

Loch Primary School and Nursery Class



Curriculum Rationale



What is a Curriculum Rationale?

A Curriculum Rationale is a position statement, created in conjunction with stakeholders, that sets out the framework for meeting the needs of all learners. It ensures that everyone involved with the school can answer the question "what do we want for our children and how will we work together to achieve this?"

This Curriculum Rationale has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders including pupils, parents/carers and staff. This works alongside our school 'Vision, Values and Aims' as we all work together to ensure our children succeed and reach their full potential within our nurturing school environment and beyond.

Our School



Loch Primary School and Nursery Class is a non-denominational establishment situated within the Springhall area of Rutherglen. The school catchment area includes Springhall and Whitlawburn. The school was rebuilt in February 2008 as part of SLC School Modernisation Programme. The school has 10 classrooms and a nursery playroom. The Senior Management Team consists of a Head Teacher and Principal Teacher. Loch Primary School is a Scottish Attainment Challenge School and has been

part of the programme for the last five years. Currently, 84% of pupils live within SIMD 1-2 and/or have free meal entitlement.

The school is situated within the Cathkin Learning Community and Cathkin High School is the catchment Secondary School. We work in partnership with all agencies and extended teams within the Learning Community to meet the needs and provide high quality education for all of our pupils. Loch PS has an active and interested Parent Council who provide effective support for class and school events, whilst organising fundraising and social events for parents/carers and pupils. Our Nursery Parents are also invited to participate in regular parent/carer consultation sessions to support the development of our Nursery.

We provide a broad general education for all of our pupils beginning in our Nursery Class through to Primary 7, teaching all 8 curricular areas (Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing, Expressive Arts, Religious and Moral Education, Science, Technologies and Social Studies). We strive to ensure our curriculum and the experiences provided at Loch Primary School and Nursery Class enable our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We promote positive relationships within the school and foster a nurturing ethos which encourages all pupils to respect themselves and others. We implement a 'House System' as part of our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy'. All pupils carry out a wide range of leadership roles within their classes and throughout the school, providing opportunities for them to put forward their views on their learning and how to improve our school. All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 are involved in 1 of 7 pupil committees - Pupil Council, Rights Respecting Schools, Social Enterprise, Charities, Sports Council, Health and Eco or Junior Road Safety Officers. We have effective partnership working with our neighbouring school, St Anthony's PS, and implement an effective annual plan of joint events for the pupils of both schools.

We seek opportunities to provide extra-curricular activities for the pupils. Every second year our P6 and P7 pupils are offered the opportunity to participate in a residential excursion. On an annual basis after school activities are offered to the pupils. We also aim to ensure our pupils participate in a wide range of celebrations and school events such as the Bridgeton Burns Club Competition, John Wrights Sports Competition, Burns Day, World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Children In Need, Health Week, World of Work Week, Nurture Awareness Week and whole school concerts.

What makes Loch PS and Nursery Class unique?

Children's Views

We are all a team and work together so it makes me feel included.

(P5 pupil)

We're all in this together is our motto!

(P3 pupil)

The staff make Loch special because they make us confident.

(P1 pupil)

Everyone makes me feel happy and respected.

(P2 pupil)

I like the houses because there are things you can work towards with your team.

(P7 pupil)

Parent/Carer Views

Great staff and work ethic.

A very nurturing school, treat every child as an individual and every child matters.

The activities and projects the kids are involved in and how the teachers and staff interact with the kids and parents is what makes us unique. It makes you feel at ease.

The staff always go out their way to make the children and parents feel welcome. Also the facilities in both the nursery and school are great.

Loch caters for a broad spectrum of children, all from many backgrounds, but every child is treated equally and this allows every child to shine.

Staff Views

Loch is a place where we encourage all of our pupils to achieve and succeed. We will always support and offer guidance to be the best.

At Loch PS all achievements big and small are celebrated. Our staff get to know our pupils well and we promote an ethos of mutual respect. Our staff work together to provide the necessary interventions/resources to help our pupil achieve their full potential with HWB/nurture underpinning this.

Loch PS and Nursery Class is all about working together to ensure our children have the opportunity to thrive and achieve
- TEAM LOCH!

