

HT Report – Parent Partnership AGM Sept 2019

I continue to be immensely proud of the work that has taken place in our School, with things moving forward at pace during session 2018-19. Guided by The Downfield Promise (the promise our school community make to each other to ensure our pupils – your children – get the best start in life, we continue to be a school that is talked about- hopefully for all the right reasons! To illustrate this our school has been asked on many occasions last session to present on the work we are doing here – at national equality conferences, to new and aspirant HTs from DCC, PKC and Angus, and to our Regional improvement partners across Tayside most recently, where we were asked to talk about how our school improvement journey has been supported by an inclusive and aspirational school vision.

We are fortunate to have a leadership team and colleagues who work well together and support each other. Our plan over the last 31/2 years was to ensure that there was a positive school culture where children and families and staff were happy in school, feel welcome and safe. We wanted a purposeful happy buzz about the place, but also ensuring that the core business of quality learning and teaching across the school was evident too. We have had a relentless focus on ensuring that effective whole school approaches to Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing including nurture, were developed alongside some general research-based approaches to impact on all learning across the school. We have introduced whole school approaches to Spelling, Reading, Writing, Numeracy and SALT approaches N-P2 over the last 3 years. We have focused on High Impact Teaching Strategies - Effective feedback, setting goals and targets including LI and SC, differentiated teaching approaches and questioning. This important work has been a huge undertaking in a relatively short period of time. So, this year our plan is to embed all this good practice with 2 lenses to focus our thinking – **quality and consistency**. Staff will work together to ensure that all of this is done to a consistently high level with no new Lit/Num L&T pedagogy introduced. This school session we also plan to look at, alongside embedding and refining what we have done over the last 3 years, developing the wider curriculum – so a focus on such areas as French, the arts – music /drama /dance and Sciences and Technologies and RME. This will further enhance the pupils’ school experience. My team have already signed up to development groups to undertake this work, playing to the expertise and experience of individual team members.

At this time, we are almost ready to share the improvement report for the last session with parents and carers. This document is a review of progress throughout the year and touches upon much that I have talked through this evening already. We track every pupil’s attainment at times throughout the school year. A quick look at our attainment results in June told a positive story – an improved picture with raised attainment in all areas at all stages, although as always, there is still plenty room for improvement with some continued improvements required with writing and numeracy.

**Attainment Data 2018- 2019**

(percentages)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Talking and Listening** | **Numeracy**  |
| **Primary 1**(CFE Early Level) | **72 %** | **67 %** | **81 %** | **77 %** |
| **Primary 4**(CFE 1st Level) | **77 %** | **66 %** | **81 %** | **69 %** |
| **Primary 7**(CFE 2nd Level) | **76 %** | **65 %** | **78 %** | **61 %** |

I am continually delighted at the sterling work of my team, and no more so than last session. Everyone should be commended for their work and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents and carers who work with us so well to support positive outcomes for the pupils. This work often goes on behind the scenes but when parents work with us it really does make a difference.

Our school has begun the new year with a stable staff team, largely unchanged with few only a few changes. Our school roll has grown significantly over the last 3 years, again an indicator of a positive school reputation within the local community. Our roll main school P1-7 now sits at 417 this year, we have gained almost 40 children in 3 years. It has been an exciting start to the year. We have been fortunate in appointing a couple of new staff into our nursery and Mrs Yvonne Milliken into our support team with a focus on LAC (previously Baldragon). She has already shown that she will be a real asset to our school.

We have created a very focused School Improvement Plan, further enhanced by our Pupil Equity Funding projects. The main focus of this year’s plan is:

* Embed L & T approaches – Lit, num, HITS, Nurture, SALT (E)
* Develop the wider curriculum experiences for the children including trips (O)
* Fully roll out mindfulness approaches for all children (S)
* Use of PEF – additional staffing (SFL/Support), dev sensory room, targeted approaches for lit/num for some children, Place 2 Be Counselling (S,P,M, I), ATTENDANCE

We continued to invite parents into school more often for ‘sharing the learning’ and parent contact, offering parents a wide variety of opportunities to come in and see what and how the pupils are learning. These, as always, are well-attended – a great indicator, we hope, of a continuing growth in confidence in the school and the improving level of parental partnership we enjoy here at Downfield.

What’s to come?

* Broadening out of our Nurture approaches and outdoor learning for more children
* Wider curricular experiences - CIT GRPS LIST P1 / 2 Kodaly, P3/4 big sing/intergenerational, P5 SFA Football & Swimming, P6 Samba drumming & Swimming, P7 Residential experience Sept.
* Sharing the learning events to continue and higher levels of parental involvement in life of school – difference in reporting to parents SEEMIS/Bi-annual Reports
* Continue to build the positive working relationship between school and parent partnership, with a focus on outdoor spaces. Thanks to PP and particularly Alec Menzies and your Chair John Anderson McGuinness for their support with gaining funding and expertise in this area. It was such a complex project to get off the ground – I genuinely mean I couldn’t have done it without you both! We are planning an official opening of the play equipment 20th Sept – all invited. We hope to then ask for further funding for our next outdoor project, info to follow regarding this.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the parents from PP, parents and carers for their help and support last year and moving forward. I am enjoy me role here and am proud to be head teacher of this amazing school, although sometimes it is not an easy school to lead! I have been here now for almost 4 years. Downfield is a dynamic school, with a diverse catchment and an unmistakeable buzz. We are a school of high ambition and my aspiration for us is that we will grow and develop into a sector leading and highly effective school. Our catchment provides us with challenges at times, but partnership – an important aspect of the Downfield Promise, will key to us achieving our ambitious aspiration. We have all the key components to make it happen. Exciting times ahead for us.

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| Our VisionRelationships & Nurture

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 | We look to nurture in our children **positive attitudes** to **learning**, **achievement**, **relationships** and to support them to develop a **growth mindset**. We support the children and each other to develop the **skills** our children need to enable them to live fulfilling lives and to make a **positive contribution** to our community and the wider world. |

Partnerships & Community

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| Image result for downfield primary school dundee |

 | To this end, we build effective **partnerships** with our **families** and the wider **community** so that together we can share the important task of preparing our children for the opportunities and challenges of the future. |

Opportunities, attributes, skills & dreams

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 | We do this so that our children can maximize their potential, are aware of the **opportunities** life has to offer. We want our children to have the skills and attributes they need so they **can do, have and be what they want in life and follow their dreams.** |

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