

2023-2024

Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School & Early Years Setting



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Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, allow me to welcome you to the Penicuik area and to Sacred Heart Primary School and Early Years Setting. You are now an integral part of our school community and, together, it is our responsibility to provide the best possible learning experiences for our children and to enhance the excellent ethos of our school community. We aim to set a high standard for learning and achievement, behaviour and manners and have a high expectation of our children, our staff team and our school community as a whole.

Whilst Sacred Heart is a Roman Catholic school, with strong links to Sacred Heart Parish and our parish priest, Fr Kevin Okpala, we are pleased that parents with different faith backgrounds choose our school community for their children.

This booklet has been produced for parents/carers. If your child is about to start school for the first time or you have moved into the area, the booklet will give you some initial information about Sacred Heart Primary School and Early Years Setting.

It is designed to give you information on day-to-day organisation, curriculum and assessment, the role of the Education and Communities Division and the involvement of partner agencies. It also provides details of the responsibilities of parents/carers in relation to their child's attendance, punctuality and behaviour.

However, I would like to begin by highlighting the school's "Vision, Values and Aims", created through the input of our children, parents, staff and members of the wider community. This sets out to present clear and concise statements on the aspirations of our school and equally to give a starting point for dialogue with parents/carers.

By selecting Sacred Heart as your preferred school of choice you will have already identified with these aims and we are already well on the way to building the co-operation and partnership between home, school, local and parish community which will be of crucial importance throughout our children's education.

Once again, welcome to the Sacred Heart family. I'm sure that this will be the beginning of a long and happy partnership as we endeavour to provide the highest quality learning experiences for your child.

Yours sincerely, Síobhra Cran Acting Head Teacher

Vision, Values & Aims

School Vision:

'Aspire, Nurture, Learn, Achieve'

School Mission Statement:

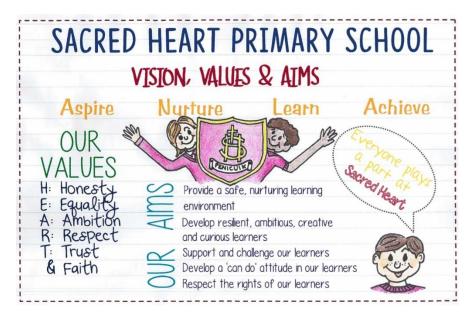
'Everyone plays a part at Sacred Heart'

School Values:

H: Honesty E: Equality A: Ambition R: Respect T: Trust & Faith

School Aims:

- To provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can grow in confidence, take risks, make informed decisions, learn from mistakes and develop a 'can do attitude'.
- To provide appropriate support and challenge to our children to foster ambition, creativity, curiosity and the capacity to achieve their full potential.
- To foster a lifelong love of learning and recognise the positive contribution they can make to society now and in future
- To uphold the rights of the child and ensure all children feel valued, respected and included
- To encourage our children to make healthy life choices, build resilience & demonstrate perseverance





Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland



The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

All staff appointed to a Catholic school are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.

For more information, contact SCES. Tel: 0141 556 4727, email: mail@sces.uk.com or visit www.sces.uk.com

Our School

Address:

Sacred Heart RC Primary School & Early Years Setting, 22a Crockett Gardens, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 9BB

Telephone: 0131 271 4665 **Email:** sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

School Roll

Our school is a co-educational primary school and the roll for 2023-2024 is presently 125 pupils (excluding nursery).

The maximum number of children that can be taught in each primary school class from August 2007 is given below:

Stage	Maximum Class Size
P1 Single Stage Class	25 pupils
P2-P3 Single Stage Class	30 pupils
P4-P7 Single Stage Class	33 pupils
Composite Class (of more than 1 stage)	25 pupils

Our School

Our school building consists of the following:

- an extended administration wing with large foyer
- a senior management office and meeting space
- a staffroom
- a fully equipped kitchen
- a dining hall with servery hatch for school lunches
- an additional purpose-built servery hatch for breakfast club and other school events
- an open-plan early years area for Nursery and Primary 1 with free flow to an outdoor learning space
- three classrooms within the 'middle corridor'
- an Expressive Arts room with mirrored wall
- a support for learning base
- a 'Space 2 Be' room
- a breakout space for additional group learning
- unisex toilets for middle corridor
- three classrooms within the 'upper corridor'
- male and female changing rooms
- a large gym hall
- unisex toilets for upper corridor

Sacred Heart has a landscaped field area, an astro-turf area and two small tarmacadamed play areas for all-weather play. A fully-landscaped play area for Nursery and Primary 1 has also been developed, which allows for free flow between the indoors and the outdoors for our Early Years learners.

Our School

Bringing your child to and from school

Children come on foot from two directions: down Crockett Gardens to the north of the school and from the leisure centre car park through the gate directly into the school playground on the south side. All car users should use the leisure centre car park for safe dropping off and collecting of children.

Transport

All 5 to 21 olds living in Scotland are entitled to free bus travel through the Young Scot/National Entitlement Card. You can apply online at freebus.scot

Where a pupil attends their catchment primary school and:

- lives more than two miles from it by walking route, or
- there is not a suitable walking route

and there is no public transport available, the council will arrange school transport.

If your child has a place in the complex needs provision you should refer to your Education Resource Group (ERG) decision letter for details about school transport.

Parents who choose to send their children to a school other than their catchment school will not receive assistance in relation to travel to and from school.

Secondary Education

After completing P7, children from Sacred Heart transfer to St David's RC High School in Dalkeith

During P7 (and often during P5 and P6 in addition), invitations are issued to children and parents to go and have a look around St David's High School. There is a two-day induction period in June just before the children leave primary school. There are usually enhanced transition arrangements for pupils with additional support needs and transition camps for learners are arranged for the summer term.

Some of our learners choose to attend Penicuik High School or Beeslack High School. Similar transition opportunities are also organised with these schools. Please note a placement request is required for enrolment at these schools.

The School Day

<u>Nursery</u>

All children in our nursery receive 1140 hours of childcare. In line with Scottish Government childcare policy, this is a legal entitlement for all 3 year olds which has been in place since August 2021.

Our Nursery operates on the 38 week model, which will allow our children access to our setting during term time only, in line with the school year.

Nursery hours are as follows: *Monday – Thursday:* Drop off: 8:40am – 8.50am Pick up: 3.05pm -3.15pm

Friday:

Drop off: 8.40am - 8.50am Pick up: 12.10pm - 12.20pm

All pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 are in school for a total of 25 hours per week. Our school times for all pupils are:

Monday — Thursday	8:50am - 10:30am
	10:45am - 12:30pm
	1:15pm – 3:15pm

Friday

8:50am - 10:30am 10:45am - 12:25pm

- Nursery children enter and leave by the main nursery door, where they will be greeted and handed over by a member of our Nursery team.
- Primary 1–4 children line up in the playground at the back of the school, this can be accessed via the Crockett Gardens gate.
- Primary 5 7 children line up in the playground that can be accessed via the Penicuik Leisure Centre Car Park. P5-7 should enter the playground on their own unless adult support is specifically required due to additional support needs.

