

Areas for School Improvement 2016/17

'Excellence through raising attainment and achieving equity'

Additional tasks

- ◆ Engage and implement key features of 'Building the Ambition' and West Lothian Council's 'Early Years' Practice Framework'
- ◆ Develop a consistent approach to an enquiry based play curriculum across Early Level, providing opportunities for creativity, challenge and independent learning
- ◆ Continue developing Languages 1+2 national agenda. Full implementation of the PL Platform approach for French from P1-P7 and a programme for introducing Spanish in P5-P7
- ◆ School Ethos and Pupil Voice – further develop the use of BBB, WNN and Floorbooks to shape the work of the school. BBB focus 1 Maths and attitudes; 2 Our playground; 3 Our Curriculum (do our children 'see' and 'feel' our rationale?)
- ◆ Fully implement AAL strategy and principles in P5-P7 and continue to monitor the effectiveness of digital technologies in supporting learning across school
- ◆ Develop Outdoor Learning across school based on current good practice identified locally and nationally
- ◆ Introduction of Online Learners' Journeys in N-P4 and further development of *Didbook* in P5-P7, to increase pupil and parental engagement in the learning process

Our Achievements this year have included:

- * Nursery staff completed Nutrition in the Nursery training, developing knowledge and delivery of healthy eating habits.
- * Successful Nursery (Happy Birthday Jesus) and P1 (Wriggly Nativity) Christmas shows
- * Successful P6 production of 'The Rocky Monster Show'
- * Primary 2 Musical – 'Tadpole Rag'
- * Whole school Celebrating Success assemblies
- * Junior and Senior choirs led the school's Remembrance Day Assembly.
- * Autism Resource Base received a team Stellar Award for Equality and Diversity
- * Successful fundraising Christmas Fairs in both nursery and school
- * Choirs performed Christmas carols on Radio Forth's 'Boogie in the Morning' and were recorded for West Lothian Council's website.
- * Senior Choir completed singing for the primary 7 pantomimes – 'Cinders' and then worked on their own showcase of 'We Will Rock You' – this was performed for parents and friends.
- * Excellent support and turnout for Bathgate Procession. Our school's Peter Pan float won first prize, and the nursery won the trophy for best turned-out school for their Bathgate West Safari theme.

Thank you to everyone in the school community for their support this year.



Bathgate West Nursery School

&

Balbardie Primary School

Report on Progress

And

Future Developments

2015-2016

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**West Lothian
Council**



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How well did we do in 2015/16?

About our school

Bathgate West Nursery School serves the community of Bathgate and the surrounding area. During session 2015-2016, the nursery school roll was 50 morning and 40 afternoon children, increasing to 50 afternoon children in April.

Balbardie Primary School is a non-denominational school serving the community of Bathgate. The school accommodates 16 mainstream primary classes and three Autism Resource classes. Our current school roll is 455 and our FME is 20.2%. The school has a wide ranging catchment area, with 53% of children attending in Deciles 1,2 and 3, providing an exciting opportunity for the school to address the 'closing the gap' agenda.

The school has effectively managed a change in management structure, due to a number of staff successfully undertaking seconded promoted posts out-with and within school. There is strong leadership at all levels and a clear commitment from teaching and support staff to career long professional learning.

The school continues to provide extensive support to parents and families to ensure children's social, emotional and wellbeing needs are being met. In Bathgate West Nursery and Balbardie Primary, we aim to create a learning environment where everyone is given the opportunity to **achieve, believe and celebrate**.

What we planned to improve last year?

Area for development 1

School: Curriculum development of Social Subjects across all stages within school

Area for development 2

Meeting the needs of all learners and addressing the 'attainment gap'

Priority 1

We have made good progress.

A working group looked closely at the planning and delivery of social studies (people, past events and societies, places and environments). Staff engaged in professional reading and dialogue around the key messages of the Social Subjects 'Principles and Practices' paper. Through collegiate activity, staff engaged with Education Scotland's suite of resources and familiarised themselves with the Significant Aspects of Learning. Drawing on identified good practice locally and nationally, staff evaluated current areas of strength within the school's Social Subjects delivery, identified areas for development and created a plan to address improvement areas. Science also become a point of focus and we've purchased a valuable resource called Sciencebug to enhance the delivery of Science and to ensure breadth and depth in teaching.

What does this mean for our pupils?

* Enhanced experiences within relevant contexts for learning	* Better progression through carefully planned learning
* Pupils knowledge is broader and deeper	* Better, more active learning

Priority 2

We have made good progress.

Our school promotes and ensures equality and fairness through the curriculum and all aspects of our work where everyone is given the opportunity to achieve, believe and celebrate. The culture, systems and practice for the development of wellbeing are well established and clearly embedded in all aspects of supporting our children and families.

The school continues to add value to children's attainment at almost all stages, and is performing well with comparator schools, and at local authority and national level in adding value to our children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. Most children are attaining very well in reading, writing and listening and talking across all stages of the school, with able learners being appropriately challenged. The school has very effective systems, procedures and interventions to identify and meet the needs of all pupils, including our vulnerable children. Pupil voice continues to be developed through the Wee Nursery Natter and the Big Balbardie Blether. The nursery engaged with Building the Ambition training and West Lothian Early Years Framework and this has had a positive impact on the development of an enquiry based curriculum which provides open-ended learning opportunities, curiosity and depth in learning. The outdoor area in the nursery continues to be developed with literacy and numeracy learning activities in mind and children are engaging well with these opportunities, furthering the development of core skills.

What does this mean for our pupils?

* Increased clarity about how to improve their learning	* Improved collaboration with peers
* Majority of children are achieving and attaining to a high standard	* Children enjoy attending school
* Most children have a positive attitude towards the ethos of the school	* Children are enjoying challenge and support