



Education Resources

**St Charles Primary School
Handbook 2026**



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If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 0303 123 1023 Email: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

1. Introduction from the Head Teacher

Welcome to St. Charles Primary School, which is a loving, happy and inclusive learning environment for children.



We believe our school community is a family, with each and every person being an important member. Our school motto, established by pupils, is Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and our code of conduct and aims are based around these ideals. As Catholic educators we work in partnership with parents, the parish and the community to encourage Christian attitudes and a sense of responsibility towards our neighbours.

St. Charles' Primary is a school which is striving towards excellence. We are committed to developing responsible citizens, effective contributors, successful learners and confident individuals. Our mission is to establish a well-balanced, varied curriculum in a nurturing environment which will enable all children to develop intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

Positive relationships are central to the work of the school, the staff of St. Charles Primary School are committed to making every child feel happy and secure in school and this principle underpins our programmes for learning and teaching and all our activities.

If, at any time, you find that this is not the case and you have concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are here to help.

I hope you find this handbook informative. If you require any further information, please contact the school, where we will be happy to assist you.

Mrs Maureen Reid
Head Teacher



South Lanarkshire Council is the fifth largest authority in Scotland. It covers the following main areas; Clydesdale in the south which features extensive rural areas, Cambuslang, Rutherglen, Blantyre and Uddingston to the north as well as the towns of East Kilbride and Hamilton.

The Council's Plan Connect sets out the Council's vision which is, "to improve the lives and prospects for everyone in South Lanarkshire".

For Education Resources this means delivering services of the highest quality as well as striving to narrow the gap. It is about continually improving the services for everyone at the same time as giving priority to children, young people, families, and communities in most need. The priorities for schools and services are set out in the Education Resources Plan which confirms the commitment to provide better learning opportunities and outcomes for children and young people. This is available at [Education Resources Plan 2025/26 Education and learning - South Lanarkshire Council](#)

2. About our school

Name of School: St. Charles' Primary

Address: Harvester Avenue
Newton
Cambuslang
G72 7ZU

Tel. No: 0141 641 1483

E mail: gw14stcharlesoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.st-charles-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk>

Instagram: @StCharlesNewton

Facebook (Parent Council) : St Charles Primary School, Newton

School App School App for Parents

Present Roll: 328

Parents should note that the working capacity of the school may vary, depending on the number of pupils at each stage and the way in which the classes are organised.

Stages Covered: Primary 1 – Primary 7

Denominational Status: Roman Catholic, Co-Educational

Absence

If your child will be absent from the school, please contact the school on the number or email above to report the absence, including the reason for absence. We ask that parents do this by 9.30am in the morning, otherwise school staff will make contact to check on the reason for absence.

Emergencies

The school will contact you at the earliest opportunity in the event of any emergencies. It is therefore very important we have up to date contact information for all parents. If your details change, please let us know as soon as possible.

In the event we have to evacuate the building for a period of time, our emergency assembly location will be the park to the rear of the school or in inclement weather, we will make our way to Newton Farm Primary School.

New families- visits to the school

We host an open afternoon annually in November for parents who wish to enroll their children for school. If, however, you are interested in enrolling your child and wish to visit the school out with this time, please contact the school office where this can be arranged.



3. School Ethos



Our vision is for St. Charles to be a family of love, kindness and respect.

Inspired by love and the values of the Gospel, we empower everyone in the St. Charles family to reach their full potential.

In partnership with parents, parishes and our community we aim to:

Keep the child at the heart of all we do.

Be Ready- Create a loving, safe and inclusive environment.

Be Respectful- Through kindness to ourselves and others we recognise the dignity and uniqueness of every person.

Be Responsible- Develop resilience, independence and the skills and knowledge needed for learning and life in the 21st century.



**READY
RESPECTFUL
RESPONSIBLE**

4. School Staff

Head Teacher	Mrs Reid
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs Milne
Principle Teacher	Mrs Deery

Teachers

Mrs Rouse- PE, Spanish and Health and Wellbeing
Mrs Campbell- Primary 1
Miss Gallacher- Primary 1/2
Mrs Murray- Primary 2a
Mrs Thomson- Primary 2a
Mrs Anderson- P2b
Mrs Cummings- Primary 3
Mrs Friel- Primary 3/4
Mr Blair- Primary 4
Mr Rashid- Primary 4/5
Mrs Gillies- Primary 5/6
Miss McLaughlin- Primary 6
Mrs Thomson- Primary 7a
Mrs Donnelly- Primary 7a
Mrs Duffy- Primary 7b

Support Staff

Mrs Doherty – Team Leader
Mrs Easton
Mrs Mackle
Mrs Paterson
Mrs Gorevan
Mrs Hamilton
Miss Henry
Mrs Hakeem

Janitor Mrs Helen McNally

Cook in Charge Mrs Liz Sutherland

5. Attendance at School

Encouraging School Attendance

We believe that regular school attendance is key to raising attainment and achievement. It's a shared responsibility among parents/carers and the school to emphasise the importance of attending school.