- Any child attending breakfast club should enter the school building via the main school door.
- Any child who arrives late should ensure that they enter the school building via the main school door so that their attendance can be marked by office staff.

From 8.00 onwards children from Primary 1 – Primary 7 can attend our Breakfast Club. Our breakfast club is sponsored by Gregg's and is free of charge to all children. Breakfast consists of cereal, toast, fruit, yoghurts and squash. Children not attending the Breakfast Club may play in the playground from 8.45am until the start of the school day at 8.50 if they wish but there is no school adult supervision and we insist that a parent or carer is on hand to ensure that children are safe and sensible.

Our Early Years Setting

Our nursery currently has the capacity for 64 full time places. Our building has a purpose-built 'Early Years Setting', which houses our Primary 1 class and our Nursery class.

The proximity of our nursery setting and our Primary 1 classroom, as well as the close working relationship between our Early Years staff team, allows us to provide excellent transition opportunities to support our nursery children on their move to primary school.

We work hard to ensure our setting is a calming and natural environment and resource it to engage all the children through a variety of rich learning opportunities to support individual children's interests and development.

Both Nursery and Primary 1 have access to a dedicated, secure outdoor area. We consider our outdoor environment as an extension of the indoors and provide lots of engaging and motivating outdoor learning opportunities. We also use our local area and the woods to further extend our learning.

We follow a 'learn through play' approach within our Early Years Setting and use this to inform both our practice and planning, which we do on a fortnightly basis.

"To a child, play is about having fun, but to society it is much more. Play is essential to healthy development from birth to adulthood, contributing to capacity for learning, resilience and the development of physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills." (Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision).



🔤 For our nursery learners, all snacks and lunches are provided

Staffing

*Some of this information will vary from year to year due to personnel changes.

For the 2023-2024 Session, Sacred Heart staffing is as follows:

Acting Head Teacher Acting Deputy Head Teacher P1 Teacher P2 Teacher P3/4 Teacher P4/5 Teacher P5/6 Teacher P7 Teacher/Acting Principal Teacher

Senior Early Years Practitioner Early Years Practitioner Early Years Practitioner Early Years Practitioner Early Years Practitioner

Support for Learning Teacher Support for Learning Teacher Teacher of Modern Languages Learning Assistants (also playground and lunch supervisors)

Administration Assistant Cleaner Cleaner Kitchen Supervisor Kitchen Assistant Kitchen Assistant Kitchen Assistant Caretaker School Chaplain Síobhra Cran Lilly Learmonth Lauren Maxwell Kirsty Montgomery Leeanne Rudkin Colin Hutchinson Erin Dunleavy Alison Hardie

Joanne Lamb Kirsty Brown Kerrie Dolphin Linda Edgar Suzanne Hunter

Lilly Learmonth Kimberley Anderson Marian Sargison Karen Halliday Kerrylee Shaw Mary Hadwen Karen Murray Hazel Howat Irene Ker Sarah Lister Lisa Carlin Tracy Smith Pauline Baillie Michelle Wakefield Natalie Black Andrew Murray Father Kevin Okpala

Enrolment Procedures

Parents and carers wishing to explore whether Sacred Heart is the right school for their child are invited to make an appointment to meet the headteacher or depute head teacher and look around the school.

Enrolment week for children entering P1 normally occurs in the November before their August start but dates will be confirmed on an annual basis. You will receive a letter from Midlothian Council indicating your catchment area school(s). Should parents decide to send their child to Sacred Heart when it is outwith their catchment area, then they must make a Placement Request to: *Pupil Placement, Fairfield House, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZG.*

Special rules apply to Placement Requests and no child is guaranteed a place in a school that is outwith his/her catchment area. Sacred Heart Primary's catchment covers all Penicuik and surrounding areas. Please enquire if you wish to check you are in our catchment area.

'In the case of Roman Catholic schools, where applications from those living within the catchment area exceed the number of places available, the Education Division will give priority to those applicants whose children have siblings at the school and applicants who have a declared affinity with the religious beliefs of the school.' *Admission to Primary and Secondary Schools, Midlothian Council, 1998*

The Education (Additional Support for Learning (Scotland)) Act 2004 introduced a new framework for providing for children who require some additional help with their learning. If parents are enrolling a child who requires any kind of extra support they are invited to discuss their child's needs in detail with the headteacher so that staff can provide appropriate help and guidance.

The School Curriculum



The purpose of the curriculum is encapsulated in the four capacities - to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

The curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future, and to appreciate their place in the world. The attributes and capabilities of the four capacities are outlined below:

successful learners	confident individuals	responsible citizens	effective contributors
attributes	attributes • self-respect • a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being • secure values and beliefs • ambition capabilities • relate to others and manage themselves • pursue a healthy and active lifestyle • be self-aware • develop and communicate their own beliefs and view of the world • live as independently as they can • assess risk and make informed decisions • achieve success in different areas of activity.	attributes • respect for others • commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life capabilities • develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it • understand different beliefs and cultures • make informed choices and decisions • evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues • develop informed, ethical views of complex issues.	attributes

Developing the four capacities

The experiences and outcomes are a set of statements which describe the expectations for learning and progression for each of the eight curriculum areas (see below).

The title 'experiences and outcomes' recognises the importance of the quality and nature of the learning experience in developing attributes and capabilities and in achieving active engagement, motivation and depth of learning. An outcome represents what is to be achieved.

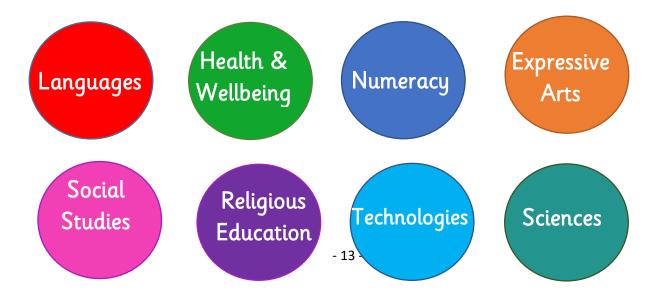
The experiences and outcomes for each curriculum area build in all the attributes and capabilities and so develop the four capacities.