Loch ensures that all children are supported and can access their learning. At Loch we are all in this together!

Loch is unique because of the staff and pupil relationships. Through our nurturing environment, focus on wellbeing and drive to help children succeed we have created the unique environment at Loch for learning and growing together.

Partner Views

Loch PS and Nursery provides a calm, nurturing, friendly ethos - one that breeds and celebrates success and personal achievement, across all curricular areas. It goes above and beyond, and the pupils have access to an impressive array of interventions to support learning, and health and wellbeing.

By supporting pupil, parent, and staff wellbeing at it's core it allows pupils and the wider school community to flourish and shine.

(Specialist Support Teacher)

From the first person you meet as you enter the building you are greeted by warm smiles and friendly greetings. All staff and pupils are friendly and welcoming. As a regular visitor to the school I never felt like an outsider, I was always made to feel like part of the family by staff and pupils. It always feels like everyone is important. No one is left out and everyone is given the same opportunities to belong and achieve. Coming into Loch always brightens up my day. When you leave you usually feel like you've been given a big warm hug.

(Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Trust)

Loch Primary is located within an area of high deprivation and caters to a significant number of children with additional support needs. However, there is a strong focus on attainment, and helping learners reach their potential. Loch is very inclusive and goes above and beyond to support the diverse range of needs within the school.

There is a positive and supportive atmosphere in the school and it is clear that the staff group feel well supported by their management team. Overall, Loch demonstrates excellent attachment informed practice and provides a nurturing environment for all learners and visitors.

(Educational Psychologist)

It is a privilege to be part of the team at Loch Primary. I have been lucky enough to be involved in many aspects of the school over the last few years, despite the restrictions due to Covid. There is a huge emphasis on nurture and wellbeing throughout the school which provides a lovely environment for children to learn in. Children's individual needs are placed at the centre, and each child is given the opportunity to reach their potential.

Children's interests are pursued and their successes are celebrated. Children, staff, parents and external agencies work together within the school, and are all proud to be part of Loch Primary.

(Barnardo's Family Support Worker)

The commitment of everyone in Loch Primary School and Nursery Class to a nurturing approach and their focus upon the emotional wellbeing of all of the children is one of the things which makes it unique. Most of the teaching staff have been nurture trained and nurture groups are offered to children at all levels. All the staff in the school and nursery are warm and respectful in their relationships with the children, they take time to know the children as individuals and think carefully about how best to support them both with their learning and with their emotional and mental health. Kindness and compassion are evident throughout the school and nursery and the children experience these throughout their school day from breakfast club to after school clubs.

The staff team are unique in their support for one another, their friendliness and in their welcoming attitude to external professionals.

(Place2Be)

Four Contexts for Learning at Loch PS and Nursery Class

At Loch PS and Nursery Class, we embed the Four Contexts for Learning in the following ways:

Our Ethos and Life of the Nursery/School

- All stakeholders are consulted about the Vision and Values; this is embedded in all aspect of school life.
- Children's opinions and choices are respected and heard and they have a voice within our school - KWL grids; committees; Assessment is for Learning; sharing/celebrating at assemblies; jotter feedback from SLT; houses/captains; use of 'How Good Is OUR School'; Tiny Talking Team; Class Charters; feedback for school policies/rationales/mottos.
- Parents/carers are actively involved in school life: Parent Mail; Twitter; Parent Council; Parents' Nights/phone calls.
- Children are supported to access all areas of the curriculum through creative and innovative approaches to curriculum development.
- We always listen to children's opinions and take these on board through responsive experiences.
- A range of after school clubs are on offer to our pupils, including Homework Club, Multi-Sports, Coding etc.
- All pupils can attend our daily Breakfast Club.
- Outdoor Learning is promoted at Loch PS and Nursery Class.
- All pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 are encouraged to participate in school events such as school concerts, nativities, cafes etc.
- We have been awarded 5 Eco Green Flags.
- We support a range of local and global charities including the local food bank, Children in Need, Comic Relief, Poppy Appeal, etc.
- We have an excellent transition programme in place for Nursery-Primary 1 and Primary 7-High School and we have excellent working relationships with our local schools and nurseries.
- Through observations and group time in nursery, we observe children's interests and needs and respond to these to ensure effective learning experiences.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

