

**Mrs L Yule**

#### **Support Services Coordinator**

### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

#### **Facilities Assistant**

**Mr D Bryceland**  
Mrs K Reid  
Mrs L Dykes  
Mrs C MacLean

#### **Janitor**

Janitor  
Cleaning Supervisor  
Cook in Charge

#### **Spie Technicians**

Mr G Cunningham  
Mr P Boyd

### **INSTRUMENTAL INSTRUCTORS**

Mr H Longalong (Woodwind)  
Mr M Bryson (Percussion)  
Mr T Reilly (Guitar)  
Mr C Bradley (Brass)  
Mr S Dowling Upper Strings)

### **LIBRARIAN**

Mrs L Galway

### **COUNSELLORS**

Mrs K Gentles  
Mrs E Thomson

### **EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST**

Ms J Kiddie

### **CAREERS**

Mrs J Latimer

## **CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS**

There are occasions when parents and pupils have a concern about an aspect of the service that we provide. In the first instance parents and pupils should contact the appropriate Guidance Teacher to raise their concern either by telephone or in writing.

In most cases, the Guidance teacher will be able to investigate and respond within a few days and the majority of issues are resolved in this way. For more complex or serious matters, complaints should be made in writing, again to the Guidance teacher. They will acknowledge receipt and pass it on to an appropriate Senior Manager. Complaints will be investigated and a written response provided within 20 days, in line with South Lanarkshire Council's 'Have Your Say' policy. We would normally maintain contact within that period to provide, or to seek, further information.

In exceptional circumstances, where this timescale cannot be met, we would maintain contact and explain why. If we cannot resolve the complaint at school level, complaints can be escalated to the Quality Link Officer for Strathaven Academy within the Education Resources team at South Lanarkshire Council.

### **3: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

South Lanarkshire Council recognises the importance of parents as partners in the education of their child and has published a strategy entitled, 'Making a difference – working together to support children's learning'. This is available from the Council's website: [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Parents, carers, and family members are by far the most important influences on children's lives. Children between the ages of 5 and 16 children spend only 15% of their time in school! Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's learning, children do better at school and throughout life. Parental involvement can take different forms, but we hope you share the same aims and agree that by working together we can be partners in supporting children's learning.

As a parents/ carer we want you to be:

- Welcomed and given an opportunity to be involved in the life of the school;
- Fully informed about your child's learning;
- Encouraged to make an active contribution to your child's learning;
- Able to support learning at home;
- Encouraged to express your views and involved in forums and discussions on education related issues.

To find out more on how to be a parent helper, or a member of the Parent Council and/or the Parent Teacher Association just contact the school or visit our school website.

Some useful information contacts for parents to find out more on education are as follows:

Parentzone – [www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk)

Engage Parent Forum – [www.engageforeducation.org](http://www.engageforeducation.org)

National Parent Forum for Scotland – [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone)

South Lanarkshire Council – [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

#### **PARENT COUNCIL**

The school and the local authority are obliged to listen to what the Parent Council says and to respond to the issues raised. Parent councils may be different because it will be parents in each school who decide such things as:

- how their Parent Council will be set up
- what it should be called (Parent Council or another name)
- what size it should be – e.g., in a very small primary, all parents could be involved
- who should be a member of the Parent Council
- how they should be appointed
- when the most convenient time is to hold meetings
- What will be discussed at meetings – these might be topics such as school uniform, parking near the school, the school's anti-bullying policy etc. However, it should be noted that a Parent Council cannot discuss issues attributed to individual pupils.

## **PARENT COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS**

Jo Tunney (Chairperson) - Contact school office – [office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Enquiries should be made via the school office by email ([office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk)) or phone 01357 524040.



## **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

The school is fortunate in having an enthusiastic and hard-working committee which organises functions and fund-raising activities which have provided the school with many new resources.

The aims of the association are: -

- To maintain a close interest in current developments affecting the education of children at Strathaven Academy.
- To assist the school by raising funds and offering practical support to school activities.

The business of the association is arranged by a committee composed of: -

- Four Office Bearers (who are parents or carers of pupils attending the Academy and elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- Six – eight parent/carer members elected annually at the AGM.
- The Head Teacher, and one Depute Head Teacher of Strathaven Academy.
- Other members of Strathaven Academy teaching staff.
- Two pupils of Strathaven Academy.

A programme of open meetings and fund-raising is organised annually for the autumn and spring terms. The school greatly appreciates the high level of support which it receives from the PTA. The PTA has regularly provided the school with many items of equipment and furnishings, thus helping to improve the education environment of our pupils and subsidising many pupil activities.

Enquiries should be made via the school office by email ([office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk)) or phone 01357 524040.

## **RIGHTS OF PARENTS/CARERS**

Scottish Government Ministers consider that religious observance complements religious education and is an important contribution to pupils' development. It should also have a role in promoting the ethos of a school by bringing pupils together and creating a sense of community.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw children from participation in religious and moral education. However, national guidance also indicates that without this aspect of their education, learners will not enjoy the full benefits of Curriculum for Excellence since this area of their education contributes to pupils thinking for themselves and making their own decisions about what they believe to be true about human living.

This right of parents' wishes will be respected. Where a child is withdrawn from religious observance, we will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.

## **HOME AND SCHOOL LINKS**

Strathaven Academy places great value on the links which have been established between the school and parents.

A formal consultation evening is normally arranged once per session for each year group which gives parents the opportunity to speak to class teachers. Consultation evenings are normally held after parents are in receipt of either a Tracking or Final Report.

In addition, there are information evenings for parents, held at the time when pupils are choosing subjects to study in subsequent years. Information on these meetings and on other school activities is given in letters which are sent home periodically.

At all other times, parents who wish to consult a member of staff should arrange an appointment through the school office (01357 524040). If the interview is concerned with a child's general progress or welfare, a meeting with the appropriate Pupil Support Teacher will be arranged. On other matters, school administrative personnel will direct parents to the most appropriate member of staff.

Parents who call the school without an appointment may not be able to see the teacher best qualified to deal with the enquiry because of teaching commitments, but we always do our best to arrange an interview with an appropriate member of staff.

Informal school events such as concerts and meetings of the PTA provide an invaluable opportunity for developing links between staff and parents. It is hoped that parents will give these events their full support.

**Parentsportal.scot** is a new digital service to help replace the traditional 'school bag run' by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services. Through parentsportal.scot parents and carers will be able to grant permissions for school trips, view school lunch menus, view attendance, complete the annual data check, book parents evening and link directly to ParentPay to make payment for school meals, to name but a few.

To access parentsportal.scot go to <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>. If you have a mygovscot my account click the link to Sign In or if you don't have a mygovscot my account click the link to register for a mygovscot my account. Alternatively use the QR codes at the bottom of the letter to download the parentsportal.scot APP.

Once registered you will be prompted to Link Your Child. To be able to link your child you will be asked to provide details relating to your child, the school they attend and your relationship with them. Once the details are found and matched you will be sent a security code to either your mobile number or email address registered in the school. The security code is to provide additional security before your child's record is linked. Your request to link your child will then be sent to your child's school for approval. You will then be notified of the decision to approve the link on your email.

Once your child/children are linked to their school you will start to receive communications from the school via parentsportal.scot and over time will become your one-stop-shop to everything to do with your child and their school.



The banner features a dark teal header with the text "parentsportal.scot" in white. Below this, the text "Get the App!" is written in a large, bold, dark teal font. The central focus is a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes a search bar and a list of services: Absences, Annual Data Check, Attendance, Class Timetable, Notice Board, Permission Slips, and Report Cards. To the left of the phone is a black button with the Apple logo and the text "Download on the App Store", with a QR code below it. To the right is a black button with the Google Play logo and the text "GET IT ON Google Play", also with a QR code below it.



## **4: SCHOOL ETHOS**

### **VISION AND VALUES**

In October 2019, the Strathaven Learning Community launched our shared vision and values.

Our Strathaven Learning Community values are:

### **RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL and RESILIENT**

Our aspirational vision statement for the Strathaven Learning Community is:

### **TOGETHER WE THRIVE**

### **SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, MORAL & CULTURAL VALUES**

It is the policy of the school to provide in the curriculum a compulsory element of Religious and Moral Education. This is based on the policy on religious education and religious observance (1993). Although the study of Christianity is a main component of the Religious and Moral Education syllabus, it does also involve the study of beliefs and customs of a number of world religions.

- we value the links with our school chaplaincy team who contribute to both the formal and informal life of the school;
- assisting the school to provide young people with opportunities for reflection, both individual and collective;
- providing pastoral care and support for staff, pupils and their families, where appropriate;
- having a key role during times of extreme difficulty or crisis;
- supporting school community events;
- visiting classes to complement the curriculum;
- leading or helping pupil groups with a particular religious, moral or citizenship interest;
- providing a link between the school and local community;
- addressing the school community at end of term services

The school chaplaincy links are Rev David McKee (Rankin Church).

### **SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY LINKS**

We try to extend the learning experiences of our pupils beyond the confines of the classroom by means of various educational visits and excursions not only within the local area but also further afield.