The design of the curriculum revolves around seven principles...:

- o challenge and enjoyment
- \circ breadth
- o progression
- o depth
- \circ personalisation and choice
- \circ coherence
- \circ relevance

...through eight curricular areas:



The School Curriculum

Sacred Heart Primary is committed to an inclusive approach to learning and teaching and regularly involves our learners in the planning and development of lessons to ensure high levels of engagement and a child-centred focus:

Expressive Arts:

Participation in performances and presentations Art and Design Drama Music

- Nativity, Easter and Summer Shows are performed in the last week of these terms. Primaries 1-3 perform in the Nativity, Primaries 4 & 5 in the Easter performance and Primaries 6 & 7 perform in the Summer Show.
- P6 and P7 children can also opt to have brass, clarsach, violin, brass and woodwind tuition. Lesson availability will be dependent on staffing.

Health and Wellbeing:

<u>Mental, emotional, social and</u> <u>physical wellbeing</u> Mental and emotional wellbeing Social wellbeing Physical wellbeing	<u>PE, physical activity and sport</u> Physical education Physical activity and sport Physical activity and health
<u>Food and health</u> Nutrition Safe and hygienic practices Food and the consumer	<u>Substance misuse</u>
<u>Planning for choices and changes</u>	<u>Relationships, sexual health and</u> <u>parenthood</u> RSHP lessons are delivered through the 'God's Loving Plan' programme. This is supported by the national resource, which can be found at rshp.scot

In the physical aspect of health and wellbeing we study:

- nutrition
- hygiene/taking care of our bodies
- drugs
- safety
- physical education
- dance

Guidance is given in the Curriculum for Excellence programmes. If you wish to look at these please visit the Education Scotland website or ask the school for a copy of these guidelines.

Playback ICE - Knowing Me Knowing You

In response to the increasing prevalence of mental health conditions among children, we have developed a partnership with Playback ICE, which will allow us to support learners' health and wellbeing and social and emotional development.

This comprehensive and engaging resource has been written in collaboration with a range of early years and primary professionals and provides a building block approach to children's social and emotional learning about themselves and others.

There is a growing recognition that healthy, social and emotional development advances children's success in school and life. Social and emotional learning helps children academically and supports them in being engaged life-long learners who are self-aware, caring and connected to others.

Knowing Me, Knowing You supports the core principles of Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC, Scotland) and Every Child Matters (UK)





Inclusion • Citizenship • Equality



THE ICE PACK

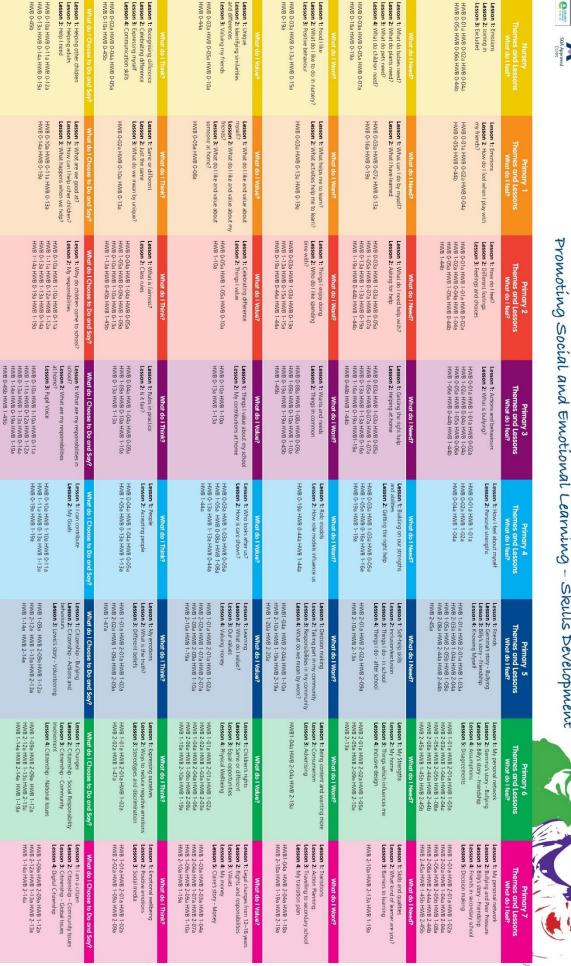
KINOWING ME, KINOWING YOU

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Promoting Social and Emotional Learning - Skills Development



E: administrator@playbackice.com T: 0131 453 5514

14.026 Playback ICE @ 2014

We encourage our learners to speak about their wellbeing on a termly basis, through completion of a wellbeing survey, in which they engage with the 8 wellbeing indicators as outlined in GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) – Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible & Included.

All pupils also identify a 'Champion' in school, who they can speak to if they have anything the feel they wish or need to share.

"Every Child deserves

an adult who will never give up on them

who understands the power of connection

and **INSISTS** that they

become the best

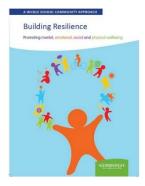
they Can possibly be." -Rita Pierson

Space2Be

As part of our efforts to support children's mental health and wellbeing, we have set up a 'Space2Be' room. This space will act as a multi-purpose room: it can be a space where children can go to help them to self-regulate; it can be a private space where a child can speak to their champion; it can be a multi-sensory space; a space where children can take part in mindfulness



sessions or sessions of reflection — it is a space for children to be children and for their individual needs to be supported.



Building Resilience: Promoting mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing

This Health and Wellbeing Programme aims to take children on a personal journey to look at what influences their mental health and emotional wellbeing, through the mix of teaching, reflection, multimedia and interactive activities. It has gathered together best practice to bring a new set of materials which

reflect the advances in research and developments in this area.

Learning through Health and Wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.

Building Resilience provides a focus for the whole school community, promoting partnerships with families and the wider school community.

It aims to help children to function well, both at school and in life. It provides practical strategies to help them cope with the ups and downs of their everyday lives and tools they can use when they experience difficulties, frustrations and challenging times. Use of the Building Resilience materials will provide children with skills for life.

Building Resilience is made up of twelve units which are delivered over a three year period. The ten main units focus on each of ten strategies that support the development of resilience.

Languages:

At Sacred Heart, we aim for all our children to become fluent, confident readers who are passionate about reading.

Children who read regularly or are read to regularly have the opportunity to open the doors to so many different worlds! More importantly, reading will give your child the tools to become independent life-long learners.

We can achieve this together through:

- Read Write Inc. a program to help to your child read at school
- Encouraging children to develop a love of books by reading to them daily, at home and at school
- Participating in Novel studies over the course of the school year
- Giving children access to a wide range of books at school and at home

In Primary 1 and Primary 2, we use Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI) to give your child the best possible start with their literacy. This literacy programme helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.

