



# Westerton Primary School

Raising Attainment



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November 2020

Raising Attainment and Achievement and Ensuring Equity for All

*This Raising Attainment and Achievement Policy is part of a set which together make up our School Improvement Strategy. It should be considered alongside these others - Self-Evaluation and Improvement, Assessment, Recording and Reporting, Wellbeing, Curriculum Rationale and within the context of our Vision, Values and Aims statement.*

## **Rationale**

“Attainment is an individual’s passport to personal, social, cultural and economic opportunities. Raising attainment means improving life chances. This does not mean just focusing on exam results, but instead looking at attainment in its widest sense. It is this rich attainment which enables all of our children and young people to make good progress and develop the skills, ambition and know-how they need to improve life chances”.

*Raising Attainment, Scottish Government, March 2012*

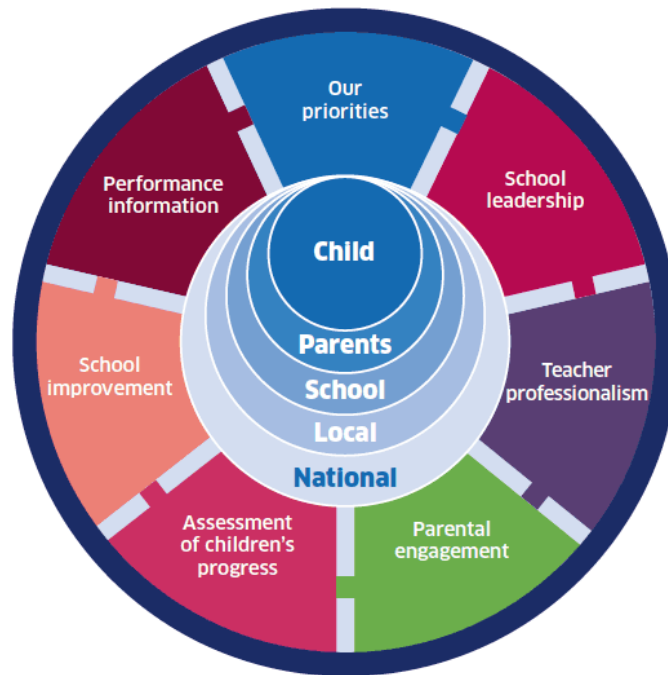
‘Children’s education should develop each child’s personality, talents and abilities to the fullest’.

*United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 29*

## **The National Improvement Framework**

The National Improvement Framework details key drivers for improvement and describes responsibilities at school level. Evidence from self-evaluation against these drivers will inform the standards and quality reporting and the improvement priorities.

This policy is structured around the key drivers for improvement within the National Improvement Framework. This approach is used by Westerton Primary to review and develop its strategies to raise attainment and ensure equity for all children.



**Aims:**

- A school ethos that puts the wellbeing of children at its centre
- An equitable approach to meeting the needs of all learners - a belief that every child matters and can achieve at the highest level
- A strong focus on the teaching of Literacy, Numeracy & Mathematics and Health & Wellbeing
- Ensuring high quality learning experiences across all curricular areas - learners who are engaged and active participants
- Rigorous assessment procedures and an effective tracking system to monitor the progress of learners
- Using data intelligently to identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Leadership at all levels that empowers and builds the capacity focusing on improved outcomes for all learners
- Professional learning opportunities that continually develop the skills and competences of our staff
- A strong and effective partnership with all stakeholders, including parents, that positively impacts on the achievement of pupils

**Improvement Framework for Westerton Primary School  
Introduction:**

Raising attainment & achievement and ensuring equity for all pupils is the core function of our school community. Attainment is a measure of education progress assessed against recognised standards while achievement goes far beyond this to recognise the range of skills and personal successes gained in school, at home and within the community, including attributes such as effort, determination and independence.

Attainment and achievement opportunities are equally important for children to develop self-confidence and become responsible citizens ready for lifelong learning and the world of work. This policy outlines how we plan to continue to raise attainment and achievement for all of our children.

## School Leadership



Leadership at all levels is recognised as an important aspect of the success of Westerton Primary. This includes leadership of learning and leadership of change. In Westerton Primary the Head Teacher works in partnership with staff, children and parents to develop a shared vision for change and improvement. There is a clear strategic improvement plan which is informed by effective self-evaluation and agreed collegiately with staff. Staff at all levels are empowered to develop leadership. Opportunities for pupils to take on leadership roles,

including the leadership of their own learning, are promoted throughout the school.

