

GOWRIEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

STANDARDS & QUALITY REPORT

SESSION 2011 – 2012



Section 1

Introduction, School Aims and Values

Our Standards and Quality report aims to inform all stakeholders of the schools priorities, objectives, improvement plans and progress across the session.

At Gowriehill Primary our vision is to deliver a quality educational experience in which all children and young people aspire to reach the highest personal levels of attainment and achievement.

Our values seek to promote: Wisdom, Justice, Compassion, Integrity, Respect, Tolerance, Equality and Fairness. In order for pupils to grow and become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors in society they need to learn about and develop these values.

At Gowriehill Primary School we aim to assist pupils by:

- create a positive, caring school where pupils, staff and parents feel valued and motivated to reach the highest standards in all they do
- promote, in each pupil, self respect, respect for others and respect for their community: to equip pupils with foundation skills, attitudes and expectations necessary to prosper in a changing society
- provide an education which is broadly based, each area contributing to a well balanced curriculum thus ensuring that each pupil is given the opportunity to reach his/her full potential through creativity, application and ambition
- meet the needs of pupils with appropriate ranges and varieties of teaching styles and approaches which will ensure that pupils reach the highest possible standards of attainment and achievement at each stage
- ensure that there is a safe learning environment which is stimulating, supportive and inclusive for all, regardless of race, gender, language, religious belief or disability

Section 2

Improvements in Performance

Performance across the school is constantly monitored and evidence is collected to support judgements. Evidence of progress is shown through a variety of assessments including, moderation, recording and reporting. Regular professional discussions between staff and SMT evaluate assessments and prioritise next steps in learning and teaching.

The school continues to maintain a focus on improving literacy and numeracy for all pupils. Progress continues to be shown across all stages with most pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 working within national and local benchmarks.

Assessment is given a high priority across all stages in school and this takes many forms:

- Primary 1 pupils participate in PIPS baseline assessments on arrival in P1 and again at the end of P1. This allows teachers to gauge a starting point for learning and at the end of the year to assess progress.
- P4 & P6 pupils participate in INCAS assessments which give indicators of strengths and development needs. Results of these assessments form the basis for professional discussions and assist pupils in setting targets for their own learning.
- Primary 7 pupils write a profile which allows them to highlight pieces of work and illustrates how they are progressing with their learning. It also encourages pupils to be responsible and to make judgements about their own learning and achievements. These profiles are shared with the secondary school.
- Samples of work and homework are taken at regular intervals and used to ensure pupils are progressing with appropriate pace and challenge.
- Teaching staff maintain records of work for each pupil in their class which includes many assessment pieces in a variety of formats not only written evidence, e.g. photographic evidence, video evidence, observation records, completed art/model work etc.

These various assessments contribute to children achieving highly as they are used to form the basis of staff discussions not only with SMT but between colleagues and sharing with children and parents.

We continue to share good working relationships with our cluster colleagues and once again we have worked collaboratively to produce shared assessment materials. Initially the focus was on writing but development in listening and talking and reading are currently under construction. The writing moderation assessments are now in use across the cluster in order to ensure consistency of approach.

Section 3

Improvement Planning

Our School Improvement Plan is due for completion in June 2012. This plan then forms the basis for the new SIP which will run from 2012 – 2015. The projects in the plan are driven forward by staff working groups. The projects commented on in this report reflects the work completed in session 2011 – 12.

Project 1

To develop a Curriculum for Excellence based on the learning and teaching experiences and outcomes.

- Teachers are familiar with experiences and outcomes which is reflected in planning formats which continue to ensure depth and breadth of coverage of CfE and show progression through school
- ICT has been included in planning across the curriculum and in particular learning and teaching in literacy proved very positive through the use of the Guitar Hero software.
- Pupil voice continues to be developed through participation in committees e.g. House Captains, Junior Road Safety Officers, Pupil Council, Eco Committee etc.
- Learners are more involved in the planning process
- Whole school topics have given opportunities for active learning, outdoor learning and aspirational learning through visitors, speakers and school visits.
- Good links are established with colleagues through teacher's membership on committees/groups, e.g. Science forum. This positively impacts on children's learning through additional workshops and activities which being accessed.