Talk for Writing (T4W) Literacy Approach

Sacred Heart Primary implemented the 'Talk for Writing' approach to learning English this



year. This will be alternated alongside our whole class 'Novel Studies'; which our children have expressed their enjoyment of. The staff have had full training in both the teaching pedagogy and application of this programme - which has been hugely successful in raising pupil engagement and achievement in the other schools. Talk for Writing was devised by the eminent author and educationalist, Pie Corbett. He believes that children make most progress when learning in a structured, active and fun way.

Talk for Writing encourages children to become actively involved with the genre they are exploring – there are no passengers on this journey! They work together to imitate key language patterns found in quality texts of different genres. Orally learning texts helps the children to 'tune in' to language patterns and phrases that can be accessed later when writing independently. By building the children's capacity to memorise texts, they are developing the skills and tools to structure their own writing as an author would for that genre.

Talk for Writing follows a stepped approach and is usually completed over a period of three weeks...

Further information

Schools around the country, which have embedded the Talk for Writing approach, have been successful in raising attainment and improving progress of children's writing. At Sacred Heart we are thoroughly enjoying teaching and learning in this style and it already is showing how our children are wonderful story-tellers.

For more information about Talk for Writing, click on the link below.

http://www.talk4writing.co.uk/about/

Languages:

Listening & Talking	<u>Reading</u>
Enjoyment and choice	Enjoyment and choice
Tools for listening and talking	Tools for reading
Finding and using information	Finding and using information
Understanding, analysing and	Understanding, analysing and
evaluating	evaluating
<u>Writing</u> Enjoyment and choice Tools for Writing Organising and Using information Creating Texts	French French teaching and learning is supported throughout the school by Mrs Sargison. A second language is covered within a specific context, such as IDL learning, over the course of the school session.

Numeracy & Mathematics:

Number, Money and Measure	Shape, Position and Movement
Estimation and rounding	Properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects
Number and number processes Multiples, factors and primes Powers and roots	Angle, symmetry and transformation Position and movement
Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages Money Time	<u>Information Handling</u> Data and analysis Ideas of chance and uncertainty
Measurement Patterns and relationships Expressions and equations	
	l its impact on the world

Religious Education:

Catholic Christianity	Other World Religions
Mystery of God	Beliefs
In the Image of God	Values and issues
Revealed Truth of God	Practices and traditions
Son of God	
Signs of God	
Word of God	
Hours of God	
Reign of God	

We use This is Our Faith as our basic religious education programme, and prepare our children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in P3, First Holy Communion in P4 and Confirmation in P7, supported by Father Kevin Okpala and Deacon Tom McEvoy. Prayers are said four times a day (Morning Prayer, Grace Before Meals, Grace After Meals, Evening Prayer) and we have regular Masses and services in school and in the parish church.

Whilst we are a Roman Catholic school, and base our aims and values on the precepts of the church, we welcome the diversity and richness of culture that children of all faith backgrounds bring to our school.

Sciences:

Pupils across the school follow a three year 'cycle' framework covering all key areas of the Science curriculum to ensure appropriate breadth and depth of coverage over the course of a pupil's time at Sacred Heart. (See Science Map)

Social Studies:

Similar to the Science curriculum, pupils across the school also follow a three year cycle in Social Studies to ensure coverage of all experiences and outcomes. (See Social Studies Map)

Technologies:

To participate fully in society, today's children must be aware of technologies which are rapidly developing and changing. Information Technologies' outcomes are taught and delivered through all areas of the curriculum, e.g. use of ipad apps, P.C programs, word processing and research skills are taught using a range of technological devices. All children from P1-P7 are given a personal 1:1 device to support their learning. By ensuring that all our pupils are provided with a device by the council, we are helping to achieve equality in learning and raise attainment. Learners in P1-3 receive an Ipad and learners in P4-7 receive a chromebook.

Design outcomes are delivered through the 'Social Studies' programmes and Art programmes.

Food Technologies is delivered through Health and Wellbeing growing and cooking programmes.

Extra Curricular Activities

Sacred Heart offers pupils the opportunity to play a variety of sports and activities both during and out with the school day. These include:

Swimming	• Skiing
 Rugby 	 Basketball
Badminton	 Hockey
 Football 	Cricket

There are various after-school clubs offered through the Active Schools programme



throughout the year. The clubs offered vary from year to year. Please contact the school office if you would like some more information on this.

The school also offers after-school activities and lunchtime activities at various points throughout the academic year (dependent on staff and parent helpers). An example of some clubs that have been run in the past are:

Art Club	Gardening Club
Tennis Club	 Football Club
Singing Club	Reading Club
Film Club	 Book Club

Our residential policy states that:

- The staff at Sacred Heart Primary are committed to giving their pupils the widest experiences possible, within the bounds of maximum safety and security.
- Staff will follow the guidelines set out in 'Health and Safety on Educational Excursions, A Good Practice Guide', SEED (Edinburgh, 2004) for every outing.
- Parents and carers will be consulted and involved in the planning and execution of any visit.
- Children's physical, emotional and behavioural needs will be taken into account and support will be given so that all children can be involved, wherever possible.
- Staff will participate in residential visits on a voluntary basis.
- We will introduce the idea of going out of school as a group from Nursery and our Nursery and P1 learners will go on a range of day trips over the course of the school session.
- P2 will attend a day trip to Bonaly Residential Centre or similar alternative where necessary.
- From P3 onwards, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in overnight residentials in various locations.
- P7 will have the opportunity to attend a Cluster Residential for those going together to high school during the months of May and June.
- All visits will be evaluated and the children's reactions and next steps noted.

Assessment of Pupil Progress

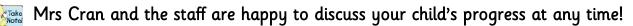
The school uses three ways to assess how children are progressing:

- Summative assessment assesses learning by tests, assessments, tick sheets, multiple choice questions, end of project questions, etc. The school also uses Standardised Assessments to measure attainment in mathematics, spelling and reading. While children learn at their own pace, general guidelines state that the majority of children should be working through the Early Level in Nursery & P1, the First Level in P2, P3 & P4 and the Second Level in P5, P6 & P7.
- Formative assessment is assessment through learning. Staff ensure that children understand what they are learning and why. Lessons are reviewed to ensure that criteria are met. The children are trained to assess their own progress as they are learning and set personal targets along with their teachers;
- Diagnostic assessment is used to assess what a pupil knows and identify their next steps. These can often take place at the beginning of a series of lessons to support planning and at the end of the same series of lessons to show progress.
- Where teachers identify that a pupil may need some additional support, Miss Learmonth, our Support for Learning teacher, will complete a series of additional assessments and develop a 'Targeted Learning Profile'. Miss Learmonth will liaise regularly with class teachers and will meet with parents periodically to discuss progress and next steps of a pupil with a Targeted Learning Profile.

