

# Bowhouse Primary School



## School Brochure 2025-2026



**Falkirk Council**  
*Children's Services*

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## **A Foreword from the Director of Education**

### **Session 2025-2026**

This handbook contains a range of information which we hope will be of interest to you and your child. It offers an insight into the life and ethos of the school, along with advice and assistance to support and engage you in your child's education.

Falkirk Council is committed to partnering with parents to enhance involvement in their children's education and the broader school community. One of the most effective ways to engage is by joining the school's Parent Council. Parent Councils are independent bodies that collaborate with schools to improve education and foster strong home-school partnerships. By joining a Parent Council, you can voice your ideas, contribute to key decisions, and ensure parents' perspectives shape the school's priorities and activities, ultimately enriching the educational experience for all young people.

Throughout the school year, there will be opportunities to discuss your child's progress with their teacher(s) and through the 'Progress' reporting system/app. To stay updated on school activities and news, follow your school's social media accounts, as well as central accounts like @CSCommsFalkirk, @ConnectedFalk, and @falkirkcouncil, where we share important information and success stories.

We are fortunate that the Council supports our 'Connected Falkirk' programme, ensuring that all young people from P6 to S6 have their own personal learning device. This allows them to access their learning resources anytime and review the feedback provided by their teachers. Not all young people in the country have their own personal device, so we encourage you to ask your child to show you what they are learning. It is a great way to see how they are progressing and provides a flavour of the work being undertaken.

I took up the post of Director of Education in May 2024 and ensured that during my first few weeks I visited every establishment in our Council area, meeting with staff and young people, and witnessing the excellent work carried out by our dedicated and committed teams. Falkirk is proud of the positive destinations our school leavers achieve and the high levels of attainment across our schools. This success is a testament to the hard work of our young people, the quality of classroom experiences, and the support from teachers and families. I look forward to seeing more of that in the months and years that lie ahead.

I trust that this handbook will provide you with all the relevant information you may need concerning your child's school. If you have any queries regarding the contents of the handbook, please contact the Head Teacher of your child's school, who will be happy to offer any clarification required.

Jon Reid  
Director of Education  
Falkirk Council

**Footnote:** If you want a printed copy of this handbook, please ask the school.

It may be possible to offer some assistance in helping to translate all or part of this handbook to parents whose first language is not English. Enquiries should be directed in to the Communications Officer for Children's Services (tel: 01324 506657).

#### Disclaimer

The information in this school handbook is considered to be correct at the time of publication (Dec 2024), however, it is possible that there may be some inaccuracy by the start of the school term in August 2025.

## Curriculum for Excellence - Learning to Achieve

### *Learning Entitlements*

**In addition to the entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence our education provisions will reflect local needs and circumstances. Therefore, at different stages of their education, our learners will have opportunities to:**

- Link aspects of their learning to the local environment and its heritage
- Participate on a residential experience where possible
- Participate in arts, sports and cultural events
- Participate in integrated, hands-on learning for sustainability, fostering global citizenship, critical thinking, and lifelong skills
- Participate in outdoor learning experiences

Equitable access to technology for learning, including digital devices, internet connectivity, and the development of digital literacy skills.

Be consulted on and contribute to the decision-making process in school

Access to vocational and work-based learning experiences that provide practical skills, industry exposure, and pathways to employment.

- Develop leadership and social skills through collaborative projects, extracurricular activities, and active participation in school and community initiatives
  - Access learning experiences designed and / or delivered by relevant partners
  - Reflect upon and be proactive in planning and making choices about their own learning
- Engage with learners in other countries where appropriate and demonstrate knowledge of their culture.

### **How can you help?**

By law, you must make sure your child receives education.

As a parent, you can help your child by:

- Ensuring regular and punctual attendance
- Encouraging and facilitating home learning opportunities and study routines where appropriate

- Attending parent-teacher meetings/discussions and school events.
- Discussing school reports with your child
- Encouraging reading and educational activities outside of school
- Supporting participation in extracurricular activities and clubs
- Discussing what was learned at school and showing interest in their education.
- Setting high expectations and celebrating achievements
- Helping them develop good organisational and time-management skills
- Promoting healthy eating and adequate sleep at home
- Encouraging a positive attitude towards learning and school
- Collaborating with the school on individual education plans where appropriate
- Participate on a residential experience where possible

Throughout this handbook the term 'parent' has the meaning attributed in the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 and the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. This includes grandparents, carer or anyone else who has parental responsibility for the child.

## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Bowhouse Primary School Handbook 2025/2026.

On behalf of the staff, parents and children, I extend a warm welcome to you and your child as part of our school community at Bowhouse Primary School.



This handbook provides a helpful introduction to our school and a general overview of the education your child will be getting at Bowhouse Primary School.

Whilst education continues to undergo many changes to prepare children for the demands of a rapidly changing world, the central aim of our primary school remains the same; to provide the best possible education for each child in our school, challenging and supporting them to achieve their potential.

Our staff are dedicated, caring and hard-working and are aspirational for all our pupils. We create an inclusive, positive and nurturing atmosphere in school and seek to involve and work in partnership with families to establish positive home/school links to ensure the best possible outcomes for each child. We look forward to welcoming you as an active member of our school community.

If you have any queries about any of the information contained in this handbook, or indeed about any aspect of our school, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We would also recommend that you visit our school website or follow us on Twitter as this provides a more visual window into the life and work of Bowhouse Primary School.

Laura Swan  
Head Teacher

To make our handbook easy to use the information has been divided into five different sections:

## **Section One – Practical Information about the School**

This section provides you with some background information on our school and our nursery class. It tells you how our school day and school year are made up and how to contact the school if, for example, your child is ill.