- We share children's learning in Nursery via Google Classroom and we promote achievement through bucket filling and the presentation of awards such as 'Star of the Week' and our 'I can' tree.
- Our nursery children are encouraged to take ownership of their own Learning Journals to record their learning and their journey in nursery.
- Children's achievements are celebrated at weekly assemblies. School awards include: Star/HT/Citizenship Awards; house points; personal points; Bronze - Platinum Awards; sharing wider achievements.
- We encourage our children to participate in extra-curricular activities and to share their achievements from these activities with us.
- We encourage our children to share good news stories and we highlight these achievements on our 'Good News' wall display.
- We use positive praise and encouragement in our daily practice.
- We encourage our pupils to set their own personal targets.
- Children are encouraged to participate in school competitions and events such as the 'Bridgeton Burns Competition', 'SLC Dance Festival', 'Youth Music Initiative' and the 'John Wrights Sports Competition'.
- Our children have the opportunity to share their work with our Senior Leadership Team when they reach the Head Teacher 'stamp' in their jotters.
- Learning Logs allow our children to record their personal achievements.
- We celebrate personal achievements through our Twitter account, school websites and monthly newsletters.

Interdisciplinary Learning

- Progression planners are in place and experiences and outcomes have been bundled to ensure coverage and progression.
- We make use of class discussions and KWL grids to ensure we are responsive to children's interests and needs.
- School trips are planned to provide breadth and depth to children's learning.
- We use responsive planning at all times within the school and nursery.
- Interdisciplinary Learning planners cover a range of outcomes and we make links to real life experiences where possible.
- Play-based learning and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is incorporated into our weekly planning.
- Experiences and outcomes sheets are passed from each stage/level to ensure sufficient coverage - this provides an overview of learning.
- A clear focus is evident on developing children's skills for learning, life and work.
- Literacy and Numeracy is evident in all areas of the playroom; free flow play allows children to be creative in their use of resources and this allows them to experience a wide range of interdisciplinary learning experiences.

Curricular Areas

- Progression planners are in place for all 8 curricular areas.
- Teachers and Early Years staff are responsive to children's interests and needs.
- We cater to a variety of learning styles and incorporate a range of strategies including play-based learning, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), active learning, collaborative learning, Outdoor Learning and the use of ICT.
- A range of learning experiences are offered for all stages.
- Timetables and year overviews ensure all curricular areas are taught.
- Tracking and monitoring is in place to track the progress of all pupils in all curricular areas.
- A clear focus is evident on developing children's skills for learning, life and work.
- Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are shared orally and visually with pupils for all learning experiences, ensuring children understand their expectations of the lesson.
- Interdisciplinary learning is evident throughout all areas of the nursery.
- Targets are set for nursery children each term for Literacy, Numeracy and HWB.
- Nursery planning is linked to 'Together We Can and We Will' learning goals and 'Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes'.