Reporting & Celebration

Sacred Heart hosts a 'Meet the Teacher' event in September where parents will be given information on what the children will be learning throughout the year. Pupils' progress and next steps will be shared regularly on our reporting platform, Seesaw, which will give parents a snapshot of the learning their child is doing at school and provide excellent opportunities to discuss learning at home. A report on the pupil's general success as a learner over the course of the year will also be issued in June in addition to the information provided on Seesaw.

The school offers two formal opportunities for parents and carers to speak about their child's progress with the teaching staff during Parents Evening. 'Share the Learning' events are held throughout the session to celebrate the school's achievements, to show work and to offer parents and carers an opportunity to take part in workshops.



Meeting Learners' Needs

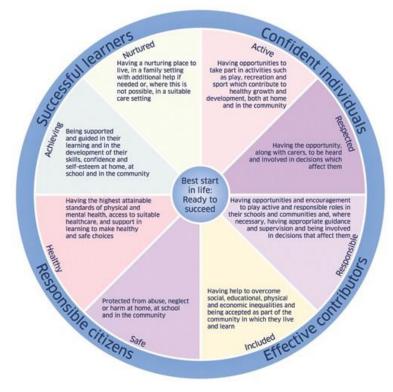
Within the school, the support system for children consists of the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, Principal Teacher, Class Teacher, Support for Learning (SfL) and Support Staff and partner agencies. The principle behind this is that all pupils should receive appropriate levels of support from one or all of the systems available to them.

All school staff and partner agencies in partnership with parents/carer have an important role to play in a whole-school approach to teaching and learning of all children with a particular emphasis on those children with additional needs of short or long term nature.

A multi-agency approach is employed to support young people and their families where necessary. Regular internal reviews (with appropriate agencies) and annual multi agency reviews take place to reflect, inform and update on the young person's progress and daily support. This takes place in liaison with school staff to ensure that appropriate levels and working strategies are in place.

Individual Education Plans are written and reviewed with the child and parents/carers regularly. At the annual review parents/carers and the pupil are given a stakeholder's questionnaire to complete. The Class teacher and SfL teacher work in partnership with parents/carers who are kept informed of the child's progress at every stage.

At Sacred Heart Primary we take great pride in our approach to inclusion and value all children. We ensure we provide the highest possible learning experience for all children.



School Improvement Plan

Copies of our School Improvement Plan are available on request or on our school website - sacredheart.mgfl.net

What we will improve	How we will improve this	The impact on learners that this will have
Curriculum design	All teachers will embed the Midlothian Council Literacy & Numeracy progressions Early to Second Level.	All learners will have a consistent, coherent and progressive programme of learning in Literacy & Numeracy.
	All teachers will engage with the curriculum progressions for all other subject areas to support planning and ensure adequate challenge within lessons	All learners will experience greater challenge and greater progress in learning
	Curriculum bundling of E's and O's within three year cycles	All learners will receive their full curriculum entitlement
Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Engagement with Local Authority Raising Attainment Strategy	All learners will receive timely and constructive feedback to improve learning
	Support from Raising Attainment team to improve learning and teaching of Literacy and Numeracy	All class teachers will have the opportunity to develop their practice through observations and professional dialogue, leading to improved learning opportunities for learners
	Engagement with data to improve attainment	Through moderation opportunities, all teaching
	Regular attainment monitoring	staff will be supported to make robust judgements on the achievement of a level
	Peer observation trios	
	SLT observation	Learners requiring support will be identified earlier and opportunities for early intervention will be maximised
	Review of Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy	
	Practitioner Enquiry linked to 'Big 5'	
	Moderation opportunities	

	Improved approaches to tracking attainment over time	
Play-based learning in the Early Years	Improvement opportunities for play throughout early level Continue to develop the planning, observation and assessment cycle within the ELC Collegiate work between Nursery and P1 to develop practice Primary 1 teacher to visit other settings to observe good practice	Learning through play in the Early Years will become embedded and routine and provide rich opportunities for learning
Celebration and tracking of wider achievements across the school	Whole school display will track and celebrate wider achievements of learners School staff will run extracurricular clubs to ensure all learners have access to opportunities for wider achievement	All learners will have the opportunity to participate in wider achievements within the school Learners who do not have the same opportunities for wider achievement at home will be supported and presented with opportunities at school
Children's wellbeing	Regular wellbeing assemblies, focusing on the wellbeing indicators Relaunch of school champions using QR codes/google forms to request champion check ins Termly engagement with GIRFEC survey to monitor wellbeing over time Development of champions policy with learners and wider stakeholders	Almost all learners will be able to explain the wellbeing indicators and what they mean The GIRFEC survey results will show an overall upward trend in how children are feeling at school, in relation to the wellbeing indicator All learners will understand the role of a champion in school and how it impacts them.

<u>A Midlothian Learner</u>

Schools across Midlothian are working to develop the qualities and attributes we feel all learners should have. Pupils engage with the poster below to support them on their journey towards becoming a Midlothian learner:



School Uniform

"School uniforms send out a strong signal that a school is firmly committed to developing a positive ethos. A school with a positive ethos will encourage achievement, celebrate successes, have high expectations of every child, have lower exclusion rates and fewer discipline problems." Jack McConnell, First Minister, 2001

Sacred Heart Primary strongly encourages the wearing of uniform in school. The uniform consists of:

Primary 1-2	Primary 3-7
School Uniform	School Uniform
maroon sweatshirt	white shirt
maroon polo-shirt	school tie
Grey or black trousers or skirt	v-necked maroon sweatshirt
	Grey or black trousers or skirt
P1-7 PE Kit	
(Learners will have PE at least twice a week. PE days will be communicated at the	
beginning of the session)	
black shorts or joggers,	
white t-shirts	
black gym shoes.	
Coloured House hoodies may also be worn	
(Embroidered school white t-shirts can be ordered from the uniform supplier, if desired)	

We discourage the wearing of expensive clothing which may get dirty or torn. Uniform orders can be placed at any point during the academic year, with the main bulk of ordering being placed towards the end of the session in time for the new school year. The Office of Fair Trading requires the school to remind parents that maroon sweatshirts, fleeces and polo-shirts may be bought at high street stores at more competitive prices that the school can offer.

Clothing Financial Assistance

If you would benefit from help with clothes or shoes:

"The Authority operates a scheme of clothing grants to assist parents in ensuring that a pupil is sufficiently and suitably clad to take full advantage of the education provided. Families in receipt of Income-based Job Seekers allowance, on Income Support or Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit (subject to a maximum annual income), both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit (subject to a maximum annual income) or support under Part VI or the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will automatically qualify for such a scheme. Other cases will be determined according to the personal circumstances of the family. Parents who wish to apply for the scheme should complete an application form which is available from this school or the Education and Children's Services Division, Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith EH22 3ZG."