All staff are involved in the self-evaluation process to ensure a clear understanding of the school's journey to improvement and what the next steps are to continue to improve. All staff are engaged in the professional review and development process which has a positive impact on school improvement.

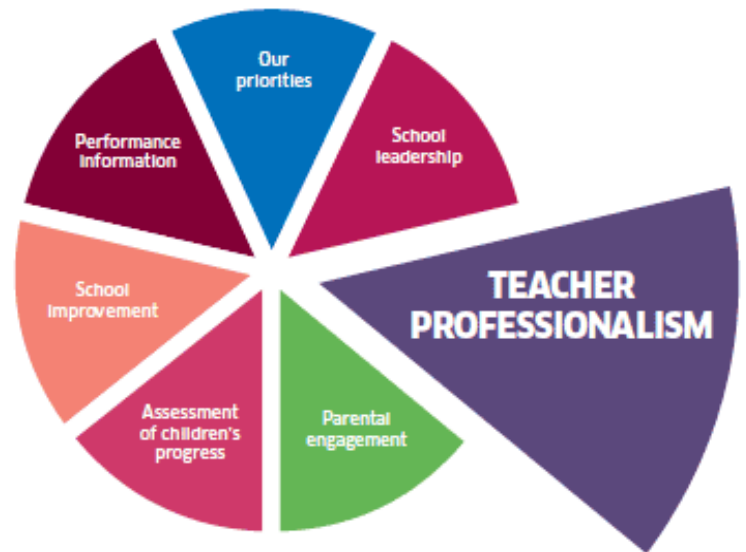
Leadership within the school is evident at all levels. Staff are effective in leading School and Cluster Improvement Plan priorities and are well supported and encouraged by the Senior Leadership Team in leading different initiatives. Many staff have responsibility for different curricular areas and there is a strong involvement in cluster and partnership working. Staff work collegiately to revise school policies and programmes. Staff are involved in sharing good practice through joint planning, peer visits, and staff meetings.

Children demonstrate leadership through their roles in the Pupil Council, JRSOs, ECO committee, Sports committee, Digital Leaders as House Captains and as Play Leaders. Children have opportunities to take responsibility through assemblies, class jobs, participating in class meetings and being buddies to younger pupils.

## Teacher Professionalism

All teachers and support staff in Westerton Primary engage in Professional Review and Development as detailed in EDC's policy.

Westerton Primary Schools Improvement Plan clearly details the professional learning required to implement priorities. This is linked to Staff Professional Review and Development and encompasses all forms of professional learning. All teachers record and evaluate their professional learning as part of the requirements for GTCSP professional Update.

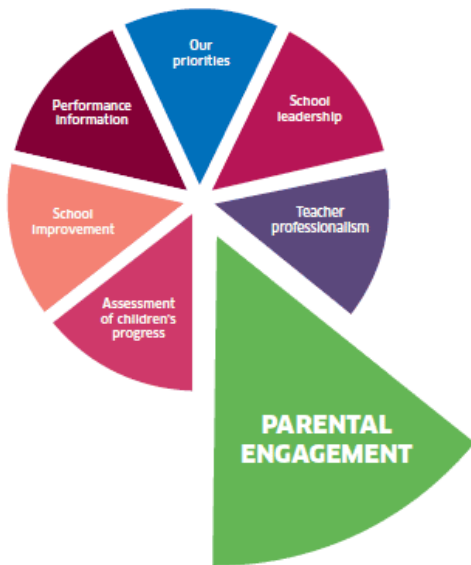


Staff in Westerton Primary have opportunities to lead on curricular developments and to be members of Professional Learning Communities within the school, the cluster, the Learning Partnership Group and EDC. Professional learning communities are established to share practice and support pedagogical developments. Practitioner enquiry is at the centre of professional learning and is key to improving learning and teaching. In Westerton Primary this is supported by the School Leadership Team, the Council's Psychological Service and by Quality Improvement Officers.

Teachers' professional judgement within assessment is of crucial importance in ensuring the highest standards of attainment and achievement. There is an effective system in place in Westerton Primary and in our cluster working to support teachers to engage in moderation activities.

The central team within the Education Service provides a professional learning programme in relation to Curriculum for Excellence, Early Years and Additional Support Needs. The Council's Training and Development Team provide a training programme including a leadership development programme.

