

Standards and Quality Report

2021/22



Newton Park Primary School

HIGHLAND COUNCIL | SEAFORTH AVENUE, WICK, CAITHNESS, KW1 5ND

At Newton Park, we don't just dream it, we achieve it.

This report is provided to families and partners to identify our achievements this session. The next steps in our improvement journey are also outlined.

Throughout the year we continuously evaluate what we do and how it makes a difference to our learners. We want to know what is working well for our school community and what needs further improvement.

Our children and young people are actively consulted and involved in this process. We also give staff, parents/carers, and other partners the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities in order to shape our improvement journey.

When we develop our improvement projects we use key questions at planned review times throughout the session in order to know how well we are progressing towards achieving these positive outcomes and changes.

Our School

This year, Newton Park has benefitted hugely from a last year of Scottish Attainment Challenge funding as this allowed us to add additional teaching staff and have 14 classes, 2 at each stage. This has helped us to improve our attainment across the school, which was shown in our data – smaller classes allowed staff to target pupils more effectively and identify gaps in learning more effectively. Unfortunately, the funding came to an end in March 2022 and next session will see us reduce to 11 classes, also due to school role numbers. Our staffing largely remained the same throughout the session, although we continue to be impacted hugely by absence of staff caused by Covid-19. The staff all pulled together and we got through some challenging times, particularly around the start of the year in January and February.

We continue to receive Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) which allows us to fund our Family Link Worker, Mrs Sinclair, and also PSA's across the school. They continue to have a hugely positive impact on our pupils, supporting the teaching staff to plug learning gaps.

Attendance of pupils has improved but due to both outbreaks of Covid-19 and Chickenpox, there remains work to do around attendance to try to ensure all children strive to achieve over 90%. 7.3% of our pupils had an attendance of between 70-85%; 4.2% of this was represented by P1 pupils.

There were 0 exclusions during Session 21-22.

Our School Values and Aims

At Newton Park our values and aims are to:

- create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where children feel included and respected.
- encourage all children to aim for excellence in everything they do.
- make learning fun, active and challenging so every child has the confidence to achieve their best.
- encourage independence, responsibility, and active participation in both school life and that of the wider community.
- value everyone's qualities while promoting and maintaining the highest expectations of attitude and attendance.
- aim to equip all learners with the skills for learning, life and work.

At Newton Park, we don't just dream it, we achieve it.

Pupil Voice: what is working well in our school?

Our children and young people identified the following strengths for our school this session:

- We think the teachers are the best thing – they work hard to help you.
- It is good to have Buddies back and getting to go to Primary 1 to help them.
- Our Equalities Group was set up and P7 pupils ran whole school events.
- Fun 31 is really good and it means we can mix with children from other classes.
- We celebrated lots of different events, but we wanted to give money to Ukraine to help people there – we decided to put charity money to this after celebrating World Book Day.
- We got our Bronze Award for Rights Respecting Schools and it will be good to do Silver now.

Pupil Voice: what changes would you like to see made?

Our children and young people identified the following changes they would like to see and the difference these changes could make.

- We need more children to have a say as part of groups – things stopped for Covid, but we need to get things back. We could do other groups for Pupil Voice like ICT group again.
- Assemblies are back so we can use these to share our learning and to share what each of our groups are doing to make our school better.
- It would be good if we were part of the Events Group so we can help plan the events that happen in the school. We would like to have the Summer Fayre again.
- We did competitions against Noss but it would be good to do things with them that are not competitions – fun things that mix us with them.
- The playground is good with the two different breaks but it would be good to put different things in on different days and let the older ones choose their playground so they can play netball.

Our Improvement Journey Headlines

Session 2021/22

These projects are linked to the vision and priorities for Scottish Education based on delivering excellence and equity. Parent/Carer information is available [here](#).

Improvement Project 1: Recovery from Covid-19 School Closures

Primary focus: School and ELC improvement

Year of Project: 1

Purpose:

- To improve pupil health and wellbeing.
- To embark on Rights Respecting School (RRS) Programme to ensure pupil voice
- To introduce Marvellous Mealtimes to develop quality ELC experiences.