This section deals with the practical aspects of your child's attendance at our school. It provides details on such things as:

- travelling to and from school
- school meals and milk
- financial assistance with school clothing, transport and school meals
- school closures in an emergency or unexpectedly for any reason
- general supervision available for your child in the morning and at lunchtime
- wet weather details
- how the school communicates with parents
- how to complain, if you are not happy about something.

As with any organisation, to ensure smooth running and appropriate maintenance of standards, a range of procedures and policies have to be implemented within our school.

This section gives an overview of the policies the school has in place. If you would like to see a full copy of these policies or to discuss them in more detail, please contact me. Most of these policies are available on the school website – [www.bowhouse.falkirk.sch.uk](http://www.bowhouse.falkirk.sch.uk)

- Homework Policy
- Clothing or uniform (PE Clothing)
- Health Statement / medicines

## **Section Two – Parental Involvement in the School**

Parental involvement is very important as we know it helps children do better in school.

This section contains information about how parents can be involved in supporting learning at home as part of a home – school partnership.

You can also find out more about the ethos of the school, what our values are and our aspirations for our pupils including how we celebrate pupil success, and links we have with partner organisations and the wider local, national and international community.

Lastly, it includes information on our Parent Teacher Association/Parent Association and Parent Council, how to contact them and how parents can get involved in the life and work of the school.

## **Section Three – School Curriculum**

This section describes how the curriculum is planned and delivered in the school including the range of subjects and subject areas your child will be learning. It also

includes information on how pupils develop skills for learning, life and work, including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

As well as giving you information about the statutory curriculum requirements we have included details on sports and outdoor activities available to pupils and the range of facilities available within the school.

Details of how parents will be informed about sensitive aspects of learning e.g. relationships, sexual health, parenthood and drugs awareness are included as well as information about religious education and arrangements for parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child.

This handbook also tells you how we will report on your child's progress and what written reports may be sent out to parents.

## **Section Four – Support for Pupils**

This section gives information about how pupils' additional support needs will be identified and addressed and the types of specialist services provided within our school. This handbook also explains who to contact for more information if you think your child has additional support needs.

This section also gives information about transition – from nursery to primary school and from primary school to secondary school – what the arrangements are and contact details of the catchment high school to which our pupils normally transfer. There are also details about making a placing request to another school.

## **Section Five – School Improvement**

The section gives you an overview of the main achievements of the school within the last 12 months and the planned improvement information relating to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

We have also shown where you can get further information about our plans for the next three years to improve our performance and how the school will involve parents in that improvement.

I hope you find all of the above information helpful and self-explanatory. If you have any queries about any of the information contained in this handbook, or indeed about any aspect of our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Section One – Practical Information about the School – Contact Details

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name of Head Teacher: | Laura Swan   |
| Name of School:       | Bowhouse Primary School  |
| Address:              | Tinto Drive, Grangemouth, FK3 0DZ  |
| Telephone Number:     | 01324 508710   |
| Website :             | <a href="http://bowhouse.schoolwebsite.scot/">http://bowhouse.schoolwebsite.scot/</a>          |
| E-mail Address :      | <a href="mailto:bowhouseprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk">bowhouseprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk</a> |

## About the school

|   |
|---|
| Stages of Education provided for: Nursery – Primary 7   |
| Present Roll : 300                                      |
| Bowhouse Primary School is a non- denominational school |

## Organisation of the School Day

|  |
|--|
| All Primary 1 pupils attend school on a full-time basis immediately. |
|--|

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Start Time: | 9.00am |
|-------------|--------|

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Morning Break: | 10.30am – 10:45am |
|----------------|-------------------|

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Lunch Time: | 12.15pm - 1.00pm |
|-------------|------------------|

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Finish Time | P1 - P7 finish school at 3.00pm |
|-------------|---------------------------------|

### Nursery

Our Nursery is open term time from 8.45am – 2.45pm

All pupils will participate in PE for a minimum of two hours per week both indoor and outdoor – parents advised of days at beginning of each session.

Assembly takes place twice a week for ½ hour.

**FALKIRK COUNCIL: CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Agreed Term Dates for Session 2025-2026**

**School year**

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Autumn Term begins (for pupils) | Wednesday 13 August 2025 |
| Autumn Term ends                | Friday 10 October 2025   |
| Winter Term begins              | Monday 27 October 2025   |
| Winter Term ends                | Friday 19 December 2025  |
| Spring Term begins              | Monday 05 January 2026   |
| Spring Term ends                | Thursday 02 April 2026   |
| Summer Term begins              | Monday 20 April 2026     |
| Summer Term ends                | Friday 26 June 2026      |

**Term Time Public Holidays**

- Monday 8 September 2025
- Friday 13 February 2026
- Monday 16 February 2026
- Monday 04 May 2026

**Staff Development Days**

- Monday 11 August 2025
- Tuesday 12 August 2025
- Friday 28 November 2025
- Tuesday 17 February 2026
- Friday 01 May 2026

## Registration and enrolment

The date for registration of new P1 school entrants is advertised in all local nurseries, schools, the local press and on the council's website [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk). Pupils should be registered in only one school for their catchment area. Parents will be provided with information about the school, when they register their child.

Pupils who are baptised Roman Catholic are automatically entitled to enrol at the denominational catchment school. All other pupils must make a placing request to attend a denominational school.

Parents who want to send their child to a school other than the catchment school must make a placing request in addition to enrolling their child at their catchment school. Please refer to section four of this handbook for more information on placing requests.

Parents of pupils who have moved into the catchment area or, who wish their child to transfer to the school, should contact the school office for information.

## Attendance and absence

It is the responsibility of parents of a child of school age to make sure that their child is educated. Most do this by sending their child to school regularly. Attendance is recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon.