The school is very conscious of its role in the wider community, and every effort is made to foster links. Many senior pupils contribute their time and efforts for the local community during the festive period by creating food hampers and distributing these as gifts to elderly residents.



Strathaven Gala Day; pupils assist local charities in a variety of ways; many pupils are involved with activities in local Primary Schools and Playgroups. There are also strong links with local organisations such as Rotary, Round Table and Inner Wheel as well as with local business and industry, in particular with business partners, QTS Hotel, St Andrews' Hospice and Crawford Scientific. Many school functions are open to the general public, such as our annual Award Ceremonies and school concerts.

## **5: ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

It is important for the school to work with parents in encouraging all children to attend school. All absences from school are required by law to be recorded. Absences will normally fall into two categories – authorised or unauthorised absence. In cases where you child is unable to attend school parents are asked to note the following:

- If you know in advance of any reason why your child is likely to be absent from school, please inform the school office by telephone 01357 524040 or email – [office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk) please give your child's name registration and reason for the absence;
- Notify the school first thing in the morning when your child is going to be absent. Let the school know the likely date of return and keep them informed if the date changes;
- Inform the school of any change to the following:-
  - home telephone number
  - mobile number
  - emergency contact details
- Requests for your child to be absent from school to make an extended visit to relatives must be made in writing to the head teacher, detailing the reason, destination and duration of absence and arrangements for their continuing education. On these occasions the pupil will be marked as an authorised absentee in the register.

## **FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME**

Every effort should be made to ensure that your child attends school during term time. Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school. Family holidays should be avoided during term time as this both disrupts the child's education and reduces learning time. If holidays are taken during times when the school is open, parents should inform the school in advance by letter.

If your child is taken on a family holiday during term time then in line with Scottish Government advice this will be classified as an unauthorised absence. However, in exceptional circumstances schools may register a family holiday during term time as an authorised absence when, for example, parents are unable to obtain leave during the school holiday period. Clearly, absence with no explanation from parents will mean that the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

In our approach to raising attainment and achievement it is recognised that attendance at school is something that should be continuously encouraged. Parents/carers, children and the school all have a part to play in encouraging and stressing the importance of attendance at school. The school holiday dates and in-service dates are available from the website: - **[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**

### **Information on emergencies**

We make every effort to ensure the school remains open during term-time for pupils. However, on occasions circumstances may arise which can affect the school. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, power failures or through any other circumstances that may impact on the school day. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know as soon as possible. We shall keep in touch by the most appropriate method at the time normally through text message, and via our social media channels.

In cases of severe weather in the morning such as snow and a heavy frost and if there is a reason the school cannot open in the morning at the normal time, we will adopt the protocol for a delayed start until 10am.

If this is the case a message via social media and on the council's, website will be posted.

The Council's website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) will be used to let you know if the school is closed or has a delayed start. Further information will be provided later in the day as to whether the school will be open as normal the next day.

Things we need you to do:

- It is important for parents/carers to let the school know of any change to your mobile/home telephone number and change of address.
- If for any reason, you are unsure if the school is open visit the website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or email [education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## **6: THE CURRICULUM**

The school curriculum is based on National and South Lanarkshire Council policies and guidelines and takes account of local area, school and individual needs. It provides a cohesive plan which recognises that an effective curriculum has informal, hidden and pastoral aspects as well as formal course components. At all stages, courses are based on the policy of the school to promote equality of opportunity regardless of gender, race, colour or personal circumstances. This applies to both the formal and informal aspects of the curriculum. Curriculum for Excellence is the name given to the curriculum in Scotland for all children and young people aged 3-18. It is a forward looking, coherent, flexible and enriched curriculum that provides young people with the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

The curriculum includes all of the experiences that are planned for children and young people to support the development of their skills wherever they are being educated, for example in the family and community, pre-school centre, nursery and school. In a secondary school setting the broad general education (BGE) will provide them with opportunities to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to life in the 21st century. The Senior Phase that follows on from the BGE will provide learners with the opportunity to achieve a wide range of qualifications to recognise their learning.

In taking this forward our school will work closely with South Lanarkshire Education Resources and other services to enable Curriculum for Excellence to be fully embedded, ensuring the best possible education for all children and young people. We wish you to feel confident that your child is encouraged and supported to develop their literacy, numeracy and other skills whilst they attend our school.

The curriculum areas for the Broad General Education are as follows:

- Expressive arts
- Languages and literacy
- Health and wellbeing
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

In the Senior Phase (S4-6), learners are asked to personalise their learner journey and work towards achievement of relevant and appropriate qualifications (including National Qualifications). If you want to know more about Curriculum for Excellence, please visit website [www.curriculumforexcellence.gov.uk](http://www.curriculumforexcellence.gov.uk) or, [www.parentzonestotland.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.parentzonestotland.gsi.gov.uk). Our learning and teaching activities are based on the outcomes and experiences in the guidelines that all schools have for Curriculum for Excellence.

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>STAGE</b>
Early	The pre-school years and Primary 1 or later for some.
First	To the end of Primary 4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of Primary 7, but earlier or later for some.
Third	Secondary 1 to Secondary 3, but earlier for some. The fourth level broadly equates to SCQF level 4.
Senior Phase	Secondary 4-6 and college or other means of study.

## AIMS

Curriculum for Excellence aims to:

- Focus classroom practice upon the child and around the four capacities of education:
- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors
- Simplify and prioritise the curriculum
- Encourage learning through experiences
- Create a single framework for the curriculum and assessment 3-18

## PURPOSES OF THE CURRICULUM 3-18

The curriculum provides the structure and support in learning which will develop the four capacities listed above.

Our approach has been to alter the balance between a process that is heavily dependent on content, providing learning and teaching approaches that improve the pupils' understanding of what is being taught. This is not a one-off change but the start of a continuous process of review to ensure that the curriculum remains up to date.

## PRINCIPLES FOR CURRICULUM DESIGN

- Challenge and enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance



## **ORGANISATION & THE CURRICULUM: S1/ 2/ 3**

In S1 and S2 pupils are generally in mixed ability teaching groups and follow a set of courses that covers each of the curriculum areas as shown below. However, where more than one section attends a subject at a time, for example in Mathematics, there may be some broad grouping according to prior attainment.

Courses are based around the 3rd level Experiences and Outcomes of curriculum for excellence and follow on from work done in Primary school. We liaise closely with our Learning Community Primary Schools through subject links, Pupil Support, Support for Learning and regular Learning Community management meetings.

(All Primary 7 pupils visit the school for two days in June prior to coming to the Academy in August).

<b>Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Periods S1</b>	<b>Periods S2</b>
Language	English	4	4
	Modern Languages	3	3
Mathematics	Mathematics	4	4
Social studies	History	2	1
	Geography	2	1
	Modern Studies	1	1
Sciences	Sciences	3	3
	STEM	0	1
Expressive arts	Art and Design	2	2
	Music	1	2
	Drama		1
Technologies	Computing	1	1
	Business Education	1	1
	Technical Education	2	1
Health and wellbeing	Home Economics	2	2
	Physical Education	2	2
	Personal, Social and Health Ed.	1	1
Religious & Moral Ed.	Religious & Moral Ed.	1	1

In S3 pupils have the opportunity to personalise their curriculum, choosing specialist subjects across the Broad General Education curriculum areas and experiencing 3 elective courses from a choice of 10. Electives provide opportunities for enrichment and depth, often enriching themes of community involvement. S3 courses are based on the 4th level outcomes and experiences and are designed to lead into National 4 and National 5

qualifications. Pupils have the opportunity to acquire, practise and develop a range of skills for life, work and learning – including those required to secure success in examinations.

It is recognised that children and young people will progress at different rates: some will require additional support and may require additional time to consolidate their learning, others will achieve secure learning sooner. Most learners will progress through 4th level outcomes – beyond for some – during S3.

## **MAKING CHOICES**

Guidance and support for pupils and parents/carers is provided towards the end of S2 in relation to specialisation.

As pupils progress through S3, further information, guidance and support will be provided at every stage of the process to ensure that progression beyond the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase is purposeful and positive. For each child, we aim to provide a curriculum matched to their strengths, their interests and their potential career path, with the aim of securing the best possible set of experiences and qualifications.

We encourage parents to discuss areas of interest, of strength and possible careers with their children to facilitate the process of specialisation towards the Senior Phase.



## **ORGANISATION AND CURRICULUM: COURSES IN S4/5/6 – THE SENIOR PHASE**

Pupils in S4 will work towards the National Qualifications. They follow seven courses for four periods each, building on skills and attainment developed and achieved during S1-S3.

The level of study in S4 will depend on prior attainment, but our aim is to present as many pupils as possible at National 5 level in all or most of their subjects. Those pupils who do not attain at this level will work towards National 3 or National 4 qualifications. National 3 and National 4 qualifications do not include a final exam – instead pupils are assessed in school and our assessments are verified by SQA.

As in S1-S3, all pupils in S4 will have two periods of Physical Education, one period of Religious Education and one period of Personal, Social and Health Education.

In S5 and S6, we aim to provide a wide range of courses meeting the needs of all pupils.