Behaviour

At Sacred Heart Primary we have high expectations of all of our learners. We are committed to ensuring our school is a safe place for all our learners to learn and grow where everyone feels valued and respected. We are very proud of our children and the way they conduct themselves, particularly when out and about representing the school.

We recognise positive behaviours and children going 'Over and Above' on our 'Tree of Recognition'.

Pupils whose names are added to the Tree of Recognition will have the opportunity to participate in a 'golden opportunity' with a member of the management team at different periods throughout the year.

Our behaviour policy was created in collaboration with our pupils, parents and the wider community and is outlined below.

Restorative Conversations

We use a restorative approach to managing behaviour incidents using the following questions to guide the conversation:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking?
- How did this make people feel?
- Who else has been affected?
- What should we do to put things right?
- How can we do things differently in the future?



Sacred Heart Primary School Behaviour Policy



Aims

The aim of our school's behaviour policy is for all members of the school community to feel valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and with respect.

This behaviour policy has been created in collaboration with staff, parents, pupils and wider partners. It aims to promote an environment in which everyone feels happy, safe, secure and respected, with an overall focus on Restorative Practice.

Effective Restorative Practices help to foster awareness of how others have been affected by inappropriate behaviour. This is done by actively engaging learners in reflection and a conversation which requires the wrongdoer to accept responsibility for their actions and identify a way to put things right, including reassuring the other party that it won't happen again.

Being restorative is about:

<u>Showing respect</u> – everyone is important <u>Taking responsibility</u> – owning up. <u>Reparation</u> – putting things right. <u>Re-integration</u> – starting again.

The school recognises and promotes good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness, cooperation and respect, which is in line with the Gospel values.

School Rules

The school has three rules: that all pupils are 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. These are used across all stages and are referred to regularly in assemblies and during the school day.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

At Sacred Heart, we praise and reward children for good behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Class 'Recognition Boards' with regularly updated targets
- Whole-school 'Tree of Recognition', which celebrates learners who have gone 'over and above' by having their name/action written on a love heart and attached to the tree during assemblies

- Personalised events to 'notice the unnoticed', such as hot chocolate with the head teacher
- Achievement floorbooks
- Phonecalls home to parents/carers to share positive behaviour stories and achievements
- Seesaw
- Assemblies

If a learner is displaying negative behaviours, the following steps are taken:

- Reminder
- First Warning
- Second Warning
- Time out in class or by sharing the care (as appropriate)
- Restorative conversation

Certain behaviours will result in a learner being sent immediately to the Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher and a phonecall will be made to parents/carers:

- physical violence or threatening behaviour
- swearing intentionally to cause offence
- racist, sexist or homophobic remarks
- bullying
- repeated disobedience
- continued inappropriate behaviour after returning from Time Out

Playtime & Lunchtime

Learners are expected to follow the school's three rules inside and outside of the classroom.

All incidents that happen during playtime and lunchtime are recorded and monitored regularly. A Learning Assistant will deal with such incidents when they first happen, and the class teacher will be informed where appropriate.

If a pattern of negative behaviour is identified, the Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher will speak with the learner(s) involved and contact parents/carers where appropriate.

At Sacred Heart, we set high expectations for behaviour. If we feel a learner is not meeting these high expectations, we will work on an individualised basis with that learner and their parents or carers to support them to develop the skills that they need to do so.



If you have any concern about what is happening in school or if your child is worried or upset please phone or come into school immediately. The happiness and welfare of your child is paramount.

Attendance

All children at Sacred Heart Primary are encouraged to come to school punctually every day, unless they are unwell, so that they can make good relationships and fulfil their potential.

If your child is absent from class, the teacher will send the class register to the office, as soon as the register is taken, to ask the admin staff to check that he or she is safe.

Written confirmation, in the form of letter, email or text message, must be provided by parents to support records of any absence.

Please note that the headteacher is unable to authorise any holiday that is taken within school term-time, except in quite exceptional circumstances. We have twelve weeks of holidays and parents are strongly urged to use this time for taking their children away. Inexpensive flights or packages are not sufficient reason for children missing out on their education.

The school closely monitors absence and punctuality of our learners. Letters are issued to parents when attendance rates fall below 90% and if a child is repeatedly late for school. Persistent absence is referred to the Team around the Child (TATC) team.

Midlothian Council states that: "Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly."



If your child is unable to come to school, please inform the school office by telephoning the school office as soon as possible after 8.30am or by emailing sacredheart_ps@midlothian.gov.uk, advising of the reason your child cannot attend. Written confirmation must always be provided to support records of any absence.

School Meals

School lunches are served Monday to Thursday and cost $\pounds 2.10$ per day.

Children from P1-P5 receive their school meal for free. It is thought that pupils in P6 and P7 will also eventually receive free school meals but the timeline for this has not yet been revealed.

All meals are prepped in our cooking kitchen, onsite at Sacred Heart Primary School

and are prepared and served in line with Midlothian Council's school lunch menu. Our experienced kitchen staff work together to prepare and serve these meals for our learners. We do not operate a café system but offer entire meals.



We are committed to ensuring that the children have healthy meals and snacks each day.

As some of our children in school have a nut allergy, we must insist any products containing nuts are not brought into school. This includes but is not limited to any spreadable products such as chocolate spread (e.g. Nutella) or peanut butter which contain nuts.

The kitchen can also offer packed lunches for children going on school outings and trips.

Own Packed Lunch

We ask that parents who provide their child with their own packed lunch, ensure only healthy contents are included and that children take away their lunch waste to limit the amount of refuse we are putting out and to encourage recycling. We do not permit nuts or nut-based products on the school premises due to severe nut allergies.

Free School Meals - Financial Assistance

If you need help in paying for school meals:

"Under the Education Committee's policy, children in attendance at school under the management of the authority are entitled to free school meals if their parents are in receipt of Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit (subject to a maximum annual income), both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit (subject to a maximum annual income) or support under Part VI of the Immigration Asylum Act 1999. Children attending certain special schools where eating skills and the midday meal are part of the educational programme also receive free meals. No other children are eligible for free meals. Further information and an application form can be obtained from the school or from the "Free Meals and Free Clothing Section. Education and Children's Services Division, Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3ZG"

Health and Safety



Midlothian Council states that:

"The Education Division has prepared policy statements on Health and Safety for all areas of its responsibility in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

School staff are fully instructed in their responsibilities in this respect, and safety regulations apply to all aspects of school life, both on and off the premises. It is expected that pupils will behave responsibly and comply with all safety requirements. The support of parents in promoting good practice in health and safety matters is of great importance to the school."