Absence from school is recorded as 'authorised' i.e. it has been approved by the education authority, or as 'unauthorised' i.e. the absence remaining unexplained by the parent.

Please let the school know by letter, email to the school's generic address or phone if your child is likely to be absent. If there is no explanation from a child's parents / carers, the absence will be regarded as unauthorised.

Please make every effort to avoid family holidays during term time as this disrupts your child's education and reduces learning time. In certain extreme situations, the head teacher can approve absence from school for a family holiday for example, in traumatic domestic circumstances where the holiday would improve the cohesion and wellbeing of the family. Please discuss your plans with the head teacher before the holiday. If the head teacher does not give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence. The head teacher may also exercise discretion when a parent can prove that work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school holiday times. Normally, your employer will need to provide evidence of your work commitments. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence.

Parents from minority ethnic and/or religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school to celebrate recognised religious and/or cultural events. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence. Extended leave can also be granted on request for families returning to their country of origin for cultural or care reasons.

A supportive approach is taken to unexplained absence. However the education authority has legal powers to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or refer pupils to the Reporter to the Children's Panel.

More information about attendance can be found in this short video which can be accessed by clicking the link below.

[Bowhouse Attendance Video](#)

## **School Dress Code**

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging their child to follow the school's dress code.

All schools have a dress code, which includes the school's policy on uniform. The wearing of uniform is encouraged as it helps to:

- develop a school community spirit
- improves school security by making non-pupils more easily identifiable
- allows pupils to be easily identified when out of the school, e.g. on trips
- enhances the school's reputation within the community; and
- minimises rivalry and bullying amongst pupils that can arise from, for example, the wearing of designer clothing.

The school's dress code has been agreed in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and the Parent Council. This consultation has ensured that the dress code meets the needs of the school community, allows pupils to participate in all aspects of school life and is age appropriate.

### **BOWHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM CONSISTS OF:-**

Nursery (optional)

Pale blue sweatshirt with a white polo-shirt

Our new school uniform will launch in August 2025.

#### **P1-P6**

Cyan blue sweatshirt/cardigan with school badge or plain blue cardigan/ jumper with school tie

White polo-shirt with or without school badge

Dark trousers, skirt or pinafore

#### **P7**

Black sweatshirt with school badge (senior pupil embroidered below badge) or black jumper/ cardigan with school tie

Black polo-shirt with school badge (senior pupil embroidered below badge) or white polo-shirt with or without school badge

Dark trousers, skirt or pinafore

The uniform can be purchased from BE Schoolwear in Vicar Street, Falkirk.

We accept donations of school uniform and hold a stock of uniform in a range of sizes. Please contact the school if you require items of uniform for your child. Please ensure your child's clothing is clearly labelled and that you regularly check it is still visible.

If you have any queries regarding the school's dress code, please contact the school.

The appropriate clothing and footwear for PE is a T-shirt, shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings and gym shoes with non-marking soles. These are necessary for health and safety reasons and your co-operation is requested to ensure that pupils are equipped to participate in the PE lessons.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled, particularly ties, sweat shirts and PE equipment, which are often lost. A protective apron or an old shirt may be worn for art and craft activities. Please help the school and the education authority by making sure that pupils do not bring valuable or expensive items of clothing to school.

In certain circumstances, appropriate clothing will be necessary for school activities for safety reasons, e.g. in games areas, science laboratories and technical workshops; this extends to the wearing of suitable footwear and even, on occasion, to the length of pupils' hair and the wearing of jewellery and earrings.

Offensive clothing such as T-shirts or other items featuring inappropriate language or illustrations is not permitted. Football colours are also inappropriate as they can lead to incidents of rivalry.

If you have any queries regarding the school's dress code, please contact the Headteacher.

## **School Meals**

Primary and Secondary Menus offer healthy and tasty meal options whilst reflecting the Scottish Government food and drink legal requirements for School Lunches.

Primary School Menus provide 3 daily choices with 2 portions of veg and 1 portion of fruit included with every meal choice with High Schools providing a range of plated meals, pasta, meal deals and salad boxes. 2 portions of veg and 1 portion of fruit are included with every meal choice within the balanced core High School menu.

Meal prices are reviewed annually. Please contact your child's school to be advised of the current price.

All P1-5 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. In the case of P6-P7 and secondary aged pupils, some families may be eligible to apply to Falkirk Council for provision of free school meals. Further details can be obtained from your child's school.

School meals can be ordered from home or in school using the [iPay system](#). iPayImpact is a secure online payments system that allows you to pay for school-related items for your child(ren) online through your smartphone, tablet and

computer. You will be issued with a registration code for your child from the school to gain access to this system.

We are an allergy friendly school and would request that items containing nuts are not brought to school. Any nut items will be returned home, unopened.

Fizzy drinks and cans of juice are not allowed to be brought into school.

Children having a home lunch can leave/be collected at the start of lunch and should return to school in time for our afternoon session starting at 1pm.

## Medically Prescribed Diets

Parents/Carers with a child/ren on a medically prescribed diet should contact the Headteacher in order to obtain and complete a prescribed diet referral and declaration form. The Schools Meals Service will only accommodate a child/ren with a medical referral diagnosed by a medical professional.

[Medically prescribed diets](#)

[Medically prescribed diets form](#)

## Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Falkirk Council provide Free School Meals, and financial support towards the cost of School Clothing and Footwear for families that meet certain eligibility criteria.

### Do I qualify for an award?

- To be eligible, you should normally be resident in the Falkirk Council area and your child(ren) must attend any [primary, special or secondary school](#) managed by Falkirk Council.

### What is the Current Value of Clothing Grants?

- For 2025/26 the Clothing Grant is £125.00 per child/per year for primary school aged children and £155.00 per child/per year for secondary school aged children.