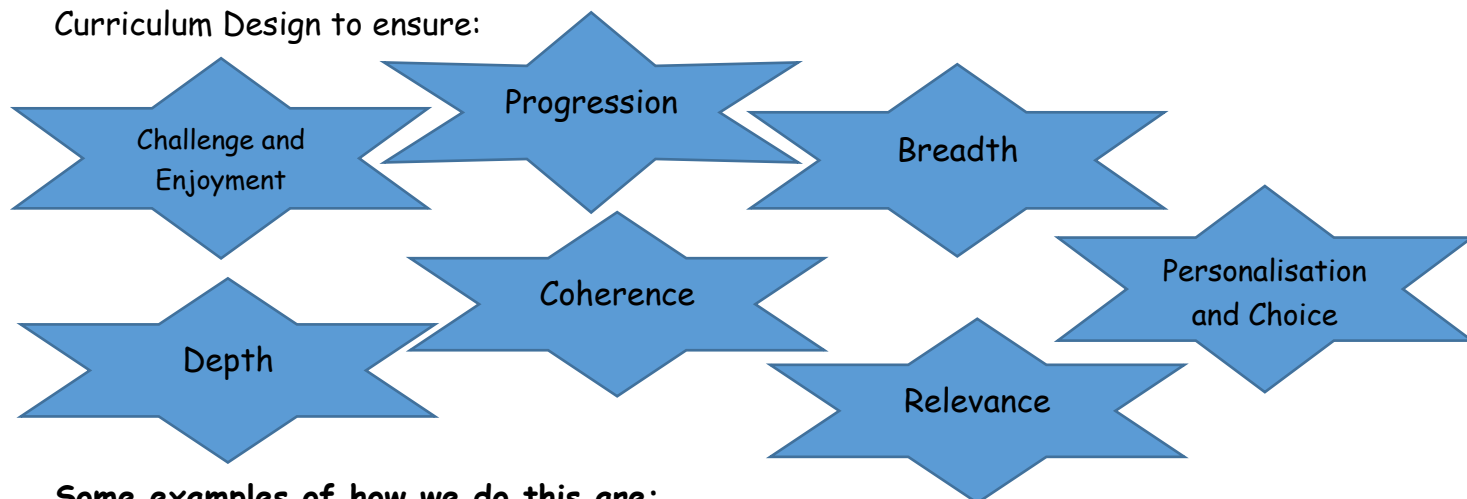
How do we plan for high quality learning experiences at Loch PS and Nursery Class?

Highly motivated, trained staff	Nurturing Principles embedded in daily life of the school	Responsive planning
Differentiated learning	Assessment informs next steps (tracking and monitoring)	Range of teaching approaches used
Active Learning	Outdoor Learning	Play-Based Learning/Child-Initiated Play
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	Skills based learning - skills for learning, life and work	All stakeholders involved and consulted
Use of progression planners	7 Key Principles of Curriculum Design embedded	Wide variety of resources used
Regular self-evaluation	Effective forward planning and evaluation	Clear Learning Intentions/ Success Criteria

Children are at the heart of everything we do

How do we embed the Seven Principles of Curriculum Design?

When planning for children's learning, all practitioners take into account the 7 Principles of Curriculum Design to ensure:



Some examples of how we do this are:

- We embed a nurturing approach across all areas of the school and nursery, ensuring our children feel ready and supported to learn.
- We focus on developing skills for learning, life and work.
- We ensure high quality teaching and learning takes place at all times.
- We ensure we carry out effective planning.
- We engage in effective self-evaluation activities to identify next steps.
- We ensure we follow the staged intervention process where required.
- We ensure our pupils are provided with the appropriate support where required.
- We ensure excellent communication between all stakeholders, ensuring effective team working.
- We encourage regular pupil voice and leadership opportunities.
- We plan for differentiation to ensure ALL children's needs are met at all times.
- We use a range of different teaching styles and approaches to cater to different learning styles and needs.
- We use assessment information to inform next steps.
- We encourage regular parental engagement opportunities.
- We carry out effective multi-agency working to support our children and families.
- We encourage free flow/child-initiated play around all areas of nursery to encourage children to take ownership of their own learning.
- We provide opportunities for breadth and depth to learning by allocating nursery staff to an area for two weeks, allowing staff to be responsive to children's interests and needs, thus developing a range of skills.
- We celebrate and discuss achievements, both in school and out of school, and we celebrate whole school events, eg Platinum Jubilee, Climate Cop 26 Conference etc.

How do we assess at Loch PS and Nursery Class?

Staged
Intervention
process in place

Tracking and
monitoring in place for
Nursery-Primary 7

Assessment
calendar in place

Forward
planning plans
for assessment

Regular 'Assessment
is for Learning'
strategies used

Regular ongoing
assessment in
class

Formative/
Summative
assessments

Learning Logs
(school) / Learning
Journals (nursery)

Regular
moderation

Tracking/
Moderation
meetings with SLT

Pupil Voice
encouraged

Interventions
tracked and
monitored

There is always
a purpose to
assessment

All stakeholders
consulted

Assessment
informs next
steps

Pupil target
setting

Observations

Effective
feedback

'Stage on a Page'
data collated