



# Blairdardie Primary School



# Handbook

Updated - October 2023



## Blairdardie Primary School Handbook



Welcome to Blairdardie Primary School

*I would like to welcome you and your child to Blairdardie Primary School. At Blairdardie, we aim to create a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for our young people.*

*We have much to be proud of and a key element in our school community is promoting positive relationships and celebrating success. This is evident from the warm and friendly atmosphere that we enjoy in school.*

*Pupils are encouraged to play a full and active part in the life of the school. Working with our Pupil Council is one way in which we do this. Our House Captains, Eco Council, Digital Ambassadors, Playground Ambassadors and Bright Sparks Committee also ensures that young people participate in all aspects of school life.*

*This handbook contains a range of information that you might find helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or check the school website or Twitter Feed if you need more information.*

*We look forward to having you and your child work with us and hope that this will be the start of a strong partnership.*

*Alison Pears  
Head Teacher*



## School Vision & Values



Our vision for Blairdardie Primary School is to provide a consistent, high quality learning environment where every child is nurtured and included. We want all children to feel valued, happy and safe and make progress with their learning.

At Blairdardie we value the qualities of honesty, hard work, respect, helping others and having a positive healthy attitude.

Our aim is for all children to be given the opportunity to develop into positive, healthy young adults, to make the most of their educational opportunities and to develop the young workforce. We work together to ensure all children reach their full potential as successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals.

## School Information

### Contact Details:

Blairdardie Primary School  
50 Kearn Avenue  
Glasgow  
G15 6HL

0141 944 2864

[headteacher@blairdardie-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@blairdardie-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/blairdardieprimaryschool/>

@Blairdardiepri

### Background information:

- Non-denominational
- Stages taught: P1-P7
- Current Roll: 417



## School staff



A full list is available on the School Website and parents will be updated on any changes as required.

The leadership team is as follows:

Headteacher: Mrs Alison Pears  
Depute P1-P3: Mrs Arlene McCallum  
Depute P4-P7: Mr Mark Young

## Enrolment

Registration of Primary 1 children takes place in November and is advertised widely in local press etc. Prospective parents are welcome to visit the school, we have a few open afternoons planned.

Enrolment is now conducted online - see the link below.

Families living outwith the catchment area are welcome to make a placing request to attend Blairdardie Primary School but must enrol their child online as a first step. Further information is available using the following

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18426>

## Organisation of Classes

The following guidelines set by Scottish Government apply.

P1	maximum 25
P2&3	maximum 30
P4-7	maximum 33
Composite classes	maximum 25

Composite classes have pupils from more than one stage.

## The School Day

P1-7 can be dropped off at the school gate from 8.50am-9.05am. Children can play in the playground from 8.50am and will be allowed inside the building just before 9am.

P1 and P2 can be collected between 2.50-3pm. P3-7 finish at 3pm.



## School Term Dates



Details of school term dates are available on the Glasgow City Council website:  
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17024>

## Pupil Absence

Within Glasgow Primary School good attendance is encouraged at all times and children rewarded accordingly. Parents are asked to advise if their child is going to be absent. This should be done as early as possible on the first day of absence. If the young person is going to be absent for some time, it would be helpful to know at the earliest opportunity. The school uses daily text messaging to inform parents and carers of absence if no contact is made. All unexplained absences are investigated by the school and appropriate action taken. All calls must be made to the Pupil Absence Reporting Line on 0141 287 0039. The line is open between 08.00-15.30 Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can use the online form on the Glasgow City Council website:  
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18832>

## Medical & Healthcare

The school nurse visits at various times during the year for routine health checks, vaccinations and medical examinations. Parents are kept informed by letter.

If a child becomes ill during the course of the school day, he/she may require to be sent home. Please ensure that you keep the school informed of all contact details.

Parents should inform the school of any medical requirements relating to their child. If a child requires medication during the school day, parents must complete the appropriate medical form. This is available on request from the school office.

## Emergencies

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions, circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be



affected by, for example, severe weather, temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply.



In such cases, we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of our closure or re-opening by using letters, texts and the local media etc.

## School Uniform

The school uniform is:

- White shirt or polo shirt
- School tie - available to buy from the school office.
- Grey trousers
- Grey skirt
- Blue jumper/cardigan

Sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school logo are available for purchase online - <https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/>

It is expected that all children attending Blairdardie Primary School will adhere to this dress code if possible. We have a selection of 'Pre-loved uniforms' available for parents to access free of charge.

On PE Days children should wear a white polo shirt with dark coloured leggings/shorts/jogging bottoms with trainers.

## PE Kit

It is important that pupils come prepared to learn and for PE this requires appropriate clothing. All jewellery **MUST** be removed. Pupils who are not participating in PE must have a note or a medical certificate. Pupils who are unable to participate in practical PE should still bring their kit to allow them to assist in the lesson by refereeing/keeping scores. This ensures that they are still able to take part in some way in the work of the class and do not miss out on the knowledge and understanding of the course.