To ensure the health and safety of all staff and children at Sacred Heart, we ensure:

- Access to the school is secured and monitored during the school day
- All doors to the school are kept locked while there are children in the building
- Risk assessments for every trip and outing
- Annual risk assessments regarding the building and grounds of the school
- Four fire drills every year
- Every member of staff has an Emergency Aid certificate
- Key members of staff have minibus licenses
- Every member of staff is trained in Child Protection procedures
- Safety and electrical equipment are checked every year

Please ensure you enter and leave the school playground by one of the main exits. If you are late and the school gates are closed after the start of school, bring your child to the main entrance to be welcomed in.

Medical Care

Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, please ask for a form to complete to permit our staff to administer it accordingly. Only medication which has previously been given at home can be administered in school. Please request our 'Administration of Medication' Policy if you require further information.

Allergies/Intolerances/Medical Conditions

Please inform us upon enrolment of any specific medical needs. If your child develops a medical condition during their time at Sacred Heart, please communicate this to the school office immediately.

Action flowcharts and care plans are completed each year and sent home on a termly basis for review. This ensures appropriate and consistent care is provided for that child.

Illness

If your child is unwell at school then the admin staff will contact you and ask for you to arrange for him or her to be collected.



The school logs:

- all medication taken
- all bumps, particularly to the head when a letter is sent home or phone call made if appropriate
- every instance of a child being unwell at school

School Health Service

From Midlothian Council: The School Health Service

Throughout their time at school, a team of specialist Health Service and Education staff will be seeing children as part of a planned programme to make sure that they benefit as much as possible from all that school has to offer, and to help prepare them for life after leaving school. The school health service is part of Midlothian's Community Child Health Service and has direct links with those who carry out health checks on children before they start school.

Many different services are provided. The issue of maintaining confidentiality is taken seriously by the School Health team at all times. The staff involved make every effort

to work closely with parents and with others who are caring for your child, both at school and in other branches of the Health Service.

Some of the services, e.g. testing of vision in Primary 1; dental checks in Primary 7, are normally provided to all children on a routine basis to discover which children may need further tests or treatment.

Parents are not necessarily notified at the time of these screening tests and any parent who does not want a child to be included should notify the school at the beginning of the session. Naturally, if treatment is thought to be required, parents will be informed and consent requested. If you have any concerns about your child's vision please contact the school nurse who will arrange to test vision or alternatively you can take your child to a local optician (optometrist).

Some of the staff concerned and the parts they play are as follows:-

The **school nurse** is the lead professional in mainstream schools in Midlothian. School nurses are involved with health promotion and education, prevention of ill health, immunisation, health surveillance and screening. The school nurse may be helped by a **health assistant** and have close working links with **Community Paediatricians**.

The School Nurse

- The school nurse acts as an important link between home and school. They visit the school regularly and liaise with the teaching staff. Where a teacher is concerned about a child's health or development, a referral may be made to the school health team only after obtaining parental permission. Separate referrals to child and family mental health services also needs parental permission. The school nurse can link with other members of the health team, in the community or in hospital, concerned with a child's health. The health team also work closely with colleagues from other children's services.
- The school nurse reviews the notes of all children in Primary 1 as well as those of all new entrants. A member of the school health team measures their growth and tests vision. The school nurse will assess these measurements and results. In addition, they review all children who are referred either by parents, teachers or other health professionals at any stage in their school life.

Every opportunity is taken to provide pupils with access to confidential support and advice from the school health team throughout their school career.

Parents are also asked to complete a health questionnaire about their child at Primary 1. Any specific conditions can be raised at that point.

With your consent, the school nursing staff also carry out immunisations to protect against various diseases. The Influenza Vaccination programme is offered at the start of the winter each year for children; parents have the option to opt in or out.

Hearing Services

If you have concerns about your child's hearing the school can refer him or her to the appropriate specialist directly.

The speech and language therapist can provide assessment and, if necessary, support if you, a teacher, your GP or the school doctor feels that your child may need help with communication. Appointments are normally arranged at the local Speech and Language Therapy clinic with follow-up at school if required. Speech and Language Therapists work closely with school staff and support is often provided as part of a Learning Support programme.

Dental Services

Any enquiries concerning the provision of dental services should be made to the Director of the Community Dental Service, 16 Duncan Street, Edinburgh EH9 1SR (Telephone: 0131 667 7114).

We hope that the School Health Service can, together with yourselves, contribute to your child's overall well-being and development. Please do not hesitate to arrange through the Head Teacher to see the school doctor, school nurse or the health visitor if you want any information.

Child Protection

The staff of Sacred Heart Primary want to ensure your child is protected from harm and abuse. All staff are appropriately trained in Child Protection procedures and if they have concerns about a learner, they fully understand the steps they must follow to report this concern.

"In circumstances where a school has a significant concern that a child or young person has, or is at risk of being harmed or abused, the school is required to pass information to the Police, Social Work Department and Health colleagues who have a legal duty to investigate further. While we always endeavour to work in an open manner with parents and guardians, there are some circumstances when it may not be appropriate to inform the parent or guardian that a Child Protection referral has been made or that information has been passed on to these agencies. Under these circumstances, the decision as to when and how parents and guardians will be informed is the responsibility of the Police, Social Work and Health Services as part of their investigation and the school will be informed by these services of the action that they have taken.

Should you wish to discuss this or any associated matter further, please contact the Head Teacher, the school's designated Child Protection Co-ordinator or the Education Officer, Pupil Support Services."

Transport

Midlothian Council states:

All 5 to 21 olds living in Scotland are entitled to free bus travel through the Young Scot/National Entitlement Card. You can apply online at freebus.scot

Where a pupil attends their catchment primary school and:

- lives more than two miles from it by walking route, or
- there is not a suitable walking route

and there is no public transport available, the council will arrange school transport.

If your child has a place in the complex needs provision you should refer to your Education Resource Group (ERG) decision letter for details about school transport.

Parents who choose to send their children to a school other than their catchment school will not receive assistance in relation to travel to and from school.

Out of School Care

Out of School Childcare services (also called After School Clubs) in the area are:

• School's Out (<u>https://schoolsoutpenicuik.com/</u>) or 07575857585

For further information on Childcare (including After School Clubs, Childminders, Wrap Around Care, Day Nurseries and Playgroups) and pre-school education in your area, contact the Midlothian Childcare Information Service on 0131 271 3754, email childcare@midlothian.gov.uk or visit www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk

Parental Involvement

Sacred Heart Primary has a lively, active Parent Council, which we call our Parent Partnership, which supports the school and organises events and fund-raisers.