For your convenience, school holiday dates and in-service dates can be found on the council's website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Every effort should be made to ensure that your child attends school during term time. Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school. It is important for the school to work with parents/carers in encouraging children to attend school. All absences are required by law to be recorded. Absences will normally fall under two categories – authorised or unauthorised absence. In cases where your child is unable to attend school parents are asked to:

let us know by 9.30am on the first day of absence.

If you know they have a hospital/dental appointment, please let us know in advance.

Requests for your child to be absent from school to make an extended visit to relatives either in the UK or overseas must be made in writing to the head teacher, detailing the reason, destination and duration of absence and arrangements for their continuing education. On these occasions the pupil will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted, and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register. (See section 7).

Family Holidays During Term Time

Family holidays taken during school term time will be recorded as unauthorised absences in line with Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council policy. The school is not required to provide work during this period, and parents are asked to avoid arranging holidays that disrupt their child's learning.

Days off school add up to lost learning.					
190 days of education each year.	Up to 10 days absence (2 weeks) 180 days of education	Up to 20 days absence (4 weeks) 170 days of education	Up to 30 days absence (6 weeks) 160 days of education	Up to 38 days absence (7 ½ weeks). One day for every week at school. 152 days of education	More than 39 days absence
100%	95% - 99%	90% - 94%	85% - 89%	80% - 84%	Less than 80%
Excellent	Very Good	Slight Concern	Concerning	Risk of Underachievement	Severe Risk of Underachievement
All children have the 'Right to an Education' (UNCRC Article 28)					

Emergency Information

We strive to keep the school open during term-time. However, there may be instances such as severe weather or power failures that could affect the school day. In such cases, we will inform you as soon as possible through text messages and our social media channels.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the event of severe weather like snow or heavy frost, if the school cannot open at the usual time, we will delay the start until 10 am. Notifications will be posted on social media and the council's website.

Communication

The Council's website, www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk, will provide updates on school closures or delays including further information about the next school day.

Things we need you to do:

- It is important for parents/carers to let the school know of any change to your mobile/home phone number and change of address.
- If for any reason, you are unsure if the school is open visit the website at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or email: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

6. Parental Involvement and Parent Councils

Parents and carers play a vital role in their child's learning. Research shows that when families are involved, children do better at school and beyond. South Lanarkshire Council values parents as partners and works closely with schools to make this happen.

Why Parental Involvement Matters

- Strong partnerships help schools understand children's needs and help parents feel informed and supported.
- Parents can reinforce learning at home, making schoolwork more meaningful and connected to everyday life
- Parental involvement can help children develop a love of learning and resilience when facing challenges
- When parents work with school and take an interest in learning, children often achieve more academically and feel more confident.

Our Commitment

We want parents and carers to:

- Feel welcome and involved in school life.
- Be well informed about their child's learning.
- Have opportunities to support learning at home.
- Share views and take part in discussions about education.

Parent Forum and Parent Council

- Every parent with a child at school is part of the Parent Forum.
- Each school has a Parent Council, a formal group that represents parents' views and works with the school to improve learning and experiences.

Connect – Supporting Parent Councils

All Parent Councils in South Lanarkshire are members of Connect, Scotland's national organisation for parent groups. Connect offers:

- Free training and advice for Parent Councils.
- Resources and guides to help parents support learning.
- Insurance cover for Parent Council activities. Find out more at <https://www.connect.scot>.

Other Helpful Resources

- Parentzone Scotland – Practical advice and information about learning, additional support needs, and how to get involved: [Parentzone Scotland](#) | [Education Scotland](#)
- National Parent Forum of Scotland – Guidance and updates for parents: <https://www.npfs.org.uk>.

Getting Involved

Interested in joining the Parent Council or helping in school? Contact your school office or visit the Council website for details.

7. The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence is the name given to the new curriculum in Scotland for all children and young people aged 3-18. It is a forward; looking, coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum that provides young people with opportunities to engage with the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

The curriculum includes all of the experiences that are planned for children and young people to support the development of their skills, wherever they are being educated, for example in the family and community, pre-school centre, nursery and school. This broad, general education will allow them to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to life in the 21st century.

In taking this forward our school will work closely with South Lanarkshire Education Resources and other services to enable Curriculum for Excellence to be fully embedded, ensuring the best possible education for all children and young people. We wish you to feel confident that your child is encouraged and supported to develop their literacy, numeracy and other skills whilst they attend our school. The curricular areas are as follows:

- Expressive arts
- Languages and literacy
- Health and wellbeing
- Mathematics and numeracy
- Religious and moral education
- Science
- Social studies
- Technologies

If you want to know more about Curriculum for Excellence, please visit website [Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence \(scotlandscurriculum.scot\)](http://Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (scotlandscurriculum.scot))

Our learning and teaching activities are based on the outcomes and experiences in the guidelines that all schools have for Curriculum for Excellence.

Level	Stage
Early	The pre-school years and Primary 1 or later for some.
First	To the end of Primary 4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of Primary 7, but earlier or later for some.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to help consolidate new work or to give practice in areas where difficulties are being experienced.

A great deal of concentrated work is done in school and therefore homework is kept to a minimum. Care will be taken to select tasks which can be done in a short time and are within the child's prowess.