There are forms of dress that are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing or school bags which:

- Potentially encourage upset e.g. football colours/teams
- Could cause offence, such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans
- Could cause health and safety difficulties, such as loose fitting clothing, and jewellery
- Carry advertising particularly for alcohol or tobacco
- Could be used to inflict damage on other pupils



## **Clothing & Footwear Grants**

Parents/Carers receiving Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) will normally be entitled to monetary grants for footwear and clothing for their children. Information and application forms may be obtained from schools and at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

## **School meals**

Our school provides a lunch service which offers a variety of meals and snacks. Medical diets for children can be provided. Further information can be found here: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/fuelzone>

Children can bring a packed lunch to school if they wish, all children sit together in the dinner school. We are a NUT FREE school as we have people with severe nut allergies in school.

All children in P1-5 are entitled to a free school meal.

If you plan to send your child/children to breakfast club, you should inform the catering staff of any medical dietary requirements.

Children and young people of parents/carers receiving Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Child Tax Credit only (check link below for thresholds), Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) and income-related Employment and Support Allowance are entitled to a free midday meal. Information and application forms for free school meals may be obtained at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

## **Transport**

The education authority has a policy of providing free transport to all pupils who live outwith a certain radius from their local school by the recognised shortest walking route. This means that the provision of transport could be reviewed at any time. Parents/Carers who consider they are eligible can apply online at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17882>



## Transfer from Primary to Secondary School



Children and young people normally transfer between the ages of 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 12  $\frac{1}{2}$ , so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Parents and carers will be informed of the school arrangements no later than December of P7. Children from our school normally transfer to:

Knightswood Secondary School

60 Knightswood Road  
Glasgow  
G13 2XD

**Phone** : 0141 582 0160

**Email** : [headteacher@knightswood-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@knightswood-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)

Knightswood Secondary School staff work with our pupils from Primary 6 onward to prepare them for the transfer to secondary school.

### Communication with Parents

At Blairdardie Primary School we use a variety of ways to keep in touch.

*Meetings* - the senior leadership team are contactable via telephone or email.

*Newsletters* - will be sent out on a regular basis to keep parents informed about the work of the school.

*Letters* - further information which requires a response may be sent out in letter form.

*School Website/Twitter* - will contain a great deal of information about the school. It is a good idea to check this regularly.

*Groupcall Text messaging* - You may also receive text reminders about events/school closures etc.

Parents and carers are welcome at events throughout the school year e.g. parents' evenings, workshops, information evenings, class performances, assemblies. The school newsletter and website will keep you informed.





## Emergency Contact Information



At the start of each school session, parents will be issued with the annual data check form. Please ensure that this is completed and returned to the school. It is also important that you let us know if there are changes to your telephone number(s) or to those of your emergency contacts throughout the year.

### **Data Protection - use of information about children and parents/carers**

We collect information about children attending school (and also about parents/carers, emergency contacts etc. provided in the annual data check) to allow us to carry out the Council's functions as the education authority for the City of Glasgow. This may sometimes involve releasing personal information to other agencies and other parts of the Council, particularly in relation to child protection issues or criminal investigations, and it may also be used for research purposes (see the link below for more details regarding this).

Information held by the school is, in legal terms, processed by Glasgow City Council. The Council is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018 and all personal data is treated as confidential and used only in accordance with the Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations, and the Information Use and Privacy Policy approved by the City Council. For more information on how we use personal information, or to see a copy of the Information Use and Privacy Policy, see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18010> .

Education specific privacy statements can be accessed at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=22069> .

### **Appointments during school hours**

If your child has an unavoidable appointment, please give them a letter for their class teacher and then collect them from the school office at the specified time.

### **Comments & Complaints**

In Blairdardie Primary School we aim to have positive relationships across our school community. However, if you have a comment or complaint about any aspect of school life, please contact the Headteacher in the first instance.



Glasgow City Council complaints procedures are available :  
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16133>

Customer Care Team  
 Customer & Business Services  
 Glasgow City Council  
 City Chambers  
 Glasgow G2 1DU

Tel: 0141 287 0900

e-mail: [customercare@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@glasgow.gov.uk) or [education.customercare@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:education.customercare@glasgow.gov.uk)

The above website also includes information on data protection and freedom of information.

## Curriculum

### Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching for all 3 to 18 year olds. It aims to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast-changing world. As part of Curriculum for Excellence all children from pre-school to the end of S3 will receive a rounded education known as a Broad General Education(BGE).

Curriculum for Excellence is all about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it.

Through the experiences we provide at Blairdardie Primary School we want our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We are committed to providing children with a broad general education and focus on eight curriculum areas.

Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Languages	Mathematics
Religious & Moral	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies

Progress in learning is indicated through curriculum levels as detailed below.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Early	The pre-school years and P1 or later
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some



Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some

**Expressive Arts:** The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our children and young people to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills.