Each session we amend and customise the choices available to pupils with a view to ensuring that our staffing and accommodation are used to best effect. Pupils in S5 study five courses at Higher, National 5 or National 4 level. A number of vocational courses are also available.

In S6, pupils will follow a minimum of four courses (or 3 Advanced Higher courses). Information and advice for parents and pupils is provided as part of the options process, but parents are most welcome to contact the Guidance team to discuss any aspect of their child's progress and progression choices.

A suite of elective courses are also available for S6 pupils, providing opportunities for leadership, enterprise and also skills development. An increasing range of opportunities for links with business and industry are planned, in line with the national "Developing Scotlands Young Workforce" agenda.



## **HOMEWORK AND STUDY**

Homework is an extremely important part of the learning process. Research has shown again and again the strong link that exists between achievement and homework. Clearly, the more committed pupils and parents are to the whole issue of homework, the greater are the pupils' chances of success.

It is vital that, as soon as possible, pupils learn good habits of working and studying at home and take an increasing responsibility for their own learning.





## **WHAT IS HOMEWORK?**

- There is a wide variety of homework activities. Homework may include some or all of the following:
- learning newly taught topics
- completing work started in class
- revising
- writing essays or completing exercises
- redrafting
- reading to prepare for a lesson
- carrying out research for topics and projects
- reading for pleasure
- Parents should be aware that even when no specific task has been set, pupils are still expected to keep up with and be familiar with the ongoing work of the class.

## **WHAT IS STUDY?**

Parents should be aware that even when no specific homework tasks have been set, pupils can study topics previously covered in each of their subjects. As pupils progress through the school this becomes increasingly important. Pupils ideally should have a quiet place to study and have a study plan which they are working to. Pupils should identify areas of weakness that they can then work on to improve their attainment in that subject. If they are still experiencing difficulties then class teachers can be consulted for support with any areas causing concern. Different subjects may require different approaches to study and revision but in general pupils will be more successful if they are actively involved. For example, note

taking, summarising, mind mapping and trying past paper questions are recommended rather than simply reading notes. It is also important that pupils take breaks when studying as long periods of study may actually be ineffective. Pupils involved in SQA examinations should have a detailed study plan that allocates time to all subjects and takes the examinations timetable into consideration.

## **HOW MUCH HOMEWORK?**

It is not possible to set exact limits for the amount of homework that will be set.

It will often depend on the progress of the individual pupil. For example, homework may allow pupils with special aptitudes to push on ahead and allow others with learning difficulties an opportunity to overcome these.

However, because we believe that homework is a vital part of the learning process, pupils will start from first year to receive homework on a regular basis.

Of course, it is also vital that pupils have plenty of time for relaxation and social activities and that they are not subject to too much pressure too soon.

## **HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?**

Parents' help, support and encouragement are extremely important. The following are some guidelines to help your child to establish good working habits.

Enquire regularly about homework and support your child to keep up to date. Remember, however, that some ongoing work such as revision or personal reading may not always be entered but still needs to be carried out.

Provide a quiet spot at home free from distractions.

Express an interest in what is being done. Things may have changed from your own school days but don't be put off. Encourage your child to discuss the homework and always offer encouragement.

Check that homework is completed as fully as possible and sign it where this is appropriate. Establish a routine and help your child to plan ahead and not leave things to the last minute. Encourage your child to look after and organise jotters, folders and textbooks.

### **ANY PROBLEMS?**

Occasionally problems may arise. There may be difficulties with a piece of homework or circumstances at home may prevent homework from being completed on time. In such cases, please write a short note to the class teacher. If you feel that there are regularly more serious problems, then do not hesitate to contact your child's Pupil Support teacher.

If a child does not complete homework or regularly does not complete it on time or to a satisfactory standard you will be contacted by a member of staff. A letter may be sent home.



In these circumstances, your co-operation is requested in signing and returning the letters attached tear-off slip promptly and ensuring that your child completes the outstanding work as requested.

We will, of course, happily deal with any enquiries or suggestions about homework at

Strathaven Academy. With your support, we hope to provide your child with the best possible education.

### **STUDY SUPPORT INITIATIVES**

Strathaven Academy encourages all pupils to work and study for assessments and formal examinations.

#### **SUPPORTED STUDY**

Pupils are encouraged to take advantage of lunchtime and after school supported study sessions in a variety of subjects provided by specialist teachers. This normally takes place during the weeks immediately preceding prelims, and formal exams. Some departments run homework clubs at a set lunchtime through the session.

We also offer a wide range of study classes during the first week of Spring Break

All pupils are regularly reminded of appropriate revision web sites. All pupils experience study skills through their PSHE programme and are encouraged to use revision materials provided by teacher's materials posted on the school website or commercially provided study guides and past paper book

## WIDER CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As a school, we strongly believe in the importance of extra-curricular activities and we offer a range of activities out with normal classroom work which help to widen the experience of all pupils. Extra-curricular activities can relieve some of the pressures of academic work and assist pupils to develop their talents and use leisure time effectively. These activities may occur at lunchtime or at the end of the normal school day. There are also opportunities to take part in visits and excursions both at home and abroad.

Activities which have recently been available to pupils include: -

Animation Club	Drama	Public Speaking
Baking	Fairtrade Group	Rugby
Badminton	Five-a-side football	Samba band
Basketball	Gaming Club	Strathaven strings
Card making	Gymnastics	Science Club
Chess	Handball	STEM club
Choirs	Hockey	String Ensemble
Cooking	Junior Enterprise	Table Tennis
Creative Writing	Jazz Band	Volleyball
Debating	Library	Ukulele group
Dodgeball	Photography	Woodwind group

There is also a well-developed voluntary house system which encourages healthy competition between the houses, and which helps to foster good relationships between pupils and staff as do all the extracurricular activities including Discos, the Senior Prom, Concert Band Residential and other events which occur in the school calendar.



## **OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**



The school experience is much more than achievements in examinations and, as indicated elsewhere in the handbook, the Academy encourages all pupils to take part in a wide range of activities. Individuals and groups of pupils have brought credit to themselves and the school with a variety of achievements.

Our pupils have received national and local recognition in activities such as golf, karting, show jumping, cross-country, athletics, swimming, gymnastics, football, netball, rugby and karate.

In non-sporting activities, our pupils have acquitted themselves well in Art, Maths, Music, Public-speaking, Debating and Business skills, with pupils representing us in competitions and in conferences at both local and national level.

The school's interest in helping others less fortunate than ourselves is obvious by the wide variety of fund-raising by various groups throughout the year, co-ordinated by active Charities Committee.

A highlight of the school year is the Senior Prom attended by sixth year pupils and staff.

The school bands and choirs have once again proved extremely successful. Around 150 pupils played in the bands at junior or senior level, the Senior Concert Band and Stage Band appearing at a wide variety of venues.

It is important to widen the horizons of our pupils and to this end many educational excursions take place to theatres and conferences, field trips and places of interest, as well as visits to Iceland, China, Auschwitz, France, Ghana and Barcelona by parties of pupils and teachers.

A report on the affairs and achievements of the school is an important part of the Awards Ceremony towards the close of each session.



## 7: ASSESSMENT, TRACKING AND PROGRESS

In Strathaven Academy, we have taken a collegiate approach to developing effective tools for assessment and tracking through both the Broad General Education and the Senior Phase of the curriculum.

Each faculty within the school uses assessment to support effective teaching and learning, to plan next steps in pupils' learning, and to ensure that the planned progress of every pupil is based on sound evidence. Application of the principles of formative assessment means that pupils get feedback on their work enabling them to identify areas for improvement.

Throughout the Broad General Education, pupil learning is tracked using CFE benchmarks. The data generated from this tracking allows close monitoring of all pupils and provides details of underachievement. This allows early, supportive intervention to help ensure that all pupils achieve their full potential. If issues are identified then the year head will ensure that appropriate steps are taken to address these issues. Pupils support staff will help identify barriers to learning and provide the support to overcome these barriers. Faculty heads will address underachievement in specific curricular areas and ensure high quality, stimulating resources are used in their departments. Class teachers will support learning and help address any gaps in knowledge learners may have. This information and these strategies will help ensure that all learners have the knowledge and skills to progress and achieve in the senior phase.

In S3, all pupils will complete the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs). These assessments are completed online for literacy and numeracy as part of everyday learning and teaching.

Tracking in the Senior Phase is based on the learner working towards their target grade. Assessment data is used to produce regular working grades for all pupils which can be compared to their target grade. Again, if any issues are identified these are tackled by the year head, pupil support and faculty staff.

Rigorous whole school quality assurance procedures ensure that courses are covered at an appropriate pace and support the development of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. A robust calendar of assessment and tracking is built into our courses enabling staff to provide extension and support to meet the needs of all our learners. This has a positive impact on the achievements of our young people as well as preparing pupils for future examinations and the world of work.



## **8: REPORTING**

We will provide parents with regular reports so that you can see what your child is doing and how they are progressing. In addition, there will be parents' meetings which offer you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. You may contact the school at any time if you wish further information. The school will offer you an appointment time so that you can visit in person to discuss your child's education.

Our 'pupil reports' will help you to get to know more about the curriculum which each young person follows and will describe their strengths, achievements and areas for development so you know what encouragement and support you can give.