Homework will not always be written but may take the form of talking to adults at home, finding information from a newspaper or the television, drawing a picture, reading for information, etc. The teacher will try to ensure that the child appreciates the need for these assignments and understands their purpose.

Parents can help the teacher by giving support and encouragement to the child, by overseeing the work and by ensuring it is done carefully and neatly.

Extra-Curricular Activities

When possible, facilities are provided for the following activities – football, netball, cheerleading/dance, chess, art and computing.

Pupils are also encouraged to enter local festivals and competitions.

The children participate fully in school concerts and fun days, discos and parties are a feature of the social life of the school.

Educational outings are organised to enhance the topics being taught at each stage and take place throughout the school year. Pupils are also given the opportunity to go on Religious Retreats, as part of their preparation for receiving the sacraments.

Throughout the year the children contribute generously to raise funds for charity.

Spiritual, social, moral and cultural values (religious observance)

The religious education curriculum in all Catholic schools is determined by the Church authorities. In St Charles Primary we follow the guidelines given by the Bishop of Motherwell and the Diocesan RE Advisers.

Our RE Programme offers a systematic presentation of the Christian event, message and way of life in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the child. The RE Programme provides the opportunity for celebration, prayer and reflection in implicit and

explicit ways. Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation are effectively implemented at the appropriate stages in the child's development.

The RE Programme also provides the children with the language of religious experience, whereby they can explore their faith and the faith of others within the terms of their own understanding.

All of the above is done, in the formal curriculum, through the This Is Our Faith and God's Loving Plan (Sex and Moral Education) programmes of study for P1-P7. These are the programmes approved by the Bishops of Scotland for Catholic Primary Schools. All materials are available for parents to view on request throughout the session.

Father Morton (St Bride's Parish Priest) and Father Rodrigues (St Cadoc's Parish Priest) are frequent and welcome visitors to our school. As well as visiting the classes they regularly celebrate Mass in the school, helping the children to express, develop and deepen the faith that has been explored in the RE Programme. There are also opportunities for prayer services, and for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our RE Programme plays a vital role in our policy of ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of belief, race, culture, class, gender and disability are provided with an education which allows them to develop their full potential. In our RE Programme we promote and foster positive values such as respect, love, tolerance, understanding and fairness. At the same time we strive to identify and combat stereotyping, racism and all forms of discrimination wherever they occur.

In the case of those children who are not Catholic, parents can be reassured that religious education is approached sensitively and in a climate of great respect for those who have no faith and for other faiths.

Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.

As a Catholic School, we are very proud of our Catholic ethos, values-based relationships and strong sense of inclusion however parents do maintain the right to withdraw children from religious observance of the Catholic Faith if they so wish. If this is the case, parents should arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher to discuss it in more detail.

It is manifest from the history of denominational education Scotland, and particularly from the continuing guarantees given at the time of passing of the Education (Scotland) Act 1918 and in the current legislation with regards to religious instruction and observance, that such religious instruction and observance form part of the religious tradition and ethos in Catholic Schools and plays an important part in the education provided in this school.

In a letter of guidance issued by the Scottish Government in February 2011, it is acknowledged that Catholic schools take a distinctive approach to the provision of Religious Observance:

Scottish Government Ministers welcome the tradition that, in Roman Catholic denominational schools, Catholic Liturgy will largely shape the nature and frequency of religious observance activities in the classroom and in the wider school community. So, at times, children and young people will be invited to participate in, and sometimes to lead, prayer and reflection in classrooms and at assemblies. At other times, to honour particular occasions or feasts, chaplains will lead school communities in the celebration of Mass and other forms of liturgical celebration.

7. Assessment and Tracking Progress

Assessment and tracking process is an integral part of the teaching and learning process and a continuous process of assessment is used throughout St. Charles' Primary School to measure pupils' progress. We involve the children in the evaluation and assessment process. We encourage both self and peer evaluations in assessment procedures.

Diagnostic tests are, also, used and these help us to structure programmes of work for children, especially where a child is experiencing difficulty coping with activities previously set. In instances where the difficulties are perhaps more complex or ongoing, we will secure the help of Psychological Services or other partner agencies to support assessment and to provide the most suitable learning experiences and outcomes. This will only be carried out in full consultation with Parents.

Forward Planning is continually reviewed to ensure that learning experiences and resources used are appropriate to meet the needs of your child (ren). A variety of teaching and learning methods are adopted and children are encouraged to actively participate in their own learning.

To enable us, to constantly strive for excellence, within St. Charles' Primary School, Staff are encouraged to participate in their own professional development. This enables us to keep abreast of new developments and initiatives in all curricular areas.

9. Reporting

St Charles' Primary recognises that good teamwork among parents, children and schools is the key to a successful education for your child.

We currently offer parents an interim/ settling report sent home at the end of September, an in-person parent appointment at our first parents' evening in October, a formal progress report in the summer term followed by our second in person parents' evening usually in May.

Reporting will be ongoing and comprise of a range of activities which can include children presenting their learning, Snap Shot jotters, Pupil Learning Plans, and ongoing oral discussions.

We will provide parents with reports so that you can see what your child is doing and how they are progressing. In addition, there will be parents' meetings which offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child's progressing and how you can contact the school if you wish further information. The school will offer you an appointment time so that you can visit in person to discuss your child's education.