### Do I Need to Apply if My Children are in Primary 1 to Primary 5 and Receive Universal Free School Meals?

- Free School Meals – Families who meet the eligibility criteria for free school meals should apply for free school meals regardless of the universal provision. This informs your eligibility for other benefits and signposting to additional household support if needed. However, you do not need to apply for Free School Meals to access universal free school meal provision if your child is in Primary 1-5.
- Clothing Grants – Yes, you still need to apply for Clothing Grant for these pupils.

### **How is Eligibility Assessed?**

- Assessment of eligibility is generally based on your household income/circumstances.
- There are different qualifying thresholds for Free School Meals and Clothing Grant awards.
- The qualifying criteria can be found on our website here: [www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm).

### **Will I need to submit an application form?**

- No - If you received an award during the 2024/2025 school year and you have already been contacted to advise you do not need to re-apply.
- Yes - If you have never applied before or if you did not receive an award during the 2024/2025 school year.

### **How Do I Apply?**

- You should apply online: [www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm)

### **When will I receive my award?**

- We aim to assess applications within 28 days of receiving them. Please make sure that you provide all of the necessary evidence with your application form in order for us to complete our assessment, otherwise any entitlement and awards may be delayed.

### **Further Information**

- More information regarding Free School Meals and Clothing Grant can be found on our website and FAQ's at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm).

### **Other Support**

There are other sources of support which may be available to families, depending on your circumstances.

- [Best Start Grant: Pregnancy and Baby Payment](#) – Payments for parents of new-borns, or those currently expecting.
- [Best Start Foods](#) – Payments for parents of children up to 3 years old.
- [Best Start Grant: Early Learning Payment](#) – Payment for parents with children aged between 2 and 3 and half years old.
- [Best Start Grant: School Age Payment](#) – Payment for parents of children starting Primary School.
- [Education Maintenance Allowance \(EMA\)](#) – Financial support for 16 -19 year olds continuing at high school.
- [Young Scot](#) – The Young Scot National Entitlement Card is available free of charge to everyone aged 11-25 living in Scotland. It can be used to receive discounts, for rewards, and also as proof of age.
- [Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme](#) - Young people aged between 5 and 21 years old are eligible for free bus travel from 31 January 2022.
- [Help with Welfare Benefits](#) – Find out if you are claiming all of the support you are entitled to and speak to an adviser for further advice.

- [Other support for families](#) - Any family facing financial insecurity can also contact our Support for people team for assistance or sign posting to other support. The team can be contacted on 0808 100 3161.

## School Clothing Grant

Falkirk Council can also provide assistance with the cost of school clothing and footwear.

Clothing grants are available for children who live in the Falkirk Council area and who are in compulsory education at any of our [primary](#), [special](#) or [secondary](#) schools. Pupils attending some special schools outside the area may also be eligible for this grant.

School clothing grants are not available to children attending [nursery schools](#), nursery classes or other pre-5 centres.

The School Clothing Grant is means tested. To be eligible, parents or guardians must meet one of the following criteria:

- In receipt of Income Support, or
- In receipt of Income-based Job Seekers Allowance, or
- In receipt of Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or
- In receipt of Child Tax Credit only with a gross annual income below £16,105, or
- In receipt of Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with a gross annual income below £16,105

Payments are paid directly into the parent or guardian's bank account.

**Application Forms for Clothing Grant and Free School Meals** including eligibility criteria are available from the school, Falkirk One Stop Shops, Registrars or can be downloaded from the Falkirk Council website – [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk). The forms have to be completed by the parent / carer and evidence of income received may have to be provided. Please note that an application has to be made for each school year.

More information or help with completion of the form can be obtained from the Council's Advice and Information helpline on 01324 506999.

## School Holiday Support Payments

A payment of £2.50 per day as an alternative to free school meal provision during the school holidays. This provision will cover the summer holidays; the Christmas and Easter holidays during the 2024-25 school year; and also the mid-term holidays in October and February.

This payment will be made to children and young people who are awarded free school meals based on the Scottish Government eligibility criteria. To be eligible for payment, children and young people must have been approved for free school meals prior to the beginning of the relevant holiday period.

### **How will the payment be made to parents and carers?**

We will make direct payments to your bank account, using the details we hold on your Free School Meals or Clothing Grant claim. If no bank details are held on file, payments will be issued by cheque.

### **When will I be paid?**

Payments for each eligible pupil will be made at the start of the holiday periods in Summer, October, Christmas, February and Easter

### **Who is not eligible for this additional support?**

Pupils not eligible for this are:

- Pre-school pupils in early years establishments.
- P1-P5 pupils and those pupils in special educational settings where they receive a free meal through universal and not means-tested provision.

For further information please contact us at [fsm.payments@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:fsm.payments@falkirk.gov.uk)

## **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

EMA is a weekly allowance of £30 which you may be able to get if you are:

- aged 16 to 19
- attend a Falkirk school (or attend Home Education)

You'll need to meet the terms of your Learning Agreement, and will usually only get EMA for a week where you have 100% attendance.

Check if you are eligible by visiting the [EMA Scotland website](#).

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### ***How to apply***

You can apply online at [Education Maintenance Allowance | Falkirk Council](#).

Make sure you read the guidance carefully and provide all the information that is asked, including any supporting evidence.

**Please Note:** You will need to complete the application with your parent/carer present as some of the questions relate to their circumstances, and they need to sign the declaration.

Make sure you submit your application even if you don't have all the information. The date that we receive your application can make a huge difference to the date we can pay you from (eg you miss the 30 September or 28 February deadlines).

