



HOUSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL & EL&CC



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2023

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2023-2024. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Jennifer Murray - Head Teacher

OUR SCHOOL and EL&CC

Houston Primary and EL&CC is a non-denominational school in Houston, Renfrewshire. The school offers education from aged 3 to 12 through our Early Learning and Childcare Class (aged 3-5) then Primary 1-7 (aged 5-12). The school is semi open plan with two or three classes at each primary stage. The EL&CC is in a separate, brand-new, purpose-built building within the school grounds. The school roll for session 2023/24 is approx. 520 and 84 in the EL&CC. Over 90% of our pupils reside in the catchment area.

The school has a valued reputation for its high levels of attainment and achievement, and together with its dynamic participation in the local community, it remains highly regarded by parents, carers and wider community members. The school is very well supported by an active School Council and wider Parent Forum.

Houston Primary and EL&CC benefit from a dedicated staff, and are supported by committed parents, carers and wider community volunteers who together strive to provide a warm, caring ethos, in which children are happy and thrive, while taking advantage of the wide and varied learning opportunities and activities on offer.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Our AIM is.

'Nurturing the Hearts and Minds of the Future'

Our VISION is to ensure that all children entrusted to our care are nurtured, valued, respected, and supported to reach their full potential, enabling them to have the skills and confidence to succeed today. This is best achieved when we work together with all stakeholders to ensure the highest quality of education is achieved for all our children.



Our VALUES are;

FRIENDSHIP

HONESTY

RESPECT

SUCCESS

SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- In order to embed quality approaches to teaching and learning in Numeracy and Mathematics, staff participated in further training sessions which facilitate the use of new Renfrewshire planners. This ensures progression in approaches across the school, including our Early Learning and Childcare Class (EL&CC), as well as supporting our high levels of attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics.
- The continued development of Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach has further enhanced our school and EL&CC ethos, ensuring children's wellbeing is key to learning. School received our RNRA Level 2, Ruby Award- following completion of four nurture principles and NVR Part 1. Staff from across the school and EL&CC, supported by our Educational Psychologist, have worked in partnership with parents and other agencies to support families, providing them with training focussing on using NVR (Non Violent Resistance) approaches.
- Our school community is immensely proud of our newly refitted School Library which, along with a calendar of events to promote reading for enjoyment, has led to increased opportunities for children across the school and EL&CC to engage with quality texts, covering a range of genres.
- We received our 8th Green Flag and engaged in the LEAF pilot project, as part of Eco Schools Scotland. The EL&CC allotment area is flourishing, providing produce for snack and cooking.
- We came 2nd in the National Euro Quiz finals in Edinburgh, June '23 after winning the Renfrewshire heat.
- Mindstretchers *Talking and Thinking Floorbooks* approach has been implemented leading to increased pupil ownership in the planning, documenting and evaluation of learning. Within the EL&CC Floorbooks support 'planning in the moment' approaches.
- High levels of attendance and positive feedback on 'in person' family engagement events including Open Mornings/Afternoons, Stay and Play Sessions, Christmas Show, Easter Parade, Parent/Carer Share Your Talent Day, Technology Challenge, Parents' Meetings, Music Showcase, 'Get Curious, Not Furious' workshop.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL and EL&CC?

School Leadership

- Our Literacy Leaders and Book Committee teams raised the profile of reading for pleasure through a host of well received events including a Community Book Trail, two highly successful Book Fairs, author visits and Buddy Reading including regularly in our EL&CC.
- DHT completed NVR Level 2 training and two teachers participated in Nurture leadership training allowing school staff better support families in coping with challenging behaviours.
- DHT and one member of staff have engaged in CIRCLE leadership training and two members of staff have engaged in RICE training with a view to ensure all children are included and supported in the classroom setting.
- DHT participated in leadership training on Talk for Writing, to progress the approach throughout the school, including our EL&CC.
- EL&CC Depute completing Strategic Leadership Programme challenging her pedagogical leadership style using '@Play is the Way'.
- EL&CC Depute completed BA Childhood Practice influencing academic thinking through use of research and practitioner enquiry.
- Teaching staff have used their observations and a wide range of assessment information to target support for those identified as requiring additional support with learning. Support staff have undertaken training in using online resources to progress the literacy skills of targeted groups.