We welcome any comments or additional information from parents to help us provide the best possible education for your child.

10. Enrolment and Transitions

Enrolment – how to register your child for school.

To register your child for school you should complete our online registration form. This can be done using the South Lanarkshire website.

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

If you have any difficulty in identifying your catchment school, please email Edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

The online registration form will ask you to provide each child's full birth certificate and two pieces of recent official documentation both containing your permanent home address for example a utility bill, council tax statement, housing rent card, child benefit documentation.

Proof of where the child lives may also be needed.

If your child is due to start school in August 2026, you can enrol online from Monday 5 January 2026. Your catchment school will contact you between Monday 12 and Friday 16 January 2026 to confirm your enrolment.

If your child attends the nursery of your catchment school, please do not assume that they will automatically be transferred. You must register them as normal at the school that is in the catchment area for your home address

If parents want their child to go to another school, they must enrol in the first instance with their catchment school and intimate that they wish to make a placing request. **An online placing request form should then be completed.** An online placing request form is available from the SLC website – www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or by contacting edsuppserv.helpline@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or phone **0303 123 1023**.

Change of School/Placing Request

Normally children attend the school in their catchment area. However, there are times when parents may wish their children to go to other schools. If you wish your child to go to another school, then you may make what is known as a 'placing request'. If you live in South Lanarkshire and decide to submit a 'placing request', we are unable to reserve a place in your catchment school until the Council have made a decision on the 'placing request'. Please note if your 'placing request' application is unsuccessful and all places at your catchment school are filled you will be offered a place at the next nearest appropriate South Lanarkshire School.

Please note that if an application for a 'placing request' is successful then school transport is not provided.

If you move outwith your catchment primary school a 'request to remain form' must be completed. If you move outwith your catchment primary, this may affect your right to transfer to the associated Secondary School. Please note the secondary school is determined by the pupil's permanent home address and chosen denomination. If you

require further information, please contact Education Support Services on edsupportserv.help@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or **0303 123 1023**.

Transition from primary to secondary school

Pupils normally transfer from primary to secondary school between the ages of 11½ and 12½, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Arrangements are made by the school to transfer children to the associated secondary school as determined by their home address. Parents of P7 children will be informed of the transfer arrangements made for their child to attend secondary school.

We will also provide you with information at this time on events designed to support P7 children before they move on to secondary school.

11. Support for Pupils

Getting it right for every child.

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people. The aim is to help them to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected so that they can realise their full potential.

Most children and young people get all the help and support they need from their parent(s), wider family and community but sometimes, perhaps unexpectedly, they may need a bit of extra help. GIRFEC is a way for families to work in partnership with people who can support them, such as teachers.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, you can speak to the named person who will work with you to provide support and decide how to move forward. Your school will let you know who this is. It is likely to be the Head Teacher in a primary school and a principal teacher (pupil support) in Secondary.

More information can be found on:

www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright

Support for All (Additional Support Needs)

A statement of the school policy in relation to pupils with additional support needs, including the assistance given to pupils experiencing learning difficulties who do not have a co-ordinated support plan should be given.

The range of additional support for learning catered for, and the specialist services provided along with details on unit(s) and/or class(es) that the school offers.

The number of pupils who have a co-ordinated support plan should be shown. (Where the number of pupils who have a co-ordinated support plan is between 1-4 inclusive, it should not be published in the school handbook).

South Lanarkshire Education Resources have published a series of leaflets available which cover information for parents and carers about the Additional Support for Learning Acts.

In keeping with duties set out in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended) the guidance states that handbooks should specifically mention Enquire, the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning.

Enquire is funded by the Scottish Government to provide information on the framework for supporting children who require additional support for learning and to encourage positive partnerships between families, schools and local authorities to ensure children get the right support.

Enquire – the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning

Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning through:

Phone Helpline: 0345 123 2303

Address : Enquire
Children in Scotland
Rosebery House
9 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5EZ

Email Enquiry service: info@enquire.org.uk

Advice and information is also available at www.enquire.org.uk

Enquire provides a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets including The parents' guide to additional support for learning.

If you would like to order our leaflets, postcards or guides to share with parents and carers of pupils in your school, please contact us on info@enquire.org.uk

Attachment Strategy for Education Resources

Attachment – what we do to support children and young people

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people by creating emotionally supportive learning experiences in our nurseries and schools.

The Education Resources Attachment Strategy supports the action in the 'Getting it Right for Every Child in South Lanarkshire's Children Services Plan 2021-23', following the launch of the Attachment Strategy in 2020, to provide staff training in Attachment and Trauma based practice.

What does it set out to do?

The aim of the strategy is to promote better experiences of attachment for South Lanarkshire's children and young people and to ensure that all education practitioners understand the importance of attachment theory and its application and how positive relationships can make a difference to outcomes.

How can I find out more?

South Lanarkshire Council Education Resources have published a series of leaflets and posters for establishments and for parents/carers which aim to share information on attachment theory and on how this informs the ways in which we support children and young people.

These are available in schools and on the SLC Staff Learning Centre Sway accessible by teachers and staff.

Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour (PPRUDB)

PPRUDB is South Lanarkshire's framework for understanding and managing behaviour in schools. It emphasises that all behaviour is a form of communication, often indicating unmet needs, and stresses the importance of building positive relationships as a fundamental skill for teachers and a preventive approach to distressed behaviour. The guidance aligns with key Scottish Government policies and legislation and supports the development of safe, inclusive, and nurturing school environments.

Children and young people who feel safe, healthy, respected, and included are more likely to develop self-confidence and resilience. South Lanarkshire Council's attachment-informed, trauma-sensitive approach, aims to create a secure base and safe haven to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences. School staff recognise that distressed behaviour can stem from disrupted attachment, anxiety, and other complex needs, including neurodevelopmental conditions and limited communication skills.

When incidents of distressed behaviour arise in schools, staff will use a range of strategies to de-escalate situations and prevent re-occurrence. Strategies include structuring the environment with consistent routines and quiet areas, adapting communication to accommodate speech and sensory needs, and building positive relationships based on shared values. Setting clear limits with dignity, active listening, and inclusive teaching practices support behaviour management. Planning for transitions and using support plans like Additional Support Plans (ASPs) and Behaviour Assessment and Support Plans (BASPs) assist in addressing individual needs.

Each educational establishment should use the PPRUDB framework to develop and implement a relationships and behaviour policy through consultation with staff, pupils, and parents, reviewing it every three years. Further information is available from the Headteacher of the establishment your child attends.

12. School Improvement

Our School's Strengths

- The contribution of the whole school community to ensuring that all children learn and achieve.
- Staff's enthusiasm for working together to improve children's learning experiences.
- The school's commitment to the care and welfare of its pupils and its promotion of healthy living.
- Strong links with the St. Bride's and St Cadoc's Church
- Effective partnerships with parents and the wider community.
- The school's support for vulnerable pupils and their families.
- The celebration of pupils' achievements

How We Gathered Evidence to Evaluate Our School

Every year we produce a quality calendar, which details our on-going quality assurance processes. As part of our procedures for monitoring school effectiveness, timetabled visits to classes continue to be carried out by the Head teacher and Depute Head Teachers. We also have peer visits, where teachers visit and observe each other to share good practice. We have used the quality indicators from How Good Is Our School 4 to undertake a broad audit and to update our Standards and Quality report. This helps us to decide on improvement priorities.

Parent and carer views are sought through the use of questionnaires, suggestions or comments made. Pupils' views are also sought using a variety of activities. This helps us to decide on improvement priorities.

Our New Improvement Plan

We write a new improvement plan which covers a three year improvement cycle, this plan details the actions we intend to take to improve our school.

The improvement plan for 2025-2026 is available on our school website and App. This year we aim to further develop our approaches to teaching writing, embed leadership of learning within our classroom and ensure everyone within the school community is familiar with the UNCRC (rights of the child) while continuing to develop and promote positive relationships.

13. School Policies and Practical Information

School/Nursery Meals

Primary pupils

Healthy eating is something that the school supports, and a range of meals are available at lunchtime that meet the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020

All primary schools run a Breakfast service from 8.15am to 8.45am with pupils being offered a selection of toast, cereal or fruit along with a cup of milk.

For their lunch each day pupils have the option to choose from two hot meal options (one being vegetarian option) plus a sandwich selection everyday.

. All meals also come with fresh chilled drinking water, salad selection, seasonal fruit and depending on the day - soup or a dessert.

Milk will be available for those pupils entitled to free school meals through the free school meal eligibility scheme at morning break or lunchtime.

Pupils in:

Primary 1 - 5 receive a free school lunch.

Primary 6 - 7 meal cost is **£2.62**

School lunches and milk can be paid for through your Parentpay account or Paypoint facilities in local shops.

NB School Meal prices are reviewed annually and may be subject to change

Adapted diets

If your child within Nursery, Primary or Secondary requires an adapted diet for medical reasons please speak to the school/nursery office who will provide the request form for you to complete. In addition, if you have a halal or vegan diet request for your child, please speak to the school office who will provide you with a request form.

Free School Meals

Children of parents who receive the following benefits are entitled to a free lunchtime meal for their child:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Scottish Child Payment (P6 and P7 pupils)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit (and your earned income is less than £850 as assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions in the assessment period immediately preceding the application for free school meals)

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from us there is no need for you to apply online, we will use the information we hold to automatically award free school meals (P6 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

We would encourage parents of children who are in receipt of any of the above benefits to take up this opportunity of having a meal provided for their child when they are at school. Arrangements are in place to ensure anonymity is protected of children who receive free meals and we encourage all children to remain in school at lunch time.