**Deadlines****If aged 16-19 on or before 30 September**

| <i>Application date</i>                | <i>Payment start date</i>                                  |
|--|--|
| <i>Apply on or before 30 September</i> | <i>Payments start from beginning of August term</i>        |
| <i>Apply after 30 September</i>        | <i>Payments start the week we receive your application</i> |

**Turn 16 between 01 October and 28 February**

| <i>Application date</i>               | <i>Payment start date</i>                                  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Apply on or before 28 February</i> | <i>Payments start from beginning of January term</i>       |
| <i>Apply after 28 February</i>        | <i>Payments start the week we receive your application</i> |

**Travel to and from School**

Parents should remind their child(ren) that, in the interests of safety, good behaviour is expected from all pupils travelling on school transport.

Children should be reminded by parents that, wherever possible, they should only cross the road where there is a crossing patrol and should exercise care on walking to and from school.

Parents are requested, when dropping off/collecting children from school that they do not park near the pedestrian exit or in any location which causes an obstruction and they take care not to restrict the view of the school crossing patrol.

Parents are also instructed not to pick up or drop off their child in the staff car park and are encouraged to use the designated Park and Stride at Grangemouth Stadium.

## **Transport for Primary and Secondary School Children (Excluding Placing Requests)**

Free school transport is provided to and from your home address to your child's catchment school if they are distance entitled. Falkirk Council operate a more generous distance entitlement policy than required by law.

Distance entitled children are:

- ✓ All children under 8 years of age who live one mile or over from their catchment school by the nearest available safe walking route\*.
- ✓ All children 8 years of age or over who live two miles or over from their catchment school by the nearest available safe walking route\*.

\*Note – a “safe walking route” assumes that the pupil is accompanied by a responsible adult.

Concessions, details of times of operation, criteria and application forms are available from the Transport Planning Unit within Falkirk Council. Tel: 01324 504724 / 504966.

### **Pickup points**

Where home to school transport is provided, some pupils will require to walk a reasonable distance from home to the transport pick-up point but this should not exceed the authority's agreed limit of 1 mile.

It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that their child arrives at the pickup point on time and behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while boarding, travelling in and leaving the vehicle. Children who misbehave can lose their right to home to school transport.

### **General Supervision**

There is no adult supervision in the playground at the start and end of the school day. Pupils should arrive at school as near to the school start time as possible.

During intervals Support for Learning Assistants supervise the children. In addition, the Senior Leadership Team and Janitor are on call to cope with any difficulties which may arise. There is always access to the building and the children are made aware of this. For further information on these arrangements, please contact the school.

### **School Security**

Falkirk Council aims to ensure the safety and security of pupils and staff when attending or working in a school. We use a number of security measures including a visitors' book, badges and escorts, while visitors are within the school building. Anyone calling at a school for any reason, is required to report to the school office. The school staff then can make the necessary arrangements for the visit.

### **Wet Weather Arrangements**

In wet weather pupils are allowed into school during breaks and at lunchtime. However, as supervision during these periods is limited, it is especially important that

school rules and expectations around behaviour are adhered to by all. . Children having school lunches may remain in school during wet weather but, again, supervision is limited.

## Parents Meetings

All of our schools offer opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress with teachers through arranged meetings. Arrangements vary from school to school but all parents will be advised of when these meetings will take place. In addition to these set dates, parents are able to contact the school at any time to ask for information or for a meeting. Please see section two of this handbook for more details on home / school partnership.

## Communication with Home

From time to time you will receive important and routine communications from the school via variety of methods (email, the school app, group call, social media etc.). Parents are also encouraged to check their child's schoolbag for these communications. However, most of our communication with home is done via our School App. This allows parents to keep abreast of events and news and also receive important messages from us. There are also regular posts on 'X' to showcase the many events that we have at Bowhouse Primary. Follow us @Bowhouseps/@BowhouseBairns. Enquiries of any kind should be addressed to the school office in the first instance. Our newsletters are issued termly and can be viewed on <http://bowhouse.schoolwebsite.scot/> or on the school App.

## Unexpected Closures

Most closures will be notified to you in writing, in advance, but there are occasions when the children may be dismissed early without warning, e.g. as a result of power cuts or severe weather. In the event of an early school closure please ensure that your child knows where to go if you are not usually at home during the day. To help us keep you informed it is important that you make sure we have the most up to date emergency contact information for your family. We will keep in touch using text messaging, via the Falkirk Council [website](#).

## Mobile devices

Parents provide their children with mobile devices for a variety of reasons, including supporting learning and for personal safety. It is the right of parents to allow their child to have a personal mobile device in school. However, if devices are brought to school there must be a clear understanding that the individual pupil is responsible for the care and usage of their device(s).

Education establishments develop their own mobile device policies in consultation with pupils, parents and staff. For more information on this topic, please contact your child's school.

## **ICT Acceptable Use Policy**

Falkirk Council Children's Services recognises that access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment and services helps young people to learn and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life and citizenship in the 21st Century.

To support this, we provide resources for pupils and staff to use. The Children's Services ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) outlines the guidelines and behaviours that pupils are expected to follow when using school equipment or when using personally-owned mobile devices in Falkirk Council establishments. The purpose of this is to protect young people online and to protect the Council's network and equipment. The ICT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) will be issued by the school for both parent(s) and pupil(s) to sign.

## **Equality**

The council is required to work towards advancing equality of opportunity for all people and to foster good relations between people. The council is committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, age, marriage or civil partnership, transgender status, pregnancy/maternity or poverty.

Children's Services have a range of policies and procedures to address equalities issues specific to education to enable us to fulfil these duties. In addition to this all education establishments have a responsibility to report incidents of prejudice-based bullying in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy: 'Promoting Positive Relationships in Falkirk's Educational Establishments'

## **English as an Additional Language (EAL Team, ASN Service)**

As part of the Additional Support Needs Service, the Council provides a support service for children who have English as an additional language. The service supports enrolment, provides staff training, and visits schools to work with those bilingual pupils who require assistance in developing English language skills. This service can be contacted via email: [EAL@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:EAL@falkirk.gov.uk).