## Parental Engagement



Parents and carers have a key role in supporting their child's learning and development in Westerton Primary. Parents are updated termly on targets and achievements and have regular opportunities to attend school events to see their child's learning e.g. Meet The Teacher, Class Assemblies, Open Afternoons and Parents' Night. There are also workshops throughout the year to help parents further develop their skills in supporting their children in learning. Written information related to the workshops is also provided in various formats (leaflets, emails, social media, etc.) to help communicate what is

going on in the school and detail ways they can support their children's learning and development. Parent consultations and summative reports provide information for parents regarding progress. Arrangements for reporting have been developed in consultation with the Parent Council.

Staff are always willing to meet parents at any time of year to discuss their child's learning and progress. Parents and carers have planned opportunities to work in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team and Class Teacher to plan and review pupil targets for targeted support plans.

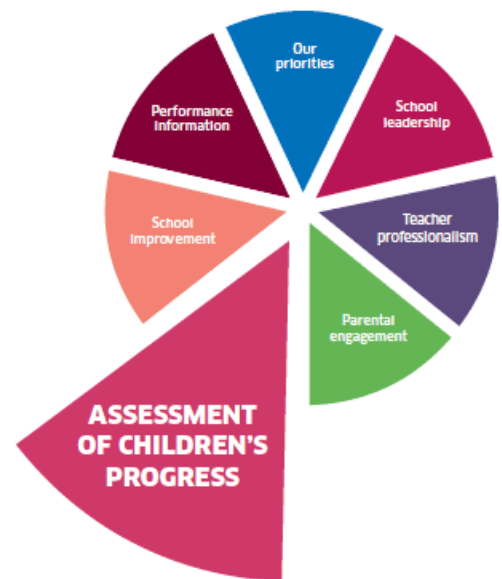
To ensure equity for all children, Westerton Primary works in partnership with parents and a range of agencies including Social Work, Health, Police and voluntary organisations. This is a crucial element of the implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child in the school.

## Assessment of children's Progress (see Assessment Policy)

### Assessment Strategy

Westerton Primary has an assessment strategy in line with Curriculum for Excellence. The following key elements are in place:

- Purpose and principles of assessment
- Links between learning, teaching and assessment
- Place of formative assessment
- Range of formative assessment
- Range of assessment methods
- Summative or standardised methods
- Arrangements for moderation
- Arrangements for tracking and improving children's progress
- Reporting, recognising achievement, profiling



Westerton Primary has clear arrangements for moderation to share standards of achievement of a level for Curriculum for Excellence.

Data is used effectively to rigorously analyse attainment to inform improvement. Westerton Primary has an effective tracking system to track the attainment and achievement of individual children with appropriate intervention strategies in place to provide support.

In Westerton we record the Curriculum for Excellence level achieved by individual pupils in Reading, Writing, Listening & Talking and Numeracy. There is also a process in place to track children's wider achievements and aspects of Health and Wellbeing. Interventions are put in place for those at risk of missing out.

Westerton Primary ensures that the tracking of children's progress is partnered with effective intervention to assess, support and monitor children with additional support needs. This is in line with the Council's strategy to ensure the implementation of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC).

## **Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion**

Wellbeing is central to the life and work of Westerton Primary. There is a highly visible nurturing and caring ethos in the school. Relationships between adults and children are extremely positive and children are treated with equality, fairness and respect. There is a positive working ethos and a sense of fairness and equity.

Children are respectful of others, confident and articulate in expressing their opinions and ideas. Staff are alert to the social and emotional needs of pupils and ensure these are well supported. Overall, there is a strong emphasis on the care and welfare of children. We use PATHS and Bounce Back across the school and this impacts positively on pupil resilience and the wider school ethos. Seasons for Growth is implemented when required to support children experiencing loss.

Learners' needs are very well met through an effective and well documented universal/targeted support process. Staff have a clear understanding of the various strategies that could be employed to provide universal support within a classroom and can identify appropriate strategies to provide targeted support where necessary. Support for learning is effectively co-ordinated and ensures children experiencing barriers to learning are identified early and are well supported to access the curriculum and the wider life of the school. Pupils are involved in the setting of targets and evaluate progress towards these. Support staff are effectively deployed in classrooms to support pupils. There are enhanced transition arrangements for children with additional support needs. Staff know their children very well and information is shared appropriately and in advance of transitions.