Progress and impact:

All children have completed their wellbeing webs at least twice during the year and all scores recorded as part of our tracking documents.

All children have participated in work around SHANARRI as part of our Health and Wellbeing programme.

Further, individually targeted work has been carried out with children where this has been required, both through children requesting it or through identifying issues from Wellbeing webs.

Relationships with Family Link Worker have been embedded across the school community – staff, children and families.

Relationships also developed with third party sectors, including PPP, where after school opportunities were offered for families and our local Youth Club where activities were available over holidays (PEF).

Further opportunity for counselling has been available using Place2Be counselling service, for children aged 10-12.

We achieved Bronze Award for RRS and the school Equality group carried out projects across the school to ensure pupil voice.

Marvellous Mealtimes is established in the ELC and our children are benefitting from positive interactions with peers and staff during lunch sessions. Children are also developing independence skills.

Following the impact of Covid, we have made very good progress in this area and are in a very good position to build on to continue to improve and meet the needs of all of our children.

Next steps:

To develop the use of tracking wellbeing to target more individual / group / class SHANARRI areas in order to meet the needs of more of our pupils in a more effective way.

To achieve Silver Award in Rights Respecting School Programme.

To develop the role of the Family Link Worker to our ELC to establish relationships as early as we can in our school community – linking better with our Equity and Excellence Leads in the ELC.

To develop our Health and Wellbeing (HWB) / Personal & Social Education (PSE) in line with Highland Council guidelines and progressions.

Improvement Project 2: To improve attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

Primary focus: Curriculum and assessment

Year of Project: 1

Purpose:

- To improve attainment, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To reduce the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children.

Progress and impact:

Our data (teacher assessment and Standardised testing- SNSA) show an improvement in attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school. However, attainment in writing is below that of reading and numeracy.

The children benefitted from being part of a smaller class and teachers were able to meet the needs of the children better after the impact of Covid.

All children have been assessed through Highland Numeracy Progression and all gaps identified. Staff have worked hard with pupils on individual programmes to try to close these gaps. Progress has been made towards this across the school and all data passed on to the next stage to allow this work to continue.

PEF PSA's have carried out targeted interventions with children and supported the teacher in reducing identified gaps. This was impacted by staff shortages, still evident through Covid absence, but our dedicated PSA staff worked extremely hard to support the children.

Our Numeracy Development Officer continued to support staff development and improve confidence in the teaching of maths. Our Lesson Study approach supported this well and allowed staff to collaborate in lessons and carry out class observations to analyse learning and teaching within numeracy.

We have made very good progress within this area and have identified clear next steps to help us continue our journey.

Next steps:

Further work is required to improve attainment in writing across the school. The staff will engage with Stephen Graham Writing sessions, in order to create a school writing progression with clear targets for each stage, while building on the current Talk for Writing model that is used across the school.

Further moderation will focus on writing at Highland level, to support staff in the assessment of writing and to ensure they are familiar with writing benchmarks at Early, First and Second levels.

Staff will adopt the Lesson Study approach in numeracy for a second year to continue to build confidence in the teaching of numeracy across the school.

Evaluation of Progress

We believe we have made the following progress this session:

Quality Indicator	School self-evaluation
1.3 Leadership of Change	Good
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Very good

Our children and young people believe we have made the following progress this session:

Theme 1 Our relationships	Very good
Theme 2 Our learning and teaching	Very good
Theme 3	Excellent

Our school and community

Theme 4 Excellent
Our health and wellbeing

Theme 5 Excellent
Our successes and achievements

Our overall evaluation of our school's capacity for continuous improvement is:

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

Our Jamboard shows lots of photos of our improvements this year. The pupil group also wanted it written in the report that they think Newton Park is a great place and they wouldn't want to be any other place.

Planning Ahead

Full details of the school's 2022/23 improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan, which can be accessed on our website <https://newtonparkprimary.wordpress.com/> or by contacting the school office.