## **Compliments, Enquiries and Complaints Procedure**

Falkirk Council Children's Services would like you to be completely satisfied with your child's education. As a Council of the Future, we are encouraged to view complaints positively as they help us to continually improve the service we provide. We welcome/encourage feedback on our services from parents, pupils, and members of the public whether it be compliments, enquiries, or complaints.

Please let your school know if you have a compliment, enquiry or a complaint about the service provided so they can investigate and resolve any issues you or your child are experiencing as quickly as possible.

### **How do I complain?**

Complaints can be made to schools in writing, by email, on the telephone, or in person.

### **Who do I complain to?**

Parents must contact the school in the first instance. Any complaints received by Education Headquarters that have not been initially referred to the school will be redirected back to school to respond.

### **What happens with my complaint?**

Complaints are logged on our online complaints handling database (Customer First). Only Children's Services staff responsible for logging, monitoring progress or responding to complaints have access to this part of the database.

Our complaints procedure has two stages:

- Stage 1 – Frontline Resolution
- Stage 2 – Investigation

Stage 1 of our complaint's procedure allows immediate action to be taken to resolve the problem with an on-the-spot apology or be given to a Principal Teacher or Deputy Headteacher to investigate and respond. If we can't resolve your complaint at this stage, the next steps will be explained to you.

Complaints that have not been resolved at Stage 1 or are complex and require detailed investigation are investigated at stage 2 of our complaint's procedure. If a complaint is escalated to Stage 2, it will be allocated to the Head Teacher or another senior member of staff to investigate and respond. Stage 2 is our final opportunity to address your complaint.

We will deal with your complaint confidentially and as quickly as possible. If we have made a mistake we will apologise and try to put things right.

### **How long will it take until I get a reply?**

We aim to resolve stage 1 complaints within 5 working days and stage 2 complaints within 20 working days. Occasionally the school may need extra time to investigate when the complaint is complex.

If your stage 1 complaint is received in the final week of term or during a school holiday period, you will be advised that your complaint will resume when staff return.

If your stage 2 complaint is received within the last 2 weeks of term or during a holiday period, you will be advised that your complaint will resume when staff return.

### **Who else can help?**

If you remain dissatisfied after the second investigation stage, you can raise the matter with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman  
<https://www.spsso.org.uk/complain/form/start/>

You should also be aware that you have the right to raise concerns with your local Councillor, MSP, or MP.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Schools can only respond to complaints about a service that they or Falkirk Council provides or a service we have contracted from a third party.

The Council's complaints handling procedure sets a time limit for making a complaint of six months from when the customer first knew of the problem.

You can find out more about the Council's Complaint Procedure from the Falkirk Council website - <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/contact-us/complaints/>

## **Other School Policies**

### **Curricular Policies**

Every school has a range of curricular policies in written format. These policies are the subject of regular discussion, consultation and review with school staff and all can be made available on request and can be found on our school website.

## **School Health Service**

NHS Forth valley has a statutory obligation to provide health services for all school age children. The aim is to make sure that all children and young people, throughout their school years, are in the best possible health to benefit from their education.

### **School Nursing Service**

School Nurses are available **8.30am-4.30pm** all year round, excluding Public Holidays. School Nurses are not based in schools and are part of an integrated community team working from local health centres/clinics. The School Nurse Team offer health screening, health assessments and health reviews.

A health review is offered to all children in primary 1. This involves a parent questionnaire and the opportunity of an appointment with the school nurse to discuss any parental concerns and a review of the child's growth.

The Falkirk School Nursing team comprises of:

- **Registered** School Nurses
- Health care support staff

Children/young people, parents/carers can request a health appointment at any time by contacting the service on 01324 679129.

Referral to the School Nursing Service can be made by Education, Social Work, GP or other Health Care Professionals.

The **School Doctor** may also offer appointments to children with a significant medical or developmental condition which affects their education. School staff and parents can request a child be seen.

**The Public Dental Service** carries out dental inspections in Primary 1 and Primary 7 and can help access dental services for children not registered with a dentist.

### **Infectious diseases**

Colds and tummy upsets are the most common infections affecting children at school. It is important to keep your child at home in the early stages of a cold or until at least 48 hours after an episode of diarrhoea/vomiting to prevent infecting others. For treatment of diseases such as chickenpox or mumps, please consult your GP practice or nurse.

### **Head Lice**

Head lice are spread through head to head contact at home, whilst playing or in school. Regular wet combing of your child's hair using a special comb is the best way to catch this problem early. Specific treatment lotions are available as shampoos are not effective. Two applications should be administered seven days apart. If this is not followed, re-infection is likely.

Further advice is available from leaflets about head lice which are available in all schools and health centres.

### **Clinics**

Some children are asked to attend clinics (eye clinics, dentist, doctor etc) Please let the school know and arrange for your child to be collected if they must leave school to attend. No child will be allowed away from school without a responsible adult or unless written permission has been received from a parent or carer.

### **Immunisation**

#### **Primary Schools**

Flu vaccines are given every year from Primary 1 onwards by an immunisation team visiting the school. Any child who misses a session can be vaccinated by their GP. Pupils with chronic illnesses such as asthma can visit their GP at any time to receive the vaccine.

#### **Secondary Schools**

Pupils are offered several vaccinations such as Meningitis ACWY, a catch-up for the MMR vaccine and a booster for diphtheria, polio and tetanus. From 2019 HPV vaccine will be offered to both boys and girls.