Staff Professionalism

- All staff from our EL&CC to P7 participated in Mindstretchers Floorbook training sessions, evaluating existing progress and moderating work. They have highlighted good practice and identified aspects of the process which they will improve upon, in order to provide children with high levels of engagement in, and ownership of, learning.
- All staff from our EL&CC to P7 and support staff participated in NVR (Non Violent Resistance) training Part 1. These approaches will improve how we support our pupils who become dysregulated.
- In order to support the implementation of the new digital, Renfrewshire Maths Planners, staff participated in practical workshops to embed their skills, leading to high quality numeracy and maths lessons.
- All Teaching Staff and Senior in EL&CC completed comprehensive training in Talk for Writing, covering both fiction and non-fiction. They worked collaboratively to plan units of learning and trialled key aspects including story mapping and the use of model texts. Staff are motivated to develop this further, as they were impressed by the quality of children's writing.
- EL&CC staff completed maths and numeracy training with Education Scotland and Froebel, developing effective pedagogical approaches which enhance all children's learning experiences.

Parental Engagement

- A full calendar of 'in-person' events, with opportunities for families to engage in the life of the school and EL&CC, led to high levels of attendance and positive feedback from families and carers.
- In-person Parent Meetings/EL&CC Stay and Play sessions were well attended with a small number preferring telephone communication. Individual learning targets and summative reports were issued, ensuring parents/carers were informed of their child's progress.
- A number of family and community members supported a variety of events (e.g., running our Book Fairs and lunchtime Book Shop, Health Week activities, Gardening Club, Fairtrade event, Developing the Young Workforce, Sports Day, author visits, school excursions, swimming lessons, EL&CC Fun Days, Bikeability, extra-curricular clubs) enhancing many children's learning and wider achievements.
- EL&CC re-established Parent/Carer Committee to support links with families and wider community.

Assessment of Children's Progress

- ICT was instrumental in the assessment and analysis of children's progress, as well as staff judgement. There was also opportunity for staff to moderate children's progress in learning through the evaluation of Floorbooks, strengthening judgements further.
- All teaching staff worked on our Whole School Tracker, analysing data, planning strategic interventions, and then monitoring the impact on individuals/groups of children. Improvements in phonics and reading are evident.
- Teaching staff are confident about making judgements on individuals progress through Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) levels as they regularly engage with the benchmarks through the planning and assessment of children's learning.
- EL&CC successfully use the Renfrewshire Progression Toolkit in preparation for transition to Primary School.

School and EL&CC Improvement

- Our new School Library opened and was key in developing a reading culture, and ensuring all children have access to high quality texts from different genres, covering a wide range of themes including equality and diversity.
- Staff across our EL&CC and school engage regularly in the self-evaluation process using How Good is Our School/EL&CC (HGIOS 4), identifying our strengths and key areas for improvement.
- The Pupil Council consulted with all children regarding the re-design of our Centre Courtyard and outdoor learning zones. Their plans are now coming to fruition, facilitating increased opportunities for creativity, curiosity and problem solving.
- RNRA training has created an environment in school and EL&CC, where children are supported with their behaviour and the importance of adult presence and relationships to aid de-escalation is key.

Performance Information

- Data gathered through the GMWP (Glasgow Motivation and Wellbeing Profiling) tool in Feb '23 indicated that in each question asked, over 80% of pupils answered giving 7 or more stars, with the exception of Q19 when the percentage dropped to 77%.
- Wellbeing meetings and Attainment/Tracking meetings (where summative assessment data is used to support staff judgement) provides us with a clear view of children's progress, allowing us to identify supports and interventions required to achieve individual targets.
- In Maths, teacher judgement, supported by assessment data, demonstrates an improvement in attainment across the school, because of our commitment to ongoing training and investment in teaching resources over the past few years. Quality assurance visits reflect high quality learning and teaching as does recent pupil achievement data. June 2023:

Percentage Pupils Achieved/ On Track to Achieve CfE Level

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Listening & Talking	95%	98%	100%	97%	98%	99%	97%
Reading	95%	91%	87%	89%	93%	92%	96%
Writing	94%	91%	87%	92%	86%	86%	95%
Numeracy	95%	97%	92%	93%	96%	94%	96%



*Regional Euro Quiz
winners and 2nd
Place National
Winners at the finals
in Edinburgh, June
'23*

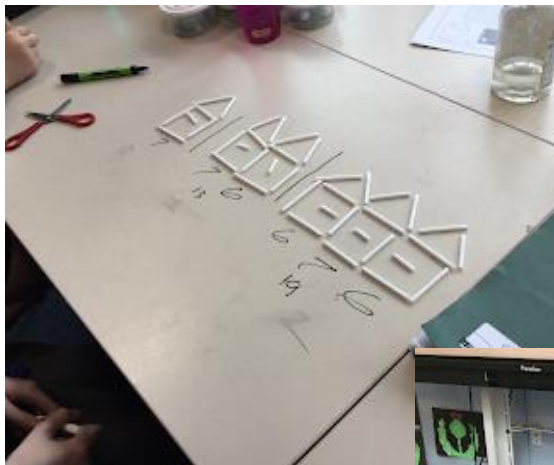
KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