We welcome any comments or additional information from parents to help us provide the best possible education for your child.

## **9. ENROLMENTS AND TRANSITIONS**

Children and young people may transfer school for a number of reasons such as families moving house, parental choice etc.

If you move house, you can transfer your child at any time of the year to the catchment area school for your new address or, your child can stay at the school that he/ she has been going to, however if you choose this option, free school transport will not be provided. Contact the school or call South Lanarkshire Council on 01698 454102 for further information.

If you are proposing a change of school for your child please provide as many contact details as possible in relation to the new school so that we can ensure a smooth transfer of information relating to your child. This will help us to ensure the continued wellbeing of your child.

### **Transition**

Pupils normally transfer from primary to secondary school between the ages of 11½ and 12½, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Arrangements are made by the school to transfer children to the associated secondary school as determined by their home address. Parents of P7 children will be informed of the transfer arrangements made for their child to attend secondary school.

We will also provide you with information at this time and on events designed to support P7 children before they move on to secondary school.

### **Placing Requests**

Normally children attend the school in their catchment area. However, there are times when parents may wish their children to go to other schools. If you wish your child to go to another school then you may make what is known as a 'placing request'. If you live in South Lanarkshire and decide to submit a 'placing request', we are unable to reserve a place in your catchment school until the Council have made a decision on the 'placing request'. Please note if your 'placing request' application is unsuccessful and all places at

your catchment school are filled you will be offered a place at the next nearest appropriate South Lanarkshire School.

Please note that if an application for a 'placing request' is successful then school transport is not provided.

### **Request to Remain**

If you move out with your catchment primary school a 'request to remain form' must be completed. If you move out with your catchment primary, this may affect your right to transfer to the associated Secondary School. Please note the secondary school is determined by the pupil's permanent home address and chosen denomination. If you require further information, please contact Education Support Services on [edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or 0303 123 1023.

## **10. SUPPORT FOR PUPILS (Additional Support Needs)**

### **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 all the help and support they need from their parent(s), wider family and community but sometimes, perhaps unexpectedly, they may need a bit of extra help. GIRFEC is a way for families to work in partnership with people who can support them, such as teachers.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, you can speak to the named person who will work with you to provide support and decide how to move forward. Your school will let you know who this is. It is likely to be the Head Teacher in a primary school and a principal teacher (pupil support) in Secondary.

More information can be found on: [www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright)

Support for Learning is provided as part of the policy of assisting all pupils to achieve their full potential.

Extra assistance is given to pupils who are experiencing difficulties in making progress in their learning. All pupils differ in their speed of learning and find some subjects harder or easier than others.

Departmental subject staff are responsible for identifying the need for, and providing, appropriate support for learning for pupils in their charge.

In addition, the school also has a specialist Support for Learning department which is currently staffed by a Principal Teacher Support for Learning, supplemented by the allocation of a part-time Specialist Support Services teacher and classroom assistants. A designated Depute Head Teacher has overall responsibility for Support for Learning throughout the school.

## **THE WORK OF THE SUPPORT FOR LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

Support for Learning is normally provided within the classroom situation by a Support for Learning specialist working as a co-operative teacher and support assistants. As well as providing additional help to any pupils experiencing learning difficulties, this allows subject specialists to work with the Support for Learning teacher on the development and evaluation of materials and methods suitable for the whole range of pupils.

The Support for Learning teacher may withdraw a pupil from class for individual tuition in certain circumstances. These might include long-term support for a pupil who is experiencing difficulty with basic literacy and numeracy; intensive tuition for pupils with English as a second language; or short-term support for a pupil catching up after a prolonged absence.

An essential part of effective support for learning is the forging of links with all those who contribute to a pupil's progress at school - parents, subject and Pupil Support staff and primary schools. Pupil Support and Support for Learning staff have regular meetings and work closely together on a programme of primary/secondary liaison during the summer term. At that time too, the Support for Learning teacher works as a co-operative teacher in primary 7 classes to gain appropriate information to contribute to the smooth transfer of pupils from primary to secondary.

The Support for Learning specialists play an important role in identifying pupils who may be eligible for additional support in exams and keeping pupils and parents aware of these arrangements which are subject to approval by SQA.

Parents are encouraged to consult the Support for Learning department at any time during the year if they feel their son/ daughter is experiencing difficulties with any aspect of his/her learning.

When appropriate, the Support for Learning teacher also liaises with Psychological Services and a range of Specialist Support Staff.

In the Support for Learning classroom there are a wide selection of books and e-books suitable for different reading abilities. The books are used in a Peer Group Tutoring Scheme (whereby S6 pupils under the direction of the Principal Teacher Support for Learning, provide support for S1 pupils in basic reading skills). Among many other supplementary resources, the Support for Learning Department also has a number of netbooks which pupils can borrow to assist with written work in class.

South Lanarkshire Education Resources have information for parents and carers about Additional Support Needs and their policy on Inclusion and Equality.

These are available through the school or on the South Lanarkshire Council website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government to provide information on the framework for supporting children who require additional support for learning and to encourage positive partnerships between families, schools and local authorities to ensure children get the right support.

Enquire - the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning.



Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning through:

**PHONE HELPLINE:**                   **0845 123 2303**

**ADDRESS:**                           **Enquire  
Children in Scotland  
Roebury House  
9 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5EZ**

Email Enquiry service:           ***info@enquire.org.uk***

Advice and information is also available at ***www.enquire.org.uk***

Enquire provides a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets including the parents' guide to additional support learning.

If you would like to order our leaflets, postcards or guides to share with parents and carers of Enquire provides a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets including the parents' guide to additional support learning.

If you would like to order our leaflets, postcards or guides to share with parents and carers of pupils in your school, please contact us on [info@enquire.org.uk](mailto:info@enquire.org.uk)

## **ATTACHMENT STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION RESOURCES**

### ***Attachment – what we do to support children and young people***

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people by creating emotionally supportive learning experiences in our nurseries and schools.

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy supports the action in the 'Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire's Children Services Plan 2021-23', following the launch of the Attachment Strategy in 2020, to provide staff training in Attachment and Trauma based practice.

#### ***What does it set out to do?***

The aim of the strategy is to promote better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people and to ensure that all education practitioners understand the importance of attachment theory and its application and how positive relationships can make a difference to outcomes.

#### ***How can I find out more?***

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources have published a series of leaflets and posters for establishments for parents/carers which aim to share information on attachment theory and on how this can inform the ways in which we support children and young people. These are available in schools and on the SLC Staff Learning Centre Sway.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Throughout the school all subjects are equally available to boys and girls, and there is no distinction made between pupils in terms of gender, race, disability or social background. We aim to ensure that every pupil is treated as an individual regardless of all other considerations, and that the curricular materials used by pupils are free of any bias or discrimination.

Pupil support staff will be able to offer information and advice to parents.

## **REPORTING OF RACIST INCIDENTS**

Schools take seriously any reports of racist incidents. As part of the school's approach to promoting positive discipline, a record of all racist incidents is maintained and each incident fully investigated.

Schools are required to notify the local authority of any racist incident.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Schools and education establishments have a legislative duty to undertake an assessment of equality and diversity. This is the process of systematically assessing and consulting on the effects that a policy, process or strategy is likely to have on different groups in the community who might experience disadvantage/ barriers in accessing services. The process includes monitoring the actual effects of the policy once it is put into practice. Policies do not affect everyone in the same way. By assessing in the early stages, any adverse impact can be identified and minimised.

## **PUPIL SUPPORT STRUCTURE**

In a large, modern comprehensive school such as Strathaven Academy, the pupil support system is very important. It is vital that a pupil's personal needs are not overlooked.

In order to meet these needs, the school has given considerable thought to the question of how pupil support should be organised to ensure that the needs of all pupils are catered for.

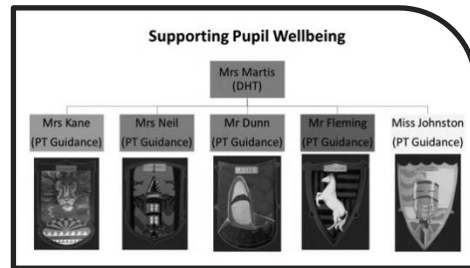
Pupils know that support exists and that advice is readily available from experienced and caring staff. At the time of enrolment, each pupil is allocated to one of 5 House Groups and a specially appointed Pupil Support teacher responsible for that House looks after the pastoral care of the pupil at every stage of his/ her school career. As other members of the same family come to the school they join the same House Group, and in this way parents can establish a good working relationship with Pupil Support staff over a number of years.

Promoted Pupil Support staff work closely with all staff and in particular with register teachers.

Wherever possible a register teacher is assigned to look after pupils from S1-S6 thus providing valuable continuity, as pupils see their register teacher daily.