For more information: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

### **Medicines Administration**

Administration of medicines prescribed by a doctor or dentist is at the discretion of the head teacher but most schools are happy to co-operate. Parents who wish school staff to give medicines should take the medication to school and fill in the appropriate form (MED1). It is also possible to complete another form (MED4) which

allows pupils to carry and administer medication themselves, for example inhalers. Prescribed medication should be clearly marked with your child's name, date prescribed, how often it has to be taken and for how long.

[MED 1 - Allow school staff to administer medication](#)

[MED 4 - Request for pupil to carry their medication](#)

### **Pharmacies**

Community pharmacies are trained in providing advice on coughs and colds, high temperature, fever, nasal congestion, minor eye infections, constipation, stomach upsets, fungal infections such as athlete's foot, and skin problems such as impetigo. For more information: [nhsforthvalley.com](http://nhsforthvalley.com)

## **Insurance Cover for School Children**

### **Public Liability**

#### **Personal Injury**

Falkirk Council has in place a Public Liability policy which operates in respect of claims for injury to any school child whilst under the care of the Council or employees, however the onus is on the claimant to prove that the Council has been legally negligent.

#### **Pupil's Property**

Each session, unfortunately but inevitably, pupil's property is lost, damaged or stolen from school. Parents are therefore discouraged from allowing their children to carry expensive items of personal belongings to the school and are reminded that a standard household policy can be extended to provide a degree of cover for personal items taken away from the home. Falkirk Council are not legally responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items unless specifically entrusted to a staff member nor loss or damage caused by another pupil.

Any claim made for loss or damage to the property left in the care of the school will have to be submitted, in the first instance to Children's Services, and the claim will only be settled if it is shown that the Council can be shown to be legally liable for the loss.

#### **Travel and Personal Accident Cover – Educational Excursions**

The Council has in force travel and personal accident cover for school children under which compensation is payable in the circumstances below, irrespective of legal liability.

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>1. Death</b>                               | <b>£30,000</b>       |
| <b>2. Permanent Total/Partial Disablement</b> | <b>up to £30,000</b> |

The insurance applies to any activities involving a journey outside the premises of the School – both in the UK and overseas – organised by the school/Council.

## Section Two – Parental Involvement in the School

### Parents Welcome

All Falkirk Council schools welcome and encourage parental involvement and engagement. Research has shown that when parents are involved children do better in school.

*Falkirk Council Children's Services recently updated our Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy in consultation with parents. This details a series of actions which we plan to take over a three year period to improve parental engagement with schools and the service and help to break down barriers which many parents experiencing when trying to become involved in the life and work of the school.*

### Parental Involvement

#### Parent Helpers

Parents are invited to assist in supervising children on educational excursions and also in working with staff and children on a regular basis in class. Parent Helpers are invaluable as are Granny and Grandpa Helpers! Anyone who can offer assistance should give their name to school office. All parent helpers have to complete a PVG.

#### Parent Councils

Parents are welcomed to be:

- involved with their child's education and learning;
- be active participants in the life of the school
- express their views on school education generally and work with the school.

All parents / carers are automatically members of the Parent Forum at this school. As a member of the Parent Forum all parents should –

- receive information about the school and its activities;
- hear about what partnership with parents means in our school;
- be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you;
- identify issues you want the Parent Council to work on with the school;
- be asked your opinion by the Parent Council on issues relating to the school
- work collaboratively with the school; and
- enjoy taking part in the life of the school in whatever way possible.

Parent Councils are the formal representative body for parents / carers with children attending school. Parent Councils are different in each school to enable them to meet the needs of parents / carers locally.

The Parent Forum decides how their representatives on the Parent Council are chosen and how the Parent Council operates. Parents / carers are encouraged to volunteer or put themselves forward to be chosen as representatives of the Parent Council if they wish.

The main aims of the Parent Council are:

- To support and work collaboratively with the school in its work with pupils

- To seek and represent the views of parents
- To promote contact between the school, parents, pupils, providers of nursery education and the community
- To report to the Parent Forum
- To be involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff in the school.
- To raise funds for the school for the benefit of pupils (in some schools the PTA/PA fulfils this role).
- To be included in School Improvement Planning

The Parent Council is responsible for arranging events for parents and raising funds for the school. Volunteers are welcome - please contact the Parent Council if you want to join in.

Connect (formerly the SPTC) the national organisation for PTAs and PAs in Scotland, Parent Councils are members too, and it runs an independent helpline service for all parents. They can be contacted by phone on 0131 474 6199, via website <https://connect.scot/>, email on [info@connect.scot](mailto:info@connect.scot) or write to Connect, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB



Parentzone Scotland is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science. Information is also available on Parentzone

Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education. Furthermore, the website has details about schools including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6; and links to the national, and local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels. Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.



## Information and advice on education and learning for parents in Scotland

*Be at the heart of your child's learning . . .*



Sign up to receive our Parents and Carers e-bulletins for the latest developments in Scottish education.  
[edscot.org.uk/p/LQE-391/subscribe](https://edscot.org.uk/p/LQE-391/subscribe)  
Email: [enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk)

[education.gov.scot/parentzone](https://education.gov.scot/parentzone)



## **School Ethos**

We aim to create a positive ethos in our school where:

- Pupils and staff work in a pleasant and stimulating environment, feel secure and each is respected and valued member of the school in his or her own right
- All staff, teaching and non-teaching, pupils and parents, feel part of the learning team
- Children are encouraged and motivated to work to the best of their ability and are supported in their development so that they feel a sense of achievement
- An open door policy exists for parents/ carers
- We create a warm, welcoming environment for all visitors, parents and carers

The school is supported by a chaplain, Rev R. Matandakufa of Kirk of the Holy Rood Parish Church.