Project 2 To Develop the Learning and Teaching Experience in Gowriehill Primary

- Animation software has been introduced in a number of classes with positive results.
- ICT links have been established with link nursery and secondary in order for pupil to have transition opportunities
- Programmable toys are available for use throughout school in a variety of curricular areas including French/German.
- Participation in Grounds for Learning Orchard Project has provided many opportunities for pupils to visit gardens, experience workshops and plant and maintain their own orchard in school grounds.
- Engagement with Heather's Hut helped put into context our Eco programme and make learning more meaningful for pupils by linking learning.
- Project with Church garden has provided experiences for pupils to engage in the work of the community

Project 3 To Review and Adapt Learning Experiences and Practices for Pupils with Identified with Additional Support

- Thorough on-going assessments and professional discussion ensures all learners are supported effectively.
- ASPs/CSPs show good progress is being made by all pupils, some of whom find learning very difficult.

- A successful bid to Cash for Kids and a generous donation from a local charity enabled more resources to be purchased including IT equipment and light sensory equipment. These resources have been invaluable in assisting pupils to access their learning.
- On-going training attended by all staff to raise awareness of specific learning difficulties/medical conditions and to provide strategies to assist learners to access curriculum.
- All staff attended STAGES Bereavement Programme
- Links with the local community continue to be supported with pupils using soft play, Church Giving Garden, etc.
- Staff continue to liaise with colleagues across the City to share best practice.
- Staff regularly meet with teachers to ensure curriculum is accessible for all pupils. Differentiated work is provided where appropriate.

Project 4 Planning for Improvement

- Maths working party focussed on Mental Maths activities and have written a plan for whole school illustrating what is expected for pupils to know at particular stages throughout school.
- Problem Solving was developed to include experiences and outcomes.
- Literacy working party established a consistent approach to teaching writing assessment across school.
- Health & Wellbeing group worked towards submission for Gold Health Promoting School and Healthy Working Lives, Bronze Award.
- Professional Support Visits show almost all pupils are committed to their learning. They display responsibility and ability to work co-operatively in class and whole school situations.

Project 5 Ethos and Positive Behaviour Management

- Garden Gang continue to develop school grounds and maintain plants
- Eco committee working towards submission for Green Flag
- Resources to enhance grounds project purchased as developed areas are ready to receive them.
- Behaviour Management Policy updated. Special Dinners added and number of stars linking to Bronze, Silver, Gold re-defined.
- Whole school has engaged with the Church to name the garden development in the manse garden. All pupils have a sense of community as the vegetables to be grown there will be distributed to needy families within the community and beyond. Pupils will work with Dundee Food Bank to assist in distribution.

Children and young people are entitled to personal support and challenge to enable them to gain as much as possible from the opportunities which Curriculum for Excellence can provide. Gowriehill Primary provides opportunities through a variety of experiences:

- Plans are consistent throughout the school and involve children and staff discussing learning intentions and success criteria with the intention of reviewing the learning and planning next steps.

- Skills for life, learning and work are incorporated in plans and aim to provide opportunities for pupil's to have relevant, meaningful experiences which show links to the work place.
- Pupils have opportunities to engage in enterprising activities through a number of committees and class projects.
- Children are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle through the use of our Health Programme, involvement with Active Schools, Healthy Eating Assistant's input, Healthy Tuck Shop etc.
- Tracking systems are used to ensure progress in all children's learning
- Staff access the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) directory which lists courses available to staff in order for them to continue to develop themselves professionally.
- All staff are involved in Staff Development and Review.
- Leadership is developed at all levels in school, pupils and staff are encouraged to engage in the wider work of the school and lead working parties/committees to ensure school improvements are taken forward.
- Self-Evaluation is given a very high priority at Gowriehill Primary in order that continuous improvement is identified and continues to improve. Staff and pupils are encouraged to self-evaluate pieces of work to inform progression and to identify next steps.

Section 4 Parent Council Report

Lindsay Miller, Chair Person of Gowriehill Parent Council, gave a short report of the progress made during Session 2011-12.