## **PUPIL SUPPORT STRUCTURE**

<b>MRS KANE</b>	<b>DHT/PSL</b>
<b>AVONDALE</b>	<b>MRS SMITH</b>
<b>DUNGAVEL</b>	<b>MRS E NEIL</b>
<b>KYPE</b>	<b>MR J DUNN</b>
<b>LETHAME</b>	<b>MISS MCGINLAY</b>
<b>LOUDOUN</b>	<b>MRS BREDDY</b>



Pupil Support provides an important link between home and school. The role of Pupil Support staff is to provide help and care for all pupils and to ensure that they make the best use of their educational opportunities. Although all teachers in school have a responsibility for the child's welfare, it is the Pupil Support teacher who has an "all round" picture of an individual pupil's progress.

The Personal and Social Education programme developed by Pupil Support involves developing appropriate skills and attitudes that will help young people to grow into stable, caring and well- balanced adults.

The Pupil Support teacher is closely involved in all aspects of a young person's learning and development during his/her time in school. This will normally include matters relating to areas such as curriculum, health, attendance, careers and personal development. Pupil Support staff encourage parental involvement and seek to establish strong links between school and home. On any occasion where there is a cause for concern, Pupil Support staff will contact parents by telephone or by letter. Similarly, parents are urged to inform Pupil Support staff of any circumstances which may affect their child's progress or behaviour in school.

When pupils come to make course elective choices, Pupil Support staff, in consultation with teaching staff, parents and Skills Development Scotland, will help them to make the choices which best suit their needs and ambitions using the wide range of resources and expertise available. The school has excellent links with the Careers Service and institutions of Further and Higher Education to ensure that pupils are made fully aware of the wide range of opportunities which exist. S2 choices will be made within the guidelines of CFE provision. S4/5 choices will be made from a wide range of National Qualification Courses.

## **SCHOOL BASED COUNSELLOR**

We have a part-time school counsellor who works with individual pupils.

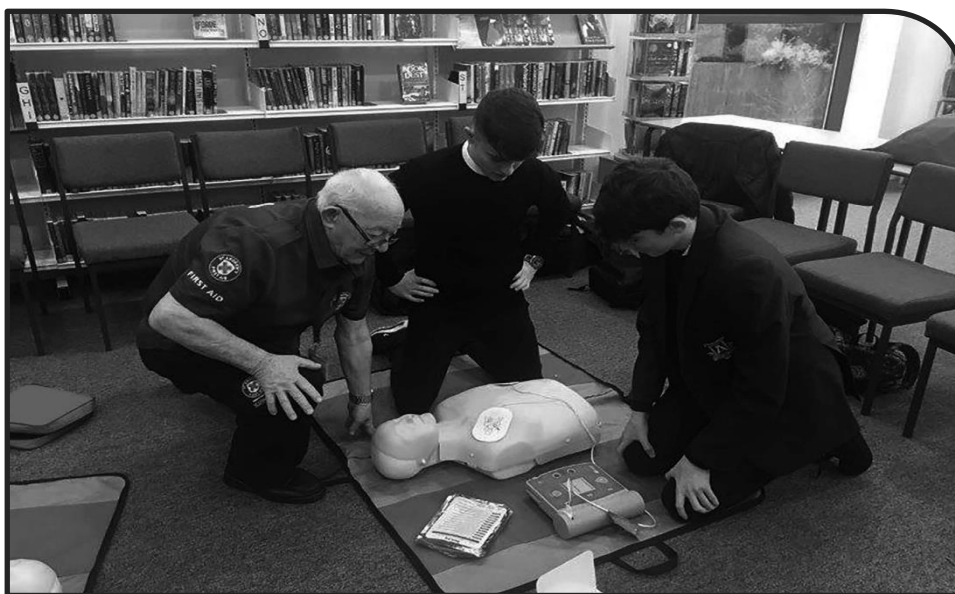
## **CAREERS PROVISION**

The provision of careers information and advice is an important part of the Pupil Support programme at all stages from lower to upper school and is coordinated by the Depute Head Teacher. An extensive Careers Education programme is a major component in Social Education for all year groups and is supported by the Careers Adviser from Skills Development Scotland.

There is an excellent Careers Library with up-to-date information covering a wide range of Careers. Much of this information can now be accessed using information technology resources. My World of Work is an excellent resource for career planning.

In addition, pupils have access to a wide range of other experiences/ resources to help them plan and set targets. These start in S1 but are most heavily concentrated in S4-S6, and include such events as Work Experience, Careers Consultancy Evening, Mock Interviews, C.Vs and visits to Higher Education Institutions, to name a few. Parents are invited to consult with the appropriate Pupil Support teacher on any aspect of Careers.

Pupils studying in the Senior Phase can choose to combine their school studies with attendance at South Lanarkshire College or a Foundation Apprenticeship over 1 or 2 years. Pupils can study a wide range of courses, usually attending one full day per week.



## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

Skills Development Scotland is Scotland's all-age guidance organisation for individuals and employers and offers the most comprehensive and independent advice on employment, enterprise and learning opportunities. Its role is to help and inspire Scots to maximise their career potential, support employers and improve the operation of the labour market. Scotland operates throughout Scotland and can be contacted through its website [www.sds.org.uk](http://www.sds.org.uk).

Skills Development Scotland produces an annual partnership agreement which details the Careers provision for the school year.

The Careers Adviser offers advice, guidance and information to pupils on future careers plans, ranging from employment and training to further and higher education. In order to do this, the Careers Adviser works closely with the school Pupil Support staff and is available to all pupils in the school but concentrates mainly on pupils in the S4-S6 year groups. Most of the work carried out in school by the Careers Adviser is via individual and group interviews. The Careers Adviser also operates regular drop-in sessions at lunch time when any pupils can call in, without appointment, to discuss careers. For those pupils who intend to seek employment and/ or training, vacancy details are displayed on the Careers noticeboard in school at key leaving times.

The School Careers Adviser this session is Ms Jennifer Latimer who is available in school each Wednesday and Friday and can be contacted on 01357 524040.

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

The school policy allows controlled and monitored access to the Internet, and in this respect, we ask that all parents and carers sign our Internet acceptable use agreement document. On receipt of this document the school will allocate to each pupil a user name and personal e-mail address. The user's name will allow the pupil to access our ICT resources, and the e-mail address will be available to each pupil whilst he/ she is attending Strathaven Academy.

## **DEVELOPING OUR YOUNG WORKFORCE**

The school is committed to providing opportunities for all pupils to develop the skills and knowledge that will ensure successful progression beyond school. Throughout the curriculum pupils are encouraged to recognise and develop skills in communication, working with others, problem solving, literacy and numeracy. Pupils in S3 and S6 experience elective programmes that target work related skills, additional qualifications, and the development of leadership. Pupils in S4-6 can undertake college placements or Foundation Apprenticeships, alongside their school subjects.

A programme of careers related events supports pupils and their families in creating career plans. These include S2 Careers Morning, S4 Careers Evening, Higher Education Seminar for S5/ S6 and S4 - S6 Work Placements, employer sessions. All school leavers will have had opportunity to produce a CV, write covering letters, experience interview preparation and have individual support in writing personal statements. Those intending to leave school at the end of S4/ S5 will receive targeted support ensure transition to a positive destination.

## **11. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

Over the last few sessions, we have achieved successes in a number of ways:

- Implementation of new curriculum and qualifications;
- Review and improvement of S1-3 courses including opportunities for participation in electives and in learning across subject areas;
- Increasing the range of courses, progression and achievement opportunities in the upper school including electives and non-SQA courses as well as new Highers and Advanced Highers;
- Providing opportunities for teachers to share practice and reflect upon approaches to learning and teaching with a focus on assessment and moderation of pupil work and the provision of helpful feedback to pupils;
- Promoting literacy and numeracy as key skills for all pupils;
- Improving systems for identifying young people in need of support including the extension of our tracking systems to S3 and the development of our dyslexia policy;
- Improving the way, we work together. We have created a structure that supports effective teamwork by promoted staff and which encourages the participation and leadership of all staff in the school. This approach has been extended to pupils and in particular those in S6;
- Improving our own knowledge, skill and expertise through effective staff development activities and the provision of leadership opportunities;

- Improving communication with parents and the wider world by establishing a team which has refreshed our website, and other online platforms; newsletters;
- Increasing the range of ICT equipment in the school to support effective learning;
- Increasing our range of partner organisations to provide deeper learning experiences and support for young people;
- Improving the ways in which we seek the views of our young people in relation to the work we do;
- Developing and promoting physical activity and team sports.

As a result

- The proportion of our young people moving on to positive destinations from school has increased and is currently over 99% - exceptionally high;
- Attainment and achievement in SQA examinations has improved year on year since being judged 'excellent' by HMIE in 2009. The proportion of pupils achieving more Highers in S5 continues to rise;
- Standards of Literacy and Numeracy are high and improving;
- Opportunities for achievement out with SQA examinations have increased;
- Pupil participation in the life and work of the school has improved;
- Our pupils have enjoyed outstanding success in a range of sports at local and national levels;
- Demand for places in Strathaven Academy remains high.

We continue to enjoy a positive working environment where relationships between staff, pupils, parents and partners are positive and where there is a sense of collective endeavour and pride in what we achieve. We acknowledge that there can be difficulties and issues from time to time and we always seek to find a positive resolution in the best

interests of our pupils. There is a definite sense of belonging within our school community. We remain firmly committed to our responsibilities as part of our local community and maintain strong relationships with a number of groups and organisations.