From www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk:

Changes have been made to the law to help parents and schools work together as partners in children's learning. The Scottish Parliament has passed the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 to encourage and support more parents to become involved.

Because parents have such a vital role to play in their children's education, the Act aims to make it easier for parents to become involved in their own child's education and in their child's school more generally.

Many authorities and schools are already working very hard to involve parents, but the Act makes this a priority for every authority and every school.

Your school's new Parent Partnership will be very parent-friendly – it's a great opportunity to become more involved!

The role of the Parent Partnership will be to:

- support the school in its work with pupils
- represent the views of all parents
- encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
- report back to the Parent Forum.

Your school's new Parent Partnership has been recognised in law since August 2007, so it will have a loud voice. The school and the local authority must listen to what your Parent Partnership says and give it a proper response. Every school's Parent Partnership will be different because it will be parents in each school who decide such things as:

- how their Council/Partnership will be set up
- what it should be called
- what size it should be e.g. in a very small primary school, all parents could be involved
- who should be a member of the Parent Partnership
- how they should be appointed
- what's the most convenient time to hold meeting
- what will be discussed at meetings these might be topics such as school

• uniform, parking near the school, the school's anti-bullying policy, etc.

Education authorities are to let the Parent Forum of each school (i.e. all parents) know about the plans to form a Parent Partnership in the school and will ask for views. The Parent Forum can decide what the Council will be called, its functions and its constitution. Copies of the 'Parents as Partners in their Children's Learning Toolkit' have been sent to all schools and contains a step-by-step guide on setting up a Parent Partnership.

Generally, members of the Parent Partnership must be parents of children who attend the school and the chairperson must have a child in the school. However, the Parent Partnership can decide to co-opt other members from teachers and the community who will have knowledge and skills to help them.

In denominational schools, the Parent Partnership must invite the relevant church or denominational body to nominate a representative to be a co-opted member. In very small schools all the parents may be part of the Parent Partnership. The Parent Forum will decide how members are to be selected.

The detail of what a Parent Partnership does will be decided by parents, but the Act lays down certain functions which can be summarised as 4 broad areas:

- supporting the school in its work with pupils
- representing the views of parents
- promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils, providers of nursery education and the community
- reporting to the Parent Forum.

The Parent Partnership will also have a role in the appointment of headteachers and depute headteachers.

Further information can be found at https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/

Parents are also invited to join the Headteacher and/or Depute Head Teacher on a monthly basis to a 'Coffee and Chat' session. This is an open invitation to all families and we encourage all parents and carers to come. These rotate on an inperson/virtual basis to maximise opportunities for attendance.

Emergency Arrangements



In the event of an emergency or unplanned closure, the school will keep your child until you can be contacted so that you can arrange to have him or her collected.

Should the school suffer a power failure or be unable to open in the morning due to severe weather, then an announcement will be broadcast on local and Scottish radio and television, the Midlothian website, www.midlothian.gov.uk, and school twitter, @sacredheart_ps

School will alert parents via email and text message. If our email and messaging service is unavailable, we will endeavour to contact families via phonecall if necessary.

A sign will also be placed on the outer gates of the school informing families of the closure.

The school will sometimes ask you to pass the information to other parents so that we can ensure that all families get to know what is happening quickly and are able to make suitable arrangements for their children to be cared for.

Employment of Children

Employment of Children

"Children under the statutory school leaving age can only be employed within the terms of the Council's bye-laws on the part-time Employment of Children. These byelaws do not permit the employment of children under 14 years of age, except in specific categories; for those over that age there are limits on the hours and type of employment which are allowed. Parents and employers must both complete an application form for an employment permit before the employment begins.

Further details can be obtained from the Education Division, Fairfield House, Lothian Road, Dalkeith EH22 3ZG.

With Please ensure that all your contact details are up to date, particularly mobile numbers and email addresses.

Contact with Parents and Carers

Sacred Heart Primary School is proud to work in partnership with parents and carers.

We hold a 'Meet the Teacher' event in September to advise what the children will be learning throughout the year and to give you an opportunity to talk to your child's new teacher.



We give individual ten minute appointments for parents to discuss their child's progress in October and March as part of our Consultation Evenings (with your child). There is usually a Book Fair and some displays for you to look at. Sometimes there may be a questionnaire to complete or we may consult with you on possible improvements for our school.



If your child is going to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, meetings are organised with the teacher and with Father Kevin.



If there is a new teaching tool or a new resource we are using we may invite you in to tell you more about it.

We will ask you to come along to all of our masses, shows and assemblies and share the learning events.



If you have time, we would love you to come and volunteer with one of our classes or in the garden. Please speak to the admin staff for information on PVG certification, so that you are permitted to work with individual children.



Contact with the Community

We are privileged to be part of Sacred Heart Parish and have regular masses and services with them. They are welcome in our school at all times.



We are involved in fund raising for charity. Each year we learn about and raise money for a number of charities by holding various events in school e.g. our Macmillan Coffee Morning, Comic Relief, Sports Relief, SCIAF, Children in Need.



Our children entertain the Senior Citizens of Penicuik in various ways such as by singing, dancing and reading for them.



We work with our community to find out about local history.



Concerns and Complaints

"The Education Committee has approved the following statement of principles and procedures:

Parents and the School

Parents and schools separately can do a great deal to assist children's educational development; together, they can achieve even more.

We will keep you informed of your child's progress and we will deal confidentially with any information which will help us in planning her/his education.

We will keep you informed of our policies and procedures and will consult you whenever a significant change is contemplated.

We rely on your support and we welcome your comments on the school.

If you are concerned about...

...a particular aspect of our work, please arrange an appointment to discuss the matter with the Headteacher in the first instance. Where appropriate, the Head Teacher may nominate another senior member of staff to act on her/his behalf.

The Headteacher will listen carefully to what you have to say, establishing clearly the issue(s) of concern and, if appropriate, providing you with any relevant information.

In some cases, your concerns can be dealt with immediately; other matters may require more extended investigation. In any event, the Head Teacher will notify you, normally within five working days, of the school's response.

It is anticipated that, in most cases, the above steps will result in a satisfactory solution for all concerned.

If you are dissatisfied with the school's response...

...please notify the Head Teacher that you wish to pursue the matter further.

He/she will either review the proposed action or notify you of the appropriate officer of the Education Authority whom you should contact.

Contact the named officer by telephone or by letter at Education Division headquarters.

The officer will investigate the matter and endeavour to resolve any difficulties. He/she will report the outcome to you, normally within five working days of being contacted.

Nearly all matters of concerns are resolved through the above procedures. If you remain dissatisfied, please contact again the officer involved at stage 2; he/she will review the situation and/or indicate what other avenues are open to you. In all cases, final appeal can be sought through the Chief Executive's office.