**Health and Wellbeing:** Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge, understanding and skills which they need now and, in the future, to help them with their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

**Science:** Science and its practical application in healthcare and industry is central to our economic future, for our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society.

**Social Studies:** Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and places both past and present, societies, their beliefs and values.

**Religious and Moral Education:** Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity, Islam and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values.

**Languages:** Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures is a 21st century skill set for students as they prepare to live and work in a global society.

**Mathematics:** Mathematics equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions.

**Technologies:** The range of subjects in technical education has changed significantly over the last two decades and now includes craft, design, engineering and graphics.

### Useful websites

Education Scotland [www.education.gov.scot](http://www.education.gov.scot)  
National Parent Forum of Scotland [www.npfs.org.uk](http://www.npfs.org.uk)



## **Religious Observance**

Our school is fortunate to have a link with the local church. The minister assists with the Christianity element of Religious and Moral Education and provides opportunities for religious observance. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious observance and should inform the school in writing.

In addition, parents and carers from religions other than Christianity may request that their children may be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the proposed arrangements will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted on up to 3 occasions in any 1 school session.

## **Assessment & Reporting**

All children are assessed both formally and informally throughout the year. This allows children and their teachers to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. A variety of assessment methods are used to enable staff to pass on information to parents about the progress of their child. Assessment records are kept by the class teacher and form the basis of discussion at Parents' Evenings. An annual report is sent to parents towards the end of each school year.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress do not hesitate to contact the school.

## **Support for Pupils**

The school has a duty to ensure that all pupils have equal access to the curriculum, with appropriate support for their needs if required. This applies to the content of lessons, teaching strategies and minor adaptations to the school environment. There are a wide range of factors which may act as a barrier to learning. We are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure that they are fully involved in any decisions about support for their children's needs.

Any parent or carer seeking further advice regarding this policy should contact the Depute Headteachers in the first instance.



Further information relating to additional support needs is available on the Glasgow City Council website at

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18941>



Information on the Glasgow City Councils' Parental Involvement Strategy can also be found at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17870>

## **Nurturing City**

The Glasgow City Council vision 'towards the nurturing city', puts building positive, trusting relationships at the core of our work. We ensure children, young people and families feel they belong, they are listened to and they are valued by embedding the principles of nurture across our early years, primary and secondary establishments. Staff are trained in attachment and nurture which deepens understanding of child development and enhances effective practice by responding to the needs of all children and young people in a consistent and caring way. Nurture is a universal approach which builds resilience, helping to reduce the impact of adversity. Effective communication and collaboration with parents and carers build an ethos of partnership working putting the child at the centre, fostering high quality learning contexts. Each of our nurturing establishments contribute to the development of Glasgow as a nurturing city, creating safe environments which allow our children and young people to flourish by raising attainment and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

## **School Improvement**

On an annual basis, you will receive a summary of our School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality report. The Standards and Quality report highlights progress in key curricular areas such as literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. Our priorities for improvement are detailed in our School Improvement Plan which is discussed with our Parent Council. Any parent or carer seeking a copy of the full plan can contact the school office or find it on our website.

## **Promoting Positive Relationships**

Children's Rights as outlined in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are fundamental to a good school ethos. Adults in our school will work with children to ensure they are aware of their rights and fully



respect the rights of others. Therefore, the approach within Blairdardie Primary School is to build a positive ethos that demonstrates care and respect for all. Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated. Our school operates a House Points System, with points being awarded for demonstrating our school values. We celebrate during Friday Golden Time, by giving out awards at assemblies and certificates/stickers are often sent home.

The highest standards of behaviour are expected of pupils at all times. Where this is not the case, a variety of support is offered and there are consequences where appropriate. Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging a sense of responsibility and good behaviour in their children.

### **Home Learning**

Continuing to learn at home helps children to achieve more and is a vital part of our partnership with parents. Please check your child's schoolbag for communication about home learning and specific tasks.

We use online platforms for Home Learning, including Bug Club, Sum Dog and Seesaw.

Please contact the office if you require assistance with passwords or logins.

### **Parent Council**

We have an active Parent Council that represents the views of all parents. All parents/carers are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings and the AGM in November. Parent Council minutes are sent home via email and available in paper format on request from the school office.

### **Pupil Participation Groups**

All children will be involved in a Pupil Participation Group, these include:

- Eco Committee
- Junior Road Safety Officers
- Digital Ambassadors
- Librarians
- **Bright** Sparks - Rights of the Child



## Extra Curricular Activities

We have a wide range of activities that run between Monday - Thursday to extend the learning experience. Good links with community organisations and our Active Schools Co-ordinator are vital for the success of these programmes.

## Useful Contacts

**Parentzone Scotland** is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science. Information is also available on Parentzone Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education. Furthermore, the website has details about schools including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6; and links to the national, and local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels. Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

## Connect

Connect is a national organisation that provides advice and resources for parents and carers. [www.connect.scot](http://www.connect.scot)

## Enquire Scotland

Enquire is a national advice service for families with additional support needs. [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)