## **NEXT STEPS**

As we continue on our journey, we will promote the positive health and wellbeing of young people, parents/carers and staff. We continue to improve and develop the curriculum, looking particularly at our partnerships with employers and training providers to enhance provision for young people not intending to enter Higher Education. We are seeking to help young people identify, develop, practise and apply a range of skills to improve their learning, enhance their employability and better prepare them for life beyond school. We also seek to improve the ways we assess and record pupil progress so that our assessment decisions and the resulting feedback are robust and consistent – as a result reports to parents should also become more meaningful.

We continue to reflect on our own work and seek ways to enhance our provision for all young people and to improve our own individual and collective capacity.

## **12. SCHOOL POLICIES**

### **PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND RELATIONSHIPS**

It is the responsibility of staff within the school to ensure that parent council members, parents and pupils are involved in the creation of a positive school ethos that encourages good behaviour.

Equally, the school whilst trying to promote positive behaviour and relationships must support young people should incidents or bullying occur. Parents have a significant role to play in working with the school so that teachers, parents and pupils know what is expected of them in trying to change the behaviour and attitudes that contribute to bullying behaviour.

Our approach is to create an environment where better behaviour will encourage better learning. The school, along with the support of parents, can work together to create a learning environment which young people can enjoy and feel safe.

Incidents of bullying should be reported to the school immediately so that each alleged incident can be looked at. Together we can work towards creating a safer school for children and staff.

Young people are generally very willing to accept that, in the pursuit of teaching and learning, there is a need for rules and procedures. Pupils are likely to accept rules that are clearly and simply stated, apply in every classroom and in the greater school community, and are obviously necessary for good order.

In Strathaven Academy, staff deal with any discipline problems which do arise, in a consistent and fair manner and identify systems and procedures which recognise and reward achievement. By promoting positive behaviour and relationship, we create an environment where better behaviour encourages better learning. We have high expectations of all our pupils and here are a number of strategies used to recognise and encourage achievement including:

- display boards in each department feature examples of pupil work.
- an increased number of praise cards and merits are awarded to pupils, from recognising excellent attendance, progress and attitude, to celebrating participation in key events in the life of the school.
- pupils are encouraged to participate in the House System with a wide range of activities on offer.
- the scope of the annual Awards Ceremonies has been broadened. This was in evidence at the recent ceremonies, with additional categories of recognition.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Strathaven Academy uses a behavioural tracking system based on merits and demerits. The system is designed to motivate pupils to meet our high expectations regarding conduct, homework and uniform. It provides information on pupil conduct across the school. This is monitored closely by Pupil Support Teachers and Depute Head Teachers. Appropriate interventions are implemented where necessary. The information from behavioural tracking is used to determine if a pupil is allowed to participate in reward activities and trips, promoting the importance of positive behaviour.

When a child's indiscipline reaches a serious level, a letter may be sent home to make parents/carers aware of a punishment which requires to be completed, or to identify an area of concern. Both require the signature of parent/guardian and ask for support with the problem identified.

Continuing misbehaviour or aggressive or violent behaviour means that additional sanctions, withdrawal of privileges, or the imposition of a Conduct Monitoring Card (yellow card) which monitors a child's behaviour and attitude throughout the school day, may be imposed. Serious cases of persistent misbehaviour, outrageous behaviour or refusal to accept the legitimate discipline of the school can lead to the child's temporary exclusion from school and to an interview with the parent or carer who is required to give an assurance that the child will comply with the rules, regulations and disciplinary requirements of the school. Further serious indiscipline leads to action through South Lanarkshire Council and may include a transfer of schools.

## **ANTI-BULLYING**

The school promotes an anti-bullying message and must support young people should incidents of bullying occur. Incidents of bullying should be reported to the school immediately so that each alleged incident can be investigated. Together we can work towards creating a safer school for our pupils and staff.

Parents have a significant role to play in working with the school so that teachers, parents and pupils know what is expected of them in trying to change the behaviour and attitudes that contribute to bullying behaviour.

In addition to being subject to the above sanctions, post-compulsory pupils will be warned verbally if their performance gives rise for concern. If oral warnings prove ineffective, they will be followed by formal written warnings, copies of which are sent to the parent or carer. Failure to heed warnings may result in a pupil being withdrawn from class or ultimately from the school.

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by ensuring that all children adhere to the agreed dress code and wear our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. The wearing of a uniform helps staff and the pupils to distinguish between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of the life of the school. Any proposals on the dress code will be the subject of discussion with the Parent Council and where appropriate consultation with parents, pupils and staff.



There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in all schools such as:

- the wearing of football colours
- clothing with slogans that may cause offence (anti-religious, symbolism or political slogans)
- clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- clothing which can be deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety grounds such as track suits, combat style clothing, dangling earrings, loose fitting clothes particularly in practical classes
- articles of clothing that could be deemed to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so
- footwear that may damage flooring.

## **SUPPORT FOR PARENT/CARERS**

### **Clothing grant**

In certain circumstances the Council provides support to parents/carers for the purchase of school wear.

Applications can be made online at [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk). If you are required to submit evidence of your Tax Credit income, it is important that a copy of this evidence is attached to your online application. Should you require further information, or you are unable to submit an application online then please contact the helpline number **0303 123 1011** (option 5).

### **School uniform**

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child(ren) to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. The wearing of a uniform helps staff and the pupils to distinguish between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of the life of the school. Any proposals on the dress code and on what constitutes the school uniform will be the subject of discussion with the Parent Council and where appropriate consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in all schools such as:

- the wearing of football colours
- clothing with slogans that may cause offence (anti-religious, symbolism or political slogans)
- clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- clothing which can be deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety grounds such as shell suits, combat style clothing, dangling earrings, loose fitting clothes particularly in practical classes

- articles of clothing that could be deemed to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so
- footwear that may be deemed to damage flooring.

### **THE SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR ALL STRATHAVEN ACADEMY PUPILS IS: -**

White shirt with school/senior tie  
 Black skirt/ trousers  
 (optional tartan skirts/pinafore for girls)  
 Plain black footwear  
 Belts, if worn, should be black.

Black sweater or cardigan  
 Black socks or tights for girls  
 Burgundy Blazer

Order online: [www.kitmykid.co.uk](http://www.kitmykid.co.uk) or come along to one of our scheduled uniform parent's evenings (see Calendar on school website for the dates).

The school anticipates that it will receive the full co- operation of parents in implementing this policy, supporting our drive to improve security within the school, the image of the school in the community and the attitude of pupils towards school work as well as creating a strong sense of identity and belonging for all pupils.



### **THE SCHOOL DAY**

#### **MONDAY & TUESDAY:**

#### **THE SCHOOL DAY IS ORGANISED AS FOLLOWS: - 7 PERIODS, 50 MINUTE LUNCH**

**Registration 08.50 - 09.00**  
 Period 1 09.00 - 09.50  
 Period 2 09.50 - 10.40  
**Interval 10.40 - 10.55**  
 Period 3 10.55 - 11.45  
 Period 4 11.45 - 12.35  
 Period 5 12.35 - 13.25  
**Lunch 13.25 - 14.15**  
 Period 6 14.15 - 15.05  
 Period 7 15.05 - 15.55

## **WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY:**

### **THE SCHOOL DAY IS ORGANISED AS FOLLOWS: - 6 PERIODS, 50 MINUTE LUNCH**

#### **Registration 08.50 - 09.00**

Period 1 09.00 - 09.50

Period 2 09.50 - 10.40

#### **Interval 10.40 - 10.55**

Period 3 10.55 - 11.45

Period 4 11.45 - 12.35

#### **Lunch 12.35 - 13.25**

Period 5 13.25 - 14.15

Period 6 14.15 - 15.05

### **INFORMATION IN EMERGENCIES**

We make every effort to ensure the school remains open during term-time for pupils. However, on occasions circumstances may arise which can affect the school. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, power failures or through any other circumstances that may impact on the school day. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know. We shall keep in touch by telephone, text, where appropriate, letters, web news and through local radio stations particularly if there are prolonged periods of severe weather. The Council's website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) will be used to let you know if the school is closed and when it will re-open.

It is important for parents/carers to let the school know of any change to your mobile/ home telephone number and change of address. If for any reason, you are unsure if the school is open, please contact the school or Education Resources, Operations Service, Almada Street, Hamilton. (Telephone 01698 454545) or email us at: ***education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk*** or visit the website ***www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk***

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024 – 2025

<b>HOLIDAY DATES</b>			
<b>FIRST TERM</b>			
	Teachers return	Mon/Tues	14 & 15 August 2023
	Pupils return	Wednesday	16 August 2023
September Weekend	Close	Friday	22 September 2023
	Re-open	Monday	25 September 2023
October Break	Close on	Monday	16 October 2023
	Re-open	Monday	23 October 2023
	Inservice day	Monday	13 November 2023
Christmas/New Year	Close at 2.30pm	Friday	22 December 2023
<b>SECOND TERM</b>			
	Re-open	Monday	08 January 2024
February break	Close on	Mon/Tues	12 & 13 February 2024
	Inservice day	Wednesday	14 February 2024
Spring Break/Easter	Close at 2.30pm	Thursday	28 March 2024
	Re-open	Monday	15 April 2024
<b>THIRD TERM</b>			
	Inservice day	Thursday	02 May 2024
May Day		Monday	06 May 2024
Local Holiday	Close on	Friday	24 May 2024
	Re-open	Monday	27 May 2024
Summer Break	Close at 1.00pm	Wednesday	26 June 2024

## **SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

The online application form and information is available from South Lanarkshire Council website [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

South Lanarkshire Council's mainstream school transport policy provides transport for primary school pupils who live one mile or more from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route.