The school has regular assemblies which are led either by the Headteacher, the Depute Headteacher and Principal Teacher. We also occasionally have visiting speakers. Pupils take responsibility for sections of the assemblies.

Parents may exercise their right to withdraw their children from religious education and religious observance and this should preferably be requested, in writing, at enrolment.

## **Development of Pupils' mental, social and emotional wellbeing**

The school is committed to supporting the development of the whole child and as a result, wishes to encourage their holistic wellbeing.

Mental, social and emotional wellbeing is supported in the following ways;

- Creating a school ethos which, in every way possible, gives value to these aspects of development, especially by providing an environment which is both caring and challenging and which provides opportunities for exercising rights and responsibility.
- Ensuring that staff and adults in the school act as positive role models for pupils.
- Providing opportunities for members of the school community to come together reinforcing shared values.
- Providing rich opportunities across all areas of the curriculum to develop mental, social and emotional wellbeing.
- Taking every opportunity within the curriculum and across the wider work of the school to celebrate diversity and promote equality.

A range of new local services, digital support and self-help information for school-aged children are available here: [Falkirk Community Mental Health and Wellbeing \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://glowscotland.org.uk)

## **Pupil Conduct**

A genuine partnership between the school and family is necessary to ensure the best possible standards of pupil conduct are shared, understood and underpin every interaction between children/young people, parents/carers and school staff.

Pupils are expected to set themselves high standards in appearance and behaviour. School rules are devised to encourage the maximum amount of self-discipline. The rules make clear what is expected of pupils, and how they are required to behave. The general aim is to produce an atmosphere of friendly co-operation, encouraging respect and consideration for other persons and for property. A behavioural agreement is included in the School Enrolment Form that parents complete when enrolling their child(ren).

Our Positive Relationships, Positive Behaviour Framework was piloted in session 2023-2024 and is currently under review to take account of feedback and current local and national guidance.

Bowhouse Primary is committed to creating an environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour, encourage others to do the same and to be **'Ready, Respectful, Safe'**. Our approach to promoting positive behaviour guides staff to teach self-discipline not blind compliance and echoes our core values – Kindness, Pride and ambition with a heavy emphasis on respectful behaviour, a partnership approach to managing poor conduct and dynamic interventions that support staff and learners.

## **Restorative Approach To Bullying Behaviour**

Whilst many believe that children who display bullying behaviour should be punished, it is widely accepted that this type of response can at times be ineffective, and make the situation worse.

The adoption of restorative approaches is evidenced to be a more effective response than traditional methods. Pupils are given the opportunity to accept responsibility for their actions, recognise the harm done and are supported to find restorative responses to the harm they have caused. There are times where sanctions are appropriate; exclusion is seen as a last resort and carried out when incidents fall within the legislation criteria.

Falkirk Council has a responsibility to provide an education for all pupils and to challenge and address bullying behaviour. Whilst appropriate action will be taken by the school, it is also important that all parent/carers, work with the school to resolve any issues in the best interests of their child or young person.

Parents can access Falkirk Council's Anti-Bullying Policy, 'Promoting Positive Relationships in Falkirk's Educational Establishments'; on the Council website: [www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/schools-education/policies-strategies/anti-bullying-policy.aspx](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/schools-education/policies-strategies/anti-bullying-policy.aspx)

\*Please note, our Anti-Bullying Policy is due to be updated during the 2024-25 school year.

## Section Three – School Curriculum

### Curriculum for Excellence

**Learning to Achieve** - Our core educational policy.

This describes in detail how **Curriculum for Excellence** will be delivered in our educational establishments. We use **Learning to Achieve** along with the national guidance to monitor, develop and improve outcomes for children and young people.

**Curriculum for Excellence** – Bringing learning to life and life to learning.

Curriculum for Excellence is the vehicle by which we deliver a Quality Education across the **4 Contexts of Learning**. It aims to **raise standards**, prepare our children for a future they do not yet know and equip them for jobs of tomorrow in a fast changing world.

Curriculum for Excellence balances the importance of **knowledge** and **skills**. Every child is entitled to a **broad** and **deep** general education, whatever their level and ability. It develops **skills** for learning, life and work, bringing real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helping young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links **knowledge** in one subject area to another helping make connections in their learning. It develops skills which can enable children to think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

#### Responsibility of all

Every single teacher and practitioner will be responsible for the development of **literacy and numeracy and health & well-being** from Early Level through to Senior Phase.

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's learning journey from 3-18, helping their progression from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and beyond, ensuring each transition is smooth. They'll ensure children continue to work at a pace they can cope with and with challenge they can thrive on.

There is an entitlement to personal **support** to help young people fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities with **additional support** wherever that's needed. There is an emphasis by all staff on looking after our children's **health and well-being**; to ensure that the school is a place where children feel safe and secure. **GLOW**, Scotland's unique, world leading, online network supports learners and teachers. Learners have **individual access** to GLOW through a username and password issued by school.

#### Developing the Young Workforce

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) this programme builds on the foundations already in place as part of Curriculum for Excellence.

Collaborative working between early years, primary and secondary alongside partnership working with local employers and businesses enhances your child's experiences early years to their point of exit from school. Curriculum planning and

structures in schools have continued to evolve progressively as new qualifications have been introduced alongside traditional subjects. There is now on offer a wide range of opportunities for young people to develop their employability skills, gain experiences of the world of work and incorporate work-based learning elements together with employers to explore direct pathways into employment.

Schools should expand on curriculum issues. How the curriculum is planned and delivered at school.....

Please contact the headteacher if you would like any further information about the curriculum within our school.

For further information on Learning in Scotland please access the following link:

[\*\*A summary of Developing the Young Workforce \(DYW\)\*\*](#)

Through the delivery of interdisciplinary learning, engagement with local businesses and the involvement