- ★ A positive and nurturing school and EL&CC ethos which reflects our values (FRIENDSHIP, RESPECT, HONESTY and SUCCESS) and Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach.
- ★ High levels of engagement and achievement in learning, across all areas of the curriculum. Daily access to indoor and outdoor learning in EL&CC.
- ★ Motivated and ambitious staff who are committed to improving the health and wellbeing needs, as well as the academic achievements of all our learners through equitable high quality learning experiences which motivate, engage and inspire individuals to progress.
- ★ As a result of an on-going commitment to raising the attainment of all children, staff have undertaken training and demonstrate increased knowledge and confidence of effective pedagogical approaches for teaching Numeracy and Maths, STEM, ICT, Spelling, Reading and Writing.
- ★ High levels of attendance (95%) and attainment throughout our school and EL&CC with almost all children meeting (or exceeding) national educational levels and engaging appropriately with learning.
- ★ Families and the local community are supportive and work in partnership with the school and EL&CC to promote and enrich the social and educational opportunities of our children.

PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

Pupil HWB audit (Sept '22/May '23) suggests that most pupils are active, 87% believe they have plenty of energy most of the time, 86% think they get enough exercise, 84% believe they have a healthy lifestyle. The inclusion of high-quality curricular PE delivered by a PE Specialist for all P4-7 pupils addresses those who responded that they didn't know/disagree/strongly disagree when answering these questions. This spend provides a quality experience for any child who may have responded negatively (between 13-16% of P4-7 pupils) a reduction of 3% from last year.

- Outcome of Pupil Focus groups (May '23) on the continuation of this PEF funded initiative, were unanimous in their opinion that the input of the PE Specialist was very positive. 'Every 4 weeks the focus sport changes', 'at the end of a block there's always a challenge on the last week', 'they're more experienced', 'greater challenge included', 'more knowledgeable', 'greater variety of sports offered'.
- All the pupil focus group also acknowledged that this investment allowed the children in P4-7 to 'get to know the GHS staff'. This PEF spend invests in our transition programme, starting at P4, allowing time to develop strong, positive relationships with High School staff.
- Consultation about PEF plans and spending takes place with pupils – through focus groups and assemblies, and parents through School Council.
- Careful tracking and monitoring of pupil progress, together with inhouse/SNSA/GL Assessment data, together with teacher observations, is used to identify required interventions for specific individuals/groups. PEF funding was used to continue the subscription for IDL – literacy. Tracking performance data for individuals using this intervention suggests an overall gain in reading age by 6-9 months and spelling age by 6-9 months also.
- Similar data, as described above, was used to identify individuals/groups who would benefit from IDL – Numeracy. Tracking performance data, together with teacher observations, formative and summative assessment for individuals suggests small gains for most children were made in the first year of using this resource.
- Wellbeing audits, staff observations and a range of assessment data has been used to target identified groups, offering challenge and additional support in phonics, spelling, reading and basic numeracy where appropriate.
- Pupils identified learning outdoors as being something they love. A small investment in materials to support this has been made, with a plan to extend this much further next session.



OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

We believe that we have made very good progress during session 2022-23 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to move forward.

- ★ Further develop Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approaches (RNRA) by engaging in further training in NVR and CIRCLE to support behaviour and inclusion in the classroom/EL&CC setting.
- ★ Building on an in-depth consultation with all stakeholders, we will carry out our Action Plan, further developing and promoting reading engagement within our school and local community. This will culminate in an application for the Reading Schools Award.
- ★ Work collaboratively to implement the Talk for Writing approach across our school and EL&CC.
- ★ Embed Mindstretchers Talking and Thinking Floorbooks, to provide children with ownership of their learning and more involvement in the planning, documentation, and evaluation of their learning.
- ★ Re-design our outdoor learning environment by creating zones which facilitate opportunities for all children to develop their creative and problem-solving skills through the Expressive Arts, Sports, and Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).
- ★ Further develop maths/numeracy awareness in EL&CC based on recent Education Scotland training.

Full details of the school's improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan which can be accessed on our website or by contacting the school office. A 'user friendly' version of our School Improvement Plan is also available on our website.

Houston Primary School

Crosslee Road

0300 300 0159

School email: houstonenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

School Website: houstonprimaryschool.com

Twitter: [@HoustonPrimary](https://twitter.com/HoustonPrimary)

Facebook: [Houston Primary School](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonPrimarySchool)

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we use feedback to help us make improvements to the school. You can do this by speaking to staff, participating in Parent Council meetings, responding to questionnaires/surveys and by completing evaluations at school events.