The calculation on the measurement of distance from home to school is measured using a Geographical Information System (GIS), which is used for all measurements to ensure that Council Policy is consistently applied across the Authority.

More details on school transport can be found at the following link including the online application form:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/545/school\\_transport](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/545/school_transport)

If you consider your child to be eligible you should complete the online application form. Forms should be submitted before the end of March for those pupils starting school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made.

A privilege transport scheme is operated on mainstream school contracts where a pupil is not entitled to free school transport. Privilege Transport will only be provided where there is a space on an existing school contract and will be from and to designated pick-up and drop-off points. It will not be provided where a service bus is used on the school run. Any spare capacity will be allocated using agreed priorities.

A new application must be made each year.

More details on Privilege school transport may be found here:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/784/privilege\\_transport\\_to\\_school](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/784/privilege_transport_to_school)

### **Pick-up points**

Where school transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point. Walking distance in total, including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction, will not exceed the authority's distance limit for school transport.

It should be noted that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while travelling in and alighting from the vehicle. Misbehaviour can result in your child losing the right to school transport.

Parents are asked to note that South Lanarkshire Council does not provide transport for those pupils who attend school via a placing request.

Mainstream School Transport contact details:  
e-mail: [school\\_transport@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:school_transport@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)  
tel: 0303 123 1023

South Lanarkshire Council's mainstream school transport policy provides transport for secondary school pupils who live three miles or more from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route.

## **MUSIC TUITION**

Instrumental music lessons are offered to children in all secondary schools across South Lanarkshire through our Instrumental Music Service (IMS). Tuition is offered (based on capacity) on a variety of instruments, which can include a selection of the following: - brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, guitar and voice.

Participation in a programme of instrumental study can help children to develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Children who take instrumental music tuition are often offered opportunities to further develop their playing by participating in extra-curricular activities through bands, orchestras and other ensembles.

Parents/ Carers, who wish their child to receive instrumental tuition are required to make an annual contribution to the Instrumental Music Service, currently £180, based on a minimum of 30 lessons per academic year.

S4-6 Students undertaking any full SQA Music award delivered through the Music Department are exempt from paying the annual contribution on one instrument of study provided through the IMS. Any additional instrument tuition requested through this service will require charges to be levied.

Further information on the Instrumental Music service can be requested from the school's Music Department or the Instrumental Music Service on 01698 454057/454159.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

Healthy eating is something that the school supports and a range of meals are available at lunchtime that meet the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020

The secondary school menu includes a range of options available from breakfast, mid-morning and lunchtime.

- A meal deal for £2.40 consisting of a choice of main meal served with two portions of vegetables/salad and seasonal fresh fruit selection
- A selection of Grab 'n' Go snacks that are individually priced including panini, pizzini and freshly prepared baguettes and sandwiches with a selection of fillings
- "Beat the Queue" use our new Pre-order Fusion Mobile App where mid-morning snacks and lunches can be ordered via mobile phone and pick it up during mid-morning and lunch break avoiding the queues. See South Lanarkshire Council website for details on how to sign up.

Fresh drinking water is also available with all meals

**NB** School Meal prices are reviewed annually and may be subject to change

### **Adapted diets**

If your child requires an adapted diet for medical reasons, please speak to the school office who will provide the request form for you to complete. In addition, if you have a halal or vegan diet request for your child, please speak to the school office who will provide you with a request form.

### **Free School Meals**

Children of parents who receive the following benefits are entitled to a free lunchtime meal for their child

- Income Support, Universal Credit (where your take home pay is less than £796 per month), Job Seeker's Allowance (income based), Employment and Support Allowance (income related), Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (where your gross annual income does not exceed £9,552 as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs), Child Tax Credit Only (where your gross annual income does not exceed £19,995 as assessed by the HM Revenues and Customs) or receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from us there is no need for you to apply online, we will use the information we hold to automatically award free school meals (P6 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

We would encourage parents of pupils who are in receipt of any of the above benefits to take up the opportunity of having a meal provided for their child when they are at school. All secondary schools operate a cashless school meals system which protects the anonymity of pupils entitled to a free school meal.

We also encourage all pupils to remain in school at lunch times.

### **Allergies**

Many children in our schools have allergies, and it is crucial for parents to keep the school informed about these conditions.

## **Health Care Plans**

- Allergies can manifest at any time with symptoms ranging from mild to severe.
- Children with moderate to severe allergies often have a Health Care Plan from the NHS, detailing symptoms and interventions.
- Parents must share this plan with the school and provide updates as necessary.

## **Mild Symptoms**

- Even without a Health Care Plan, parents should regularly update the school on any new triggers, medications, or actions required.

## **Employee Training**

- School staff need to know your child's symptoms, treatments, and actions required to prevent exposure and minimise the risk of reactions.
- Employees receive training on allergies and will consult with parents and the NHS for any additional specialist training needed.

## **Policy Adherence**

In supporting children and young people with allergies, school staff will follow South Lanarkshire Council's Safe Systems of Work, risk assessment process, and national guidance on the administration of medicines.

We also encourage all pupils to remain in school at lunch times.

## **Education Maintenance Allowance**

EMA is available to young people between 16 and 19 years of age and is awarded depending on your household's gross taxable income and the number of other dependent children living with you.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE**

The school has a policy of increasing our pupils' Personal, Social and Health awareness on a variety of health issues. This is achieved mainly through our PSHE programme and through the work of a Health Committee co-ordinated by a Depute Head Teacher.

In terms of medical care, we have a number of staff who are trained in first aid but we are only able to administer emergency first aid of a limited nature. In situations other than the most minor injuries or illness the school's policy is to return pupils into the care of their parents or emergency contacts as soon as possible. It is important, therefore, for parents to keep the school provided with up-to-date details of home and work telephone numbers together with details of another emergency contact number. It is also important that a child should not be sent to school if he/ she is obviously ill or in need of medical attention.

When a child has a medical history of ill-health or requires regular medication, it is in his/her best interest to communicate this information, in confidence, to the Head Teacher through the child's Pupil Support Teacher.



It is extremely important that you keep the school office informed of any changes of address and/or telephone number and of any alteration regarding your emergency contact, to enable the school to make arrangements should your child need to be taken home.

### **INSURANCE FOR SCHOOL PUPILS' PERSONAL EFFECTS**

South Lanarkshire Council has noted an increase in claims for loss or damage to pupils' clothing and personal effects. Please be aware of the Council's insurance policy regarding pupils' personal items:

#### **Theft/Loss of Personal Effects**

- The Council is not responsible for the loss or theft of pupils' personal items, such as mobile phones or tablets. These items are brought to school at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- To prevent loss, please avoid bringing valuable or unnecessarily expensive items to school.
- Staff members are instructed not to take custody of any personal items.
- This policy also applies to musical instruments and other equipment used for school activities. If such items are left at school, it is at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- For valuable items like musical instruments, parents should ensure they are covered by their own household insurance.

#### **Damage to Clothing**

- The Council is only liable for damage to pupils' clothing if it is caused by the negligence of the Council or its employees. Claims for other reasons will not be accepted by the Council's insurers

### **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

All staff in educational establishments in South Lanarkshire Council receive an annual Child Protection update and are required to follow the advice and guidance contained within relevant Education Operating Procedures. They must also complete a mandatory Learn on Line Course "Child Protection in Education".

South Lanarkshire's children's services partnership works together to support children, young people and their families so that children grow up in communities where they are safe, healthy, active, achieving, respected, responsible and included, and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They are committed to continuously improve our services to ensure children, young people and their families get the right support at the right time.

Sometimes children and young people need additional help to make sure that they are "cared for and protected from abuse and harm in a safe environment in which their rights are respected" (CPC South Lanarkshire Child Protection shared vision). The Child Protection Committee has the overarching responsibility to ensure that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people as effectively as possible.

All Staff have a responsibility to report any suspicions that child has been abused or is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. Robust procedures and guidance are in place to support education staff to: -

- be alert to signs that a child may be experiencing risks to their wellbeing,
- report concerns to the head of establishment or the child protection coordinator without delay,
- be actively engaged in support and protection and development of wellbeing.

If you would like more information, or if you have a concern of a child protection nature, please contact.



Ms Huq, Head Teacher, or Mrs Kane, Depute Head Teacher.