Further information can be found at [Free school meals - South Lanarkshire Council](#) or by accessing the QR below -



School uniform

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child(ren) to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. The wearing of a uniform helps staff and the pupils to distinguish between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of the life of the school. Any proposals on the dress code and on what constitutes the school uniform will be the subject of discussion with the Parent Council and where appropriate consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in all schools such as:

- the wearing of football colours
- clothing with slogans that may cause offence (anti-religious, symbolism or political slogans)
- clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- clothing which can be deemed unsuitable in terms of health and safety grounds such as shell suits, combat style clothing, dangling earrings, loose fitting clothes particularly in practical classes
- articles of clothing that could be deemed to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so

footwear that may damage flooring

St Charles Primary School Uniform

The school uniform for St Charles' Primary is:

- White shirt / blouse, school tie, grey skirt / trousers
- Green V-neck / cardigan .
- Black shoes
- Indoor shoes - gym shoes/ trainers

The dress for P.E. is:

- Red polo shirt
- Black shorts and gym shoes/ trainers

The uniform with the school logo on the jumpers / jackets is available from BE SCHOOLWEAR at St Enoch's Station opposite the St Enoch's Centre or is available from this supplier online. **Please note that badges are not required on the uniform and therefore any supplier of our school colours is acceptable.**

Parents are requested to mark all school clothes clearly with your child's name for easy identification.

If you require help to supply uniform for your child, please get in touch as we can help. We have a swap shop available including donations of new and nearly new clothes available.

Mobile Device Policy

In St. Charles, mobile phones brought to school should be switched off on entering school grounds. Children take phones to school at their own risk, and the school take no accountability for loss or damage to devices. Mobile phones are not required for learning purposes in school.

Our school follows South Lanarkshire Council guidance on mobile device use, which is rooted in Scottish Government policy. Mobile technology can support learning and communication, but it can also disrupt lessons and affect wellbeing if misused. To maintain a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment, pupils are expected to use mobile devices responsibly and in line with school rules.

Devices should not be used during class unless specifically permitted for learning purposes.

Allergies

Allergies

Many children in our schools have allergies, and it is crucial for parents to keep the school informed about these conditions.

Health Care Plans

- Allergies can manifest at any time with symptoms ranging from mild to severe.
- Children with moderate to severe allergies often have a Health Care Plan from the NHS, detailing symptoms and interventions.
- Parents must share this plan with the school and provide updates as necessary.

Mild Symptoms

- Even without a Health Care Plan, parents should regularly update the school on any new triggers, medications, or actions required.

Employee Training

- School staff need to know your child's symptoms, treatments, and actions required to prevent exposure and minimise the risk of reactions.
- Employees receive training on allergies and will consult with parents and the NHS for any additional specialist training needed.

Policy Adherence

- In supporting children and young people with allergies, school staff will follow South Lanarkshire Council's Safe Systems of Work, risk assessment process, and national guidance on the administration of medicines.

Support for parent/carers

Clothing grant

In certain circumstances the Council provides support to parents/carers for the purchase of school wear. This also now includes nursery children aged 3 and 4 years old.

Eligibility criteria and online applications can be found at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Should you require further information, or you are unable to submit an application online then please contact the helpline number **0303 123 1011** (option 5).

School hours/holiday dates

School Hours

1st Session	9.00 am	-	10.30 am
Interval	10.30 am	-	10.45 am
2nd Session	10.45 am	-	12.15 pm
Lunch	12.15 pm	-	1.00 pm
3rd Session	1.00 pm	-	3.00 pm

When the weather is inclement the doors are opened at 8:50am to allow entry to the school.

Please note that there is no supervision in the school yard prior to 9.50am therefore children should not arrive before this time, unless going to breakfast club.

Wet Intervals/Lunch Time:

The children remain in the classroom. Senior pupils are allocated as monitors to each room to ensure that the children remain in their seats.

The Janitor, Support staff and promoted members of staff supervise the children.

The school year runs from August to June.

School holiday dates and in-service dates are available from the website

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk. Parents are asked to note them, particularly when booking holidays, to ensure that your child does not miss out on schooling.

Transport

South Lanarkshire Council's mainstream school transport policy provides transport for primary school pupils who live one mile or more from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route.

More details on school transport can be found at the following link including the online application form:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/545/school_transport

If you consider your child to be eligible you should complete the online application form. Forms should be submitted before the end of March for those pupils starting school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made.

A privilege transport scheme is operated on mainstream school contracts where a pupil is not entitled to school transport. Privilege Transport will only be provided where there is a space on an existing school contract and will be from and to designated pick-up and drop-off points. It will not be provided where a service bus is used on the school run. Any spare capacity will be allocated using agreed priorities. A new application must be made each year.

More details on Privilege school transport may be found here:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/784/privilege_transport_to_school

Pick-up points

Where school transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point. Walking distance in total, including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction, will not exceed the authority's distance limit for school transport.

It should be noted that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while travelling in, and alighting from, the vehicle. Misbehaviour can result in your child losing the right to school transport.

Parents are asked to note that South Lanarkshire Council does not provide transport for those pupils who attend school via a placing request.

Mainstream School Transport contact details:

e-mail: school_transport@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

tel: 0303 123 1023

Insurance for Pupils' Personal Effects

South Lanarkshire Council has noted an increase in claims for loss or damage to pupils' clothing and personal effects. Please be aware of the Council's insurance policy regarding pupils' personal items:

Insurance for Pupils' Personal Belongings **Personal Items**

- The Council cannot accept responsibility for the loss or theft of personal belongings, including mobile phones, tablets, or other valuables. These are brought to school at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- To reduce the chance of loss, please avoid sending expensive or unnecessary items to school.
- School staff are not permitted to look after pupils' personal belongings.
- This policy also applies to musical instruments and equipment used for school activities. If these items are left at school, it is at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- For valuable items such as musical instruments, parents should make sure they are covered by their own household insurance.

