

Ardgowan Primary Standards and Quality Report 2016/17



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Our school

Ardgowan Primary School is non-denominational and is situated in the West End of Greenock.

Our current roll is 384 across 15 classes. Our establishment is a newly refurbished building in Newton Street. This provides staff and pupils with high quality accommodation over three levels including an extension, housing a gym hall and we have a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

Clydeview Academy is our associated secondary school. We have 22 teachers including Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, Principal Teacher, 19 class teachers and a Support for Learning Teacher. We also benefit from support provided by 5 Classroom Assistants and 5 Additional Support Needs Auxiliaries. Rev. Karen Harbison and Rev. Owen Derrick fully support the work of the school.

Our school values which have been chosen and agreed by our school community are-

- **Honesty**
- **Respect**
- **Friendship**
- **Achievement**



A word from the Head Teacher

The intention of this report is to give you an insight into the ongoing work and developments which have contributed to improving the experiences and outcomes for your child in Ardgowan Primary. Our overarching aim is to raise the attainment of all our pupils in a secure and happy environment where they feel safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included.

The professionalism of our staff and support from parents are key to the success of our school. Thank you for your on-going commitment to our school.

Mrs A. McLellan

Head Teacher



Our achievements this session

Following a highly positive school inspection by HMIE, the following strengths were identified:

- **Well behaved, polite children who enjoy school and talk eagerly about their tasks.**
- **The effective leadership of the headteacher and depute headteacher who along with their committed and enthusiastic team, know the children and the wider community very well. The school team has effectively identified the strengths of the school and understand the areas to be improved. They are well placed to further improve Ardgowan Primary School.**
- **Across the school, children enjoy a broad range of opportunities to develop skills in writing. By the end of their last year at Ardgowan primary school, they produce writing of high quality and show potential to reach higher levels.**

Some other achievements include:

- **Our P7s enjoyed a three day residential trip to Dalguise.**
- **Our Soft Start programme in P1 has greatly increased parental involvement and shown a raise in attainment in numeracy at P1**
- **£2,000 Raised for Alzheimers Scotland this session**
- **We are now officially 'Dementia Friends'**
- **Improvement in behaviour with pupils becoming more skilled in resolving conflict through restorative discussions**
- **P6a's highly successful Crafty Café raised money for Clyde in the Classroom project and school fund**
- **Children have formed strong relationships across the school through Big Circle Time and Peer Learning activities**
- **Links with the local college, resulting in science sessions for P4-7 pupils**
- **Our Country Dancers won numerous trophies at the Renfrewshire and Ayr Festivals**



School Leadership

The Quality and impact of leadership within schools and at all levels

HGIOS 4- 1.2 1.4

Evidence

Attendance at leadership course

Staff leadership responsibilities

Pupil leadership across the school

How are we doing?

92% of parents agree that the school is well-led and managed

- All support staff have had an annual appraisal and training needs have been identified.
- All teaching staff engage in annual PRD meetings and set targets for following session. Staff have developed plans for the coming year to support their professional development in line with the Strategic Improvement Plan.
- All staff are encouraged and supported to develop personal skills and interests and use this expertise to provide a range of activities both within the school day and out with school hours to enhance the experiences of all our pupils.
- Many staff have successfully taken on leadership roles in curricular development in Maths,

Literacy, Science and French.

- Two of our teachers have completed the Uplifting Leadership course
- All staff and support staff lead improvement plan priorities or a committee
- Big Circle Time ensures pupils voice across the school
- 24/7 - pupil voice session with HT have been introduced
- Blether and a bun monthly programme of workshops has been highly successful
- Parents were informed of staff leadership roles
- Parent Council now split into 3 sub-groups-Parental Involvement,SIP and Fundraising
- FAST programme term 2 - staff, parents and partners led
- Our Pupil Council raised a fantastic sum for Wateraid, following pupil consultation on charity choice

Next steps

Increase staff participation in teacher leadership programme

HT participating in Excellence in Headship programme

DHT completing Into headship programme

New management structure in place 2017-18

Teacher Professionalism

Teacher Professionalism demonstrates the overall quality of the teaching workforce and the impact of their professional learning on children's progress and achievement.

HGIOS 4- 2.3

Evidence

Tracking system introduced

Attendance at CPD courses / events

PRD meetings and teachers' plans

How are we doing?