Information from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and the Risk Matrix is used to ensure that children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds or at the highest risk are identified, their progress is closely monitored and appropriate interventions are made to support them, if required.



## **Learning, Teaching & Assessment**

Teachers employ a range of teaching styles and strategies to engage children in their learning. Children have opportunities to work both individually and in pairs or groups across the school in stimulating learning contexts. Teachers use questioning to elicit prior learning and to make explicit links with real life contexts. Formative assessment is used in class lessons and as an integral part of target setting. Teachers and children engage with learning intentions, co-construct success criteria and pupils have opportunities to self and peer assess against these success criteria. Teachers work hard to ensure learners are motivated and engaged. Pupils are given opportunities to develop skills for learning and life and are aware of how to be successful and how to achieve their next steps in learning.

A variety of assessment approaches are used to allow learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, skills, attributes and capabilities in different contexts across the curriculum. Our assessment evidence is used to report on children's progress.

The pre-5/primary transition programme includes effective links between staff and regular visits take place between nurseries and school, with enhanced transition for identified pupils. There is a comprehensive and very effective transition programme in place with Boclair Academy. Secondary staff work with primary classes and there are a series of visits for pupils and parents to help prepare P7 pupils for their move to secondary. This includes an enhanced transition programme to support identified children.

## **The Curriculum (See Curriculum Rationale)**

The rationale for the curriculum is based on a strong ethos of respect for all, attainment and achievement. Curriculum development has involved staff taking forward school and cluster initiatives in a range of curricular areas. The future focus for school/cluster/partnership initiatives will be centred around Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Curriculum areas are revised on a regular basis.

Teachers plan lessons in Literacy & English and Numeracy & Maths using progressive skills-based programmes based on experiences and outcomes. Forward plans in these areas encourage teachers to plan across levels thus ensuring there is no ceiling to achievement. Moderation activities provide valuable opportunities for staff to engage in professional dialogue, share good practice and consistently agree the achievement of levels. Benchmarks are used to support professional judgement.

The curriculum provides opportunities for children to make links across their learning. Staff plan interdisciplinary learning (IDL) across a range of subjects. Learning through cross cutting themes such as sustainability, global citizenship and enterprise are embedded in the curriculum. The use of digital technology and the application of Literacy and Numeracy skills across learning ensures that pupils have a depth of knowledge.

The curriculum for Health and Wellbeing is well planned using effective planning frameworks based on the experiences and outcomes. Links are made to other curricular areas. There is a comprehensive PATHS/Bounce Back programme of study in place. The school provides children's entitlement of two hours' quality physical education. Sexual Health and Relationships Education is implemented through a whole school approach.

In addition to the core subjects of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing, pupils learn skills in Science, Social Studies, Expressive Arts (Art, Drama, Dance, Music), Religious and Moral Education and Technologies, including ICT.

### **Attainment Over Time**

There is a robust and effective system for tracking children's progress which informs teaching approaches to ensure progression, depth and breadth of learning. Standardised assessments are used alongside a range of other assessments and the evidence from these underpins professional dialogue and informs learners' next steps. Baseline and Standardised Tests are analysed by class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team to track pupils' progress and determine gaps. All assessment information helps class teachers and senior managers to organise groups and meet the needs of individual children.

The school is committed to self-evaluation which includes a robust system for monitoring teaching and learning and meeting the needs of children. Senior managers are committed to improving the children to gather children's views about their learning are also regularly conducted. Assessment/Tracking Meetings, Forward Plan Meetings and Supporting Learners' Needs Meetings encourage professional dialogue between teachers and senior managers. Quality of learning and teaching in classes. They carry out classroom observations and teaching and learning meetings to feedback following observations. Learning conversations with

## Recognising Wider Achievement

Wider achievement is tracked and recognised in several ways:

- Achievement certificates
- Trophies, medals and awards
- Tracking of pupil involvement in after-school activities
- Tracking of pupil responsibilities
- Junior Duke Award

## School Improvement (See Self-Evaluation Policy)

In Westerton Primary the key to raising attainment and achievement lies in the successful implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

This requires the three elements:

