

Attendance, Attainment and Achievement

The majority of our pupils are achieving at the expected levels in literacy and numeracy. Most pupils in Nursery are meeting their developmental milestones. We have continued to develop our approaches to meeting our learners needs. All pupils who are not on track to attain in literacy or numeracy are receiving planned and targeted support.

We have used our Pupil Equity Funding to support the development of literacy and numeracy, particularly in phonics and spelling supports. We have continued to make significant efforts to alleviate the financial burden of schooling on families. Throughout this school year, we have ensured that no families were asked to provide financial contributions for excursions or school activities. All children are able to access breakfast too.

We have continued to focus on celebrating the achievements of all learners through our school value awards and house system. We continue to provide wider learning opportunities and have strengthened several significant partnerships in the local area, including regularly engaging in Forest School activities on the Blair Atholl Estate.

Our average attendance rate for 2023/2024 was 95.7%.

Improvement Priorities for Session 2024/2025

Our capacity for school improvement is good and our Improvement priorities for 2024-2025 are:

- To continue raising attainment within writing through the development of whole school approaches and interventions, and the implementation of a new literacy programme in P3-7. We will be taking part in a national writing project to help facilitate this.
- Continuing to build a safe and nurturing school community with a focus on Nurturing, Restorative and Trauma informed approaches, leading to the development of a whole school relationships policy.
- To focus on raising attainment at all stages in Numeracy.



Blair Atholl Nursery and Primary School Standards and Quality Report 2023/24

Our Vision

We believe in Blair Atholl. We strive together for a Nursery and School community in which all children, staff and families feel respected, nurtured, and included and everyone is encouraged and supported to realise their full potential.

We will do this by providing a welcoming, happy, and safe learning environment in which everyone's strengths are recognised, and achievements are celebrated. We want to ensure stimulating, engaging, and relevant learning experiences taking full advantage of our unique Highland setting.

Our Values



Kind

Proud

Together

School Self- Evaluation	
1.3 Leadership of Change	Good
2.3 Learning, teaching, and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equity, and inclusion	Good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Good

Learning

Our Nursery Children are highly engaged and capable leaders of learning. They use the Nursery environment both indoors and outdoors to make terrific strides in their learning. This is enabled by a staff team who are nurturing, adaptive and forward thinking. They plan using the children's interests to allow for open ended play that allows them to take calculated risks in their learning. This is supported with a weekly visit to the local forest to explore and investigate the natural world. The families who attend the nursery are supported well by the team, allowing for open communication and true partnerships to support the children.

The pupils of Blair Atholl school are highly motivated to learn, especially when they have the opportunity to be outside. It is clear that the use of outdoor learning approaches supports well-being for almost all of the children. The teachers also plan a variety of lessons indoors that promote problem solving techniques, build resilience and allow the pupils to question and wonder.

The pupils have many opportunities to participate in a range of both sporting and cultural events including, Football, Cricket and Rugby coaching, as well as weekly Gaelic lessons, engaging with visiting specialists and enjoying performances and workshops.

The staff have worked diligently to plan the best way to meet individual's needs. This work continues and is having a good impact to support children to rehearse key skills and deepen key concepts that may be unsure of. Along with our commitment to ensuring all children have access to their own digital device, children are experiencing a bespoke curriculum that is continuously evolving to meet their needs.

We have continued to embed the use of new learning resources during literacy sessions. This is supporting the methodical teaching of phonics which will in turn impact on reading and writing skills. We have seen an increase in pupils willingness to share their ideas with most children meeting the expected level in Listening and Talking.

Leadership

The staff team at Blair Atholl continue to be committed to support the development of all learners in the school. As a result, the staff all take on leadership roles, demonstrating this commitment. The staff team support the learners to be leaders through the use of house groupings. This is a fabulous opportunity for vertical learning to happen within the school from Nursery to P7. The children take an active role in planning and supporting the activities that happen in these sessions.

As a school community, we have continued to embed our vision and values within the ethos of the school, making them the backbone of our positive relationship building and restorative practices. Our values awards now play a central role in our celebrations, reinforcing these principles within our pupils' everyday school life. The school strives to be a key part of the local community, engaging positively with residents and businesses to make the school the best it can be. The Parent Council work in partnership with the school to bring about positive changes for the whole community.

Our Curriculum Rationale is the cornerstone of all we do. This is based on our five Northern Stars – Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Health & Wellbeing, and Citizenship. These guiding principles light our path towards an inclusive, balanced educational approach, deeply rooted in our shared values of being Kind, Proud and Together. It embodies our continued commitment to equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to thrive in an ever-changing world, with a significant emphasis on outdoor learning, digital literacy, and individual achievements.

Staff regularly engage in activities and discussions to reflect what is going well and what our next steps need to be. This self – evaluation is critical in order to continue to improve outcomes for all of the learners in our school. Staff are keen to seek the views of pupils and families to support this process.

Dawn Hunter – Acting Headteacher, Blair Atholl School. June 2024