Clothing

- The Council will only consider claims for damage to pupils' clothing if the damage was caused by negligence on the part of the Council or its employees.
- Claims for any other reason cannot be accepted by the Council's insurers.

Promoting positive behaviour

It is the responsibility of staff within the school to ensure that parent council members, parents and pupils are involved in the creation of a positive school ethos that encourages good behaviour. Equally, the school whilst trying to promote positive behaviour must support young people should incidents or bullying occur. Parents have a significant role to play in working with the school so that teachers, parents, and pupils know what is expected of them in trying to change the behaviour and attitudes that contribute to bullying behaviour.

Our approach is to create an environment where better behaviour will encourage better learning. The school, along with the support of parents, can work together to create a learning environment which young people can enjoy and feel safe.

Incidents of bullying should be reported to the school immediately so that each alleged incident can be looked at. Together we can work towards creating a safer school for children and staff.

In addition, a guideline (Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour) has been produced to support all teaching and support staff and inform them of their roles and responsibilities in respect of dealing with the small number of children and young people who display challenging behaviour. Early identification is crucial so that intervention can be provided to support children and young people to help them address their issues and concerns. Staff training is provided to help develop the skills needed to respond to and manage challenging behaviour. A wide range of appropriate staff development opportunities has been developed for this purpose.

Child Protection

All staff in educational establishments in South Lanarkshire Council receive an annual Child Protection update and are required to follow the advice and guidance contained within relevant Education Operating Procedures. They must also complete a mandatory Learn on Line Course "Child Protection in Education".

South Lanarkshire's children's services partnership works together to support children, young people, and their families so that children grow up in communities where they are safe, healthy, active, achieving, respected, responsible and included, and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They are committed to continuously improve our services to ensure children, young people and their families get the right support at the right time.

Sometimes children and young people need additional help to make sure that they are *"cared for and protected from abuse and harm in a safe environment in which their rights are respected"* (CPC South Lanarkshire Child Protection shared vision). The Child Protection Committee has the overarching responsibility to ensure that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people as effectively as possible.

All staff have a responsibility to report any suspicions that a child has been abused or is at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. Robust procedures and guidance are in place to support education staff to: -

- be alert to signs that a child may be experiencing risks to their wellbeing,

- report concerns to the head of establishment or the child protection coordinator without delay.
- be actively engaged in support and protection and development of wellbeing.

If you would like more information, or have a concern of a child protection nature, please contact the head of the educational establishment which your child attends.

The Child Protection Committee's website has a range of useful information for parents/carers to help them keep their children safe.

www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk

Our Commitment to Children's Rights

In line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), our school is committed to respecting and promoting every child's rights. We believe that children have the right to express their views on matters that affect them, and we will actively listen and take these views into account when making decisions.

To achieve this, we will:

- Create opportunities for pupils to share their opinions through class discussions, pupil councils, and consultation activities.
- Ensure that decisions about school policies and practices consider the voice of the child.
- Promote an inclusive, rights-respecting environment where every child feels valued and heard.

This approach supports our aim to empower learners, strengthen partnerships with families, and uphold equality and participation for all.

14. General Data Protection Regulation as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)

Information on pupils, parents and guardians is held by the school to enable the teaching, registration and assessment of pupils as well as associated administrative duties. The information is stored and used as per the requirements of the GDPR, with South Lanarkshire Council defined as the data controller. The Council have established a data protection policy that applies to all of its school.

Education Resources has also prepared a privacy notice (below) which sets out how we will deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority. For more information please contact the school.

Privacy Notice Introduction

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we have produced this privacy notice to inform you how we deal with personal information as part of our statutory function as an education authority.

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver effective education services to children, young people and adult learners in South Lanarkshire. In order to do this we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

Using your personal information

The Council is a “controller” of the personal information you provide when enrolling for a nursery or school, applying for an education service or participating in groups or activities provided by Education Resources.

Information we collect from you about you and your child at enrolment

When you enrol for a nursery or school, we ask for the following information:

- parent/carer contact details (name, address, phone, email);
- the child’s name, date of birth, gender and address;
- information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion and ethnicity;
- any information you may wish to provide about family circumstances.

Information we collect at other times

We will also collect information at other times such as when you apply for a benefit, request a services or other support. We will provide an additional privacy notice at these times.

- If you apply for an education service or benefit, such as school transport, free school meals, clothing grant, placing request or EMA, we will also ask for personal information as set out above. We will also ask for information about your income for education benefits applications.
- If you make a request for additional support such as an educational psychologist or other support for learning we will ask for more detailed information to allow us to provide the most appropriate support for your family. This may include information about family circumstances or medical conditions.
- If there are concerns about your child’s wellbeing and/or your child has needs that may require additional support, we will wish to work with you to collect and consider information to enable us to help you get the right support at the right time in line with the Getting it right for every child approach.

We require this information to ensure that children and young people are educated appropriately, supported, and that we take account of their health and wellbeing. We will also ask you to update this information annually and to tell us when there are changes to your details.