The Child Protection Committee's website has a range of useful information for parents/carers to help them keep their children safe:

**[www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)**

## **General Data Protection Regulation as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)**

Information on pupils, parents and guardians is held by the school to enable the teaching, registration and assessment of pupils as well as associated administrative duties. The information is stored and used as per the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 with South Lanarkshire Council defined as the data controller. The Council have established a data protection policy that applies to all of its schools. For more information, please contact the school.

### **Privacy Notice Introduction**

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we have produced this privacy notice to inform you how we deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority.

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver effective education services to children, young people and adult learners in South Lanarkshire. In order to do this, we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

## **Using your personal information**

The Council is a “controller” of the personal information you provide when enrolling for a nursery or school, applying for an education service or participating in groups or activities provided by Education Resources.

## **Information we collect from you about you and your child at enrolment**

When you enroll for a nursery or school, we ask for the following information:

- parent/ carer contact details (name, address, phone, email);
- the child’s name, date of birth, gender and address;
- information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion and ethnicity;
- any information you may wish to provide about family circumstances.

## **Information we collect at other times**

We will also collect information at other times such as when you apply for a benefit, request a services or other support. We will provide an additional privacy notice at these times.

- If you apply for an education service or benefit, such as school transport, free school meals, clothing grant, placing request or EMA, we will also ask for personal information as set out above. We will also ask for information about your income for education benefits applications.
- If you make a request for additional support such as an educational psychologist or other support for learning we will ask for more detailed information to allow us to provide the most appropriate support for your family. This may include information about family circumstances or medical conditions.
- If there are concerns about your child’s wellbeing and/or your child has needs that may require additional support, we will wish to work with you to collect and consider information to enable us to help you get the right support at the right time in line with the Getting it right for every child approach.

We require this information to ensure that children and young people are educated appropriately, supported, and that we take account of their health and wellbeing. We will also ask you to update this information annually and to tell us when there are changes to your details.

## **Information that we collect from other sources**

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations, we receive information from other sources such as the SQA, the NHS or Social Work about you or your child, this includes:

- exam results and assessment information;
- information about health, wellbeing or child protection.

## **Why do we need this information?**

We need this information so the Council can ensure it is delivering education services appropriately to all learners:

- for the education of children, young people and adult learners;
- for teaching, enrolment and assessment purposes and to monitor the educational progress of children, young people and adult learners;
- to keep children and young people safe and provide guidance services in school;
- to identify where additional support is needed to help children, young people and adult learners with their learning;
- to maintain records of attendance, absence and behaviour of children and young people (including exclusions);
- to support children and young people moving on each year from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and when they move or leave school;
- to help us develop and improve education services provided for young people, adult learners or families
- In accordance with our legitimate interests as an education authority we will also use your information to create statistical reports.

### **We will share your information with:**

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations we will share information with other bodies or parts of the Council, including:

- The Scottish Government and bodies such as Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Skills Development Scotland and other organisations that support children and young people's learning;
- Other parts of the Council when required for services such as school meals, school transport, education benefits and with Social work in connection with any child protection concerns we become aware of;  
The NHS, to support health initiatives in accordance with the legal obligation on the Council in terms of section 39(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland Act 1978);
- South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited, where children and young people are participating in sports and leisure activities;
- Other schools/ local authorities – if a child moves or transfers to another school the Council has an obligation to pass on information with regards to pupil records to the new school/ local authority.

You have the right to access your personal information as well as the rights of rectification, erasure, restriction and the right to object. For information on these rights and how to exercise them or for information about how we manage your personal information, you can get a copy of our full privacy notice from our website: ([https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200235/meta/1730/general\\_privacy](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200235/meta/1730/general_privacy)).

Our full privacy notice will also provide information on how to make a complaint or to request a paper copy of the privacy notice from the Data Protection Officer.

## **ADDRESSES**

Mrs A Donaldson  
Interim Executive Director  
Education Resources  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
HAMILTON  
ML3 0AE

Mr S Nicholson  
Head of Education  
East Kilbride and Strathaven  
Education Resources  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Almada Street  
HAMILTON  
ML3 0AE

### **ELECTED MEMBERS:**

Councillor Dr Lisa Cameron  
Councillor Susan Kerr

Provost Margaret Cooper

### **EDUCATION RESOURCES HELPLINE**

Tel: 0303 123 1023

### **EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

***Education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk***

### **CAREERS OFFICE**

Windmill Road  
HAMILTON  
ML3 6LX  
Tel: 01698 337475

## **13. FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS**

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a new nationally recognised qualification, which has been designed to provide learners with knowledge and skills, relevant to occupations in thriving industry sectors, such as engineering/civil engineering, social & health care, creative design & media, finance/ accountancy/ business, scientific technologies, ICT hardware/ software and food & drink technologies. The SCQF Level 6 courses combine classroom and work-based learning delivered in partnership with employers and specialist learning providers or colleges. Foundation Apprenticeships are the same level as Higher qualifications and can be used as entry requirements for Modern and Graduate Apprenticeships, college and university courses. Pupils gain a valuable insight into the workplace by attending work placements during the Foundation Apprenticeship.

Senior phase pupils can participate in Foundation Apprenticeships as part of their S4-S6 curriculum over one or two years. Available options have been agreed on a local basis.

More details can be found at <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/>

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Education Resources has also prepared a privacy notice (below) which sets out how we will deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority. For more information, please contact the school.

### **Privacy Notice**

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Our full privacy notice will also provide information on how to make a complaint or to request a paper copy of the privacy notice from the Data Protection Officer.

## **The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 came into force on 1 January 2005 and gives a person the right to request information held by Scottish public authorities.

The act refers to information held in a 'recordable' format and relates to information held within documents, not the documents themselves.

Parents wishing to make a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 should submit their request in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer

Education Resources

South Lanarkshire Council

Council Offices, Almada Street,

Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Or email: [foi.request@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:foi.request@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Requests for information can also be submitted using the online form available from the South Lanarkshire Council website (Request it section) ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk))



## Appendix A

For a comprehensive list of useful information, please visit the Council's website:

[http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/1264/curriculum\\_for\\_excellence/3](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/1264/curriculum_for_excellence/3)

### Additional Information

**Education Scotland's Communication Toolkit:** A resource for engaging with parents.

- **The Scottish Government Guide Principles of Inclusive Communications:** Offers information on communications and a self-assessment tool for public authorities.
- **Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents:** Provides information on choosing a school and the placing request system.
- **A Guide for Parents About School Attendance:** Explains parental responsibilities regarding children's attendance at school.

### Parental Involvement

Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 provides guidance on the act for education authorities, Parent Councils and others

Parentzone provide information and resource for parents and Parent Councils

National Parent Forum for Scotland; [www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk)

### School Ethos

Supporting Learners - guidance on the identification, planning and provision of support.

Journey to Excellence - provides guidance and advice about culture and ethos.

Health and wellbeing guidance on healthy living for local authorities and schools.

Building Curriculum for Excellence Through Positive Behaviour and Relationships outlines the Scottish Government's priority actions around positive behaviour in schools and is also a source of support.

Scottish Catholic Education Service's resource 'This is Our Faith' which supports the teaching and learning of Catholic religious education.

### Curriculum

Information about how the curriculum is structured and curriculum planning

Information about the outcomes a learner can expect to experience and achieve across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, as well as the 8 curricular areas

Advice, practice and resources to support the experiences and outcomes on literary, numeracy and health and wellbeing

## Broad General Education in the Secondary School – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Information on the Senior Phase

Information on Skills for learning, life and work

Information around the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' programme

Information for organisations responsible for the planning, management and delivery of career information, advice and guidance services

The Skills Development Scotland website 'My World of Work' offers a number of tools to support career planning.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

Building the Curriculum 5: a framework for assessment provides guidance around the assessment framework

Information about Curriculum for Excellence levels and how progress is assessed.

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - Assessment and qualifications.

Information on recognising achievement, reporting and profiling.

The Scottish National Standardised Assessment- in Scotland, pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 complete online standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy as part of their everyday learning and teaching.

### **Transitions**

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - 3-18 Transitions - provides information on the transitions children and young people will face throughout their education and beyond.

Career Information, Advice and Guidance in Scotland - A Framework for Service Redesign and Improvement provides guidance on career information, advice and guidance strategy.

Choices and changes provides information about choices made at various stages of learning.

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs.

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice includes specific requirements on education authorities and others under the new legislation in relation to transition.

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning.

Parenting Across Scotland offers support to children and families in Scotland.

### **Support for Pupils**

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs

Information about the universal entitlement to support that underpins Curriculum for Excellence.

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition) - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended.

Getting It Right for Every Child and Young Person, is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers.

### **School Improvement**

Scottish Schools Online - provides a range of school information, including contact details, school roll, facilities, website, inspection reports.

Education Scotland's Inspection and review page provides information on the inspection process.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Scottish Qualifications Authority provides information for teachers, parents, employers and young people on qualifications.

Amazing Things - information about youth awards in Scotland.

Information on how to access statistics relating to School Education.

### **School Policies and Practical Information**

**Schools and local authorities should consider the most relevant school, local and national policies and include details or links for parents to sources of further information.**

National policies, information and guidance can be accessed **from the Scottish Government website on [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) with an update on school inspection outcomes being available via the Education Scotland website.**