- Two of our teachers have worked closely with SERCC and cluster schools to take forward and further develop the teaching of science from early to second level. Ongoing CPD opportunities have increased staff's confidence in the teaching of science and led to better learning experiences for our children.
- Teachers have further developed their knowledge and skills in the teaching of French and all classes are using French in their daily routines.
- Our school was nominated for the Scottish Education 1+2 award
- We allocated a Mental Maths room and new mental maths planners have been introduced
- Staff were provided with in-service by Tom Renwick to develop teaching skills to enhance the delivery of mental maths.
- New Reciprocal reading planners have been included in forward plans
- Our new Emotional Literacy Programme has been successfully introduced throughout the school, linking to Health and Wellbeing outcomes

Next steps

All teachers will upskill their practice through the Visible Learning collegiate programme

Parental Engagement and Partnership Working

Parental engagement focuses on ways in which parents, families and professionals work together to support children's learning.

HGIOS 4- 2.5

Evidence

Parental Engagement Events

Curriculum Information

Home Learning

How are we doing?

96% of parents agree that they feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and / or a problem

86% of parents agree that the school gives advice on how to support learning at home

- We have organised a range of family workshops/ activities to support the pupils' learning at school and at home. These have been well attended by parents who have given positive feedback.
- Primary 1-7 parents have been most supportive of the Soft Start/Skills Start initiative across the school
- Parents kept fully up to date on school events / developments through weekly newsletter and termly curriculum update.

Next steps

To build on the success of last year's FAST programme through after school pupil / parent sessions

Include parents in the reporting pilot, looking at changing the format of reports

Assessment of Progress

Assessment of progress includes a range of evidence on what children learn and achieve throughout their school career. This includes Curriculum for Excellence levels, skills, qualifications and other awards.

HGIOS 4- 3.2

Evidence

Pupils' learning logs

Tracking of progress- tracking documentation and notes from dialogues

How are we doing?

HMIe graded our school as 'good' for raising attainment and achievement
92% of parents agree that their child is making good progress at school.

- We share and celebrate pupils' achievements at whole school assemblies.
- We assess and track progress across the curriculum and use this to plan next steps/identify areas for development.
- All pupils have been using learning logs to record their learning across the curriculum and set targets.
- Teachers are now tracking Es and Os covered over the year in their strategic plan.
- Tracking folders distributed to staff. Staff tracking spelling scores, reciprocal reading, single word reading, numeracy and the GIRFEC indicators
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Next steps

- We will continue to participate in moderation tasks with staff from our cluster schools to ensure consistency in writing standards across the cluster
- We will further develop our learning logs and pupils' use of reflective language. This will tie in with the reporting pilot

School Improvement

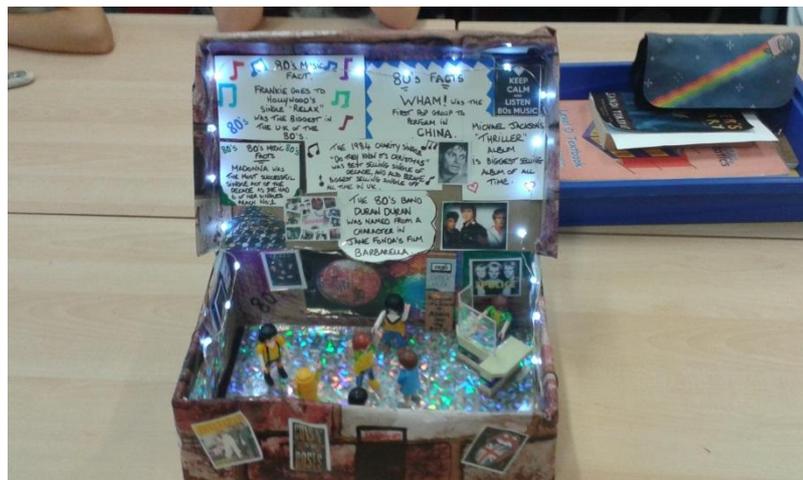
The overall quality of education provided in Ardgowan Primary and our success in driving forward change.

Evidence

Feedback from class visits/jotter monitoring/HMIe inspection

PIPS and reading/numeracy test results Programmes of work

- HMIe graded our school as 'very good' for School Improvement
- Our Emotional Literacy programme (Creating Confident Kids) has shown an improvement in how pupils express themselves and understand each other.
- DHT has made excellent progress in adapting ASN paperwork in line with well-being assessments
- All pupils completed a GIRFEC evaluation again this year and areas requiring more work identified for each class
- Improvement in behaviour approaches across the school - evident in particular in the lower school



Next steps

We will improve attainment and children's progress across all curriculum areas by developing a bespoke curriculum that is relevant, meets the needs of all learners and supports children to build on their knowledge and skills as they move through the school.

We will develop our understanding of SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetic Learning) to enhance the teaching of numeracy from early to second level. This will include NUMICON training and number talks.

We will adopt Inverclyde Council's Anti-bullying policy and share this with staff, pupils and parents.