Information that we collect from other sources

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations, we receive information from other sources such as the SQA, the NHS or Social Work about you or your child, this includes:

- exam results and assessment information;
- information about health, wellbeing or child protection.

Why do we need this information?

We need this information so the Council can ensure it is delivering education services appropriately to all learners:

- for the education of children, young people and adult learners;
- for teaching, enrolment and assessment purposes and to monitor the educational progress of children, young people and adult learners ;

- to keep children and young people safe and provide guidance services in school;
- to identify where additional support is needed to help children, young people and adult learners with their learning;
- to maintain records of attendance, absence and behaviour of children and young people (including exclusions);
- to support children and young people moving on each year from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and when they move or leave school;
- to help us develop and improve education services provided for young people, adult learners or families
- In accordance with our legitimate interests as an education authority we will also use your information to create statistical reports.

We will share your information with:

As an education authority and as part of our statutory function in accordance with our legal obligations we will share information with other bodies or parts of the Council, including:

- The Scottish Government and bodies such as Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Skills Development Scotland and other organisations that support children and young people's learning;
- Other parts of the Council when required for services such as school meals, school transport, education benefits and with Social work in connection with any child protection concerns we become aware of;
- The NHS, to support health initiatives in accordance with the legal obligation on the Council in terms of section 39(3) of the National Health Service (Scotland Act 1978);
- South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited, where children and young people are participating in sports and leisure activities;
- Other schools/local authorities – if a child moves or transfers to another school the Council has an obligation to pass on information with regards to pupil records to the new school/local authority.

You have the right to access your personal information as well as the rights of rectification, erasure, restriction and the right to object. For information on these rights and how to exercise them or for information about how we manage your personal information, you can get a copy of our full privacy notice from our website:

(https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200235/meta/1730/general_privacy).

Our full privacy notice will also provide information on how to make a complaint or to request a paper copy of the privacy notice from the Data Protection Officer.

Appendix A

For a comprehensive list of useful information, please visit the Council's website:

http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/1264/curriculum_for_excellence/3

Additional Information

- **Education Scotland's Communication Toolkit:** A resource for engaging with parents.

- **The Scottish Government Guide Principles of Inclusive Communications:**

Offers information on communications and a self-assessment tool for public authorities.

- **Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents:** Provides information on choosing a school and the placing request system.

- **A Guide for Parents About School Attendance:** Explains parental responsibilities regarding children's attendance at school.

Parental Involvement

Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 provides guidance on the act for education authorities, Parent Councils, and others.

Parentzone provide information and resource for parents and Parent Councils National Parent Forum for Scotland; www.npfs.org.uk

School Ethos

Supporting Learners - guidance on the identification, planning and provision of support.

Journey to Excellence - provides guidance and advice about culture and ethos.

Health and wellbeing guidance on healthy living for local authorities and schools.

Building Curriculum for Excellence Through Positive Behaviour and Relationships outlines the Scottish Government's priority actions around positive behaviour in schools and is also a source of support.

Scottish Catholic Education Service's resource 'This is Our Faith' which supports the teaching and learning of Catholic religious education.

Curriculum

Information about how the curriculum is structured and curriculum planning.

Information about the outcomes a learner can expect to experience and achieve across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, as well as the 8 curricular areas.

Advice, practice, and resources to support the experiences and outcomes on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

Broad General Education in the Secondary School – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Information on the Senior Phase

Information on Skills for learning, life, and work

Information around the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' programme

Information for organisations responsible for the planning, management and delivery of career information, advice, and guidance services

The Skills Development Scotland website 'My World of Work' offers a number of tools to support career planning.

Assessment and Reporting

Building the Curriculum 5: a framework for assessment provides guidance around the assessment framework.

Information about Curriculum for Excellence levels and how progress is assessed.

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - Assessment and qualifications.

Information on recognising achievement, reporting, and profiling.

The Scottish National Standardised Assessment- in Scotland, pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3 complete online standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy as part of their everyday learning and teaching.

Transitions

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - 3-18 Transitions - provides information on the transitions children and young people will face throughout their education and beyond.

Career Information, Advice and Guidance in Scotland - A Framework for Service Redesign and Improvement provides guidance on career information, advice, and guidance strategy.

Choices and changes provides information about choices made at various stages of learning.

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs.

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice includes specific requirements on education authorities and others under the new legislation in relation to transition.

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning.

Parenting Across Scotland offers support to children and families in Scotland.

Support for Pupils

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs.

Information about the universal entitlement to support that underpins Curriculum for Excellence.

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition) - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended.

Getting It Right for Every Child and Young Person, is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers.

School Improvement

Scottish Schools Online - provides a range of school information, including contact details, school roll, facilities, website, inspection reports.

Education Scotland's Inspection and review page provides information on the inspection process.

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

Scottish Qualifications Authority provides information for teachers, parents, employers, and young people on qualifications.

Amazing Things - information about youth awards in Scotland.

Information on how to access statistics relating to School Education.

National policies, information and guidance can be accessed **from the Scottish Government website on www.gov.scot with an update on school inspection outcomes being available via the Education Scotland website.**