Gowriehill Parent Council enjoys a very good relationship with the staff, parents and pupils in school. Although fundraising is a major focus for our Parent Council many of our meetings have covered topics such as: Curriculum for Excellence, Behaviour Management, School Improvement Plan, School Finance, Website, School Policies etc. We also give practical support in the form of work within the playground supporting Menzieshill High Open Day, baking for fundraisers etc. We always have a representative attending the Education Directors Meetings and PC Cluster/Citywide meetings in order to report back to keep parents informed of city-wide developments.

Fundraising has had a major focus this session resulting in the PC gifting a substantial amount of money to school to assist in the purchase of additional IT equipment and a display cabinet. In addition the PC have run a successful Halloween Disco for all pupils and have gifted refreshments for Christmas Parties and Sports Days.

Plans for the future include continuing to support playground developments through fundraising and giving time to assist with the garden projects. A plan to establish a fund to help with financing school trips and visits for all parents/carers who may find it difficult to find the extra funds to pay for such educational experiences.

L Miller
Chairperson

Section 5

Pupil Council Report

The Pupil Council consists of representatives from P1-P7 with P1-P3 having a representative who meets with them prior to meetings to discuss any concerns pertinent to the infant department.

The Pupil Council meet at regular intervals to share the ideas and concerns which have been raised by the pupils across the school. They invite speakers or those adults who can have an impact on a concern or a wish which has been raised, e.g. Cook from Tayside Contracts re School lunches, Chairperson of Parent Council etc., They will conduct surveys and questionnaire regarding issues raised by pupils and will pass on their findings.

This session topics covered by Pupil Council include:

Litter Policy

Surveyed upper pupils re Alta Maths

Requested a Notice Board for outside school

The condition of the toilets

Composing a Website page

Tuck Shop Survey to Parents and Pupils

Participated in meeting regarding Health Promoting School Accreditation

School Lunch questionnaire and shared findings with school cook who then passed these onto her supervisor

At all times the Pupil Council are reminded of their responsibilities within school as role models for other pupils. At all meetings with visitors the Council have been praised for the sensible and interesting discussions and their ability to articulate their ideas to adults.

Section 6

School Achievement

This session Gowriehill Primary have enjoyed a number of successes over a variety of activities too many to list here but a flavour of some are as follows:

- School gained Health Promoting School Gold Award
- School achieved Eco Green Flag
- Lunchtime and after school clubs continue to be offered in a number of sports and are well supported.
- P7 participated in Safe Taysiders
- Classed visited Orchards as part of the Schools Orchard Programme
- Pupils made visits to homes utilising sustainable power as link to Eco programme
- Pupils enjoyed an Eco picnic on the playing field supported by Tayside Contracts
- P1 parents spent an afternoon in class problem solving with their children

- P7s represented school at Global Citizen Pupil Voice Event
- Hopscotch Theatre Company performed Scottish Myths and Legends to the whole school
- P1 – P7 attended DCA Film Festival
- P4 – P7 attended Dundee Science Festival
- P4/5 visited Dynamic Earth
- Chas Heath a sculptor worked with classes to carve the 'magic tree' bench for the playground quiet area
- Pupils participated in Dundee Picture Book Awards
- P4 & P6 took part in the National Literacy Book Trust
- Infants Performed the Nativity Christmas Around the World to parents and to pensioners at Oakland Day Care Centre
- P6 and Room 2 pupils entertained at the Pensioners Christmas Party at the Community Centre
- Whole school attended performance of Cinderella at The Rep
- P7 participated in Holocaust Memorial Day
- Open afternoon was very successful with parents/carers given an insight into the life and work of the pupils in school
- P6 girls won the Cross Country Championship at Baxter Park for their age group
- School production of Pirates of Curry Bean was well received by enthusiastic audiences
- The author Keith Charters visited P6 and talked about his work
- Ronnie McIntosh a disabled athlete visited pupils to talk about his experiences
- Play on Wheels P1-3
- Inaugural Young Musician of the Year competition proved a success. The winner from each school in the cluster participated in a final competition which was won by a Gowriehill Pupil
- House Captains continue to organise charity events and donations were made to Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland, Rotary Club etc.
- Clare Hewitt a storyteller entertained the pupils with songs and stories at the opening of the quiet garden
- Whole school involvement with the Walking Bus