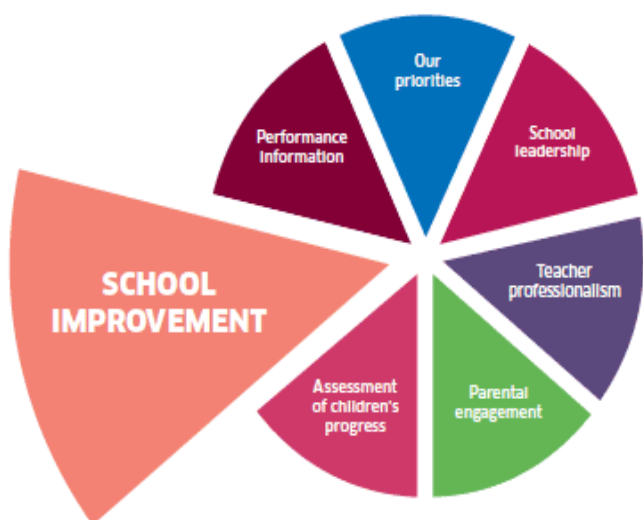
- Curriculum;
- assessment; and
- Learning and Teaching to be linked and informed by robust self-evaluation. The aim is to ensure progression in learning for all children and young people.

Curriculum for Excellence requires that Westerton Primary works across sectors to develop and implement approaches to the

curriculum, assessment and learning and teaching. The Authority's 3 to 18 Management of Cluster Working Policy has informed the development of this approach.

Westerton Primary has a clear curriculum framework with the following in place:

- Clear rationale for the curriculum;
- Clear strategic framework to support planning;
- Skills progression within each curriculum area;
- Plan in place to develop and refresh curriculum areas;
- Planning ensures progression in learning; and
- Framework in place for Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.



## Performance Information

Westerton Primary uses a wide range of data to inform approaches used to raise attainment including:

- Information from monitoring and tracking systems;
- Baseline results in Primary 1;
- Strengths and Difficulties results from nurseries;
- Information on progress from nurseries
- On-going assessment (formative);
- Periodic assessment;
- Standardised test results;



Standardised test results are recorded for each pupil as part of the tracking of attainment for individual children. This data is also analysed as part of self-evaluation to inform improvement at class and school level.

## Strategies for Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

In line with national guidance we recognise the importance of providing all of our pupils with effective literacy and numeracy skills that will help them in their learning, life and work. At Westerton Primary attainment levels in literacy and numeracy are a central feature of the school's priorities for improvement.

To effectively raise attainment in Westerton Primary we ensure:

- High quality learning and teaching which includes effective use of higher order thinking skills and digital technologies
- Effective professional learning for teaching and support staff
- Consistent approaches across the school
- Skills based planning which ensures progression and application
- Clear differentiation with challenge and support as required
- Skills for learning, life and work are central to planning
- Learning should take place across the 4 contexts
- High expectations for all
- Learners engage in discussion about their learning and are clear about their achievements and next steps
- A wide range of strategies used to meet pupil need
- Clear assessment strategies using formative and summative assessments
- Robust and effective tracking and monitoring

- Moderation of achievement of a level using Benchmarks
- Clear process to address barriers to learning including referral system and discussion at PSG
- Universal support strategies have a positive impact on learners
- Early interventions at all stages
- Effective use of education support staff e.g. SLAS, Ed Support teachers, other education services
- Parents and other partners have a positive impact on learners' achievement

### **Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap/Pupil Equity**

In line with the National Improvement Framework and EDC policy for Raising Attainment and Achievement and Ensuring Equity for All, Westerton Primary has a strong focus on closing the attainment gap. We have carried out rigorous self-evaluation and considered a range of data and other information to inform our school improvement strategies to close the poverty related attainment gap.

Westerton Primary uses a wide range of data to inform our self-evaluation. These include consideration of:

- FME data and links to attainment
- CfE Levels in literacy and numeracy by SIMD quintiles
- The gap between the most and least, i.e. SIMD 1&2 and 9&10
- Use of virtual comparator school, local and national statistics
- Attendance, exclusions, participation rates
- Achievement awards within the school community

Stakeholders work together to define what the gap looks like in our school context and identify improvement priorities to address the gap. We consider 'Interventions for Equity' and research on closing the poverty related attainment gap to ensure that we use our Pupil Equity Funding to achieve the best outcomes for learners. We make good use of the Education Endowment Fund research to guide our decisions. Central to all of our work is professional learning to improve attainment and achievement.

'Closing the Gap' should ensure we have no pattern of lower attainment for children in lower SIMD bands. We aim to ensure all children achieve their potential and there is excellent progress for many. All SIMD bands should be proportionately represented in the 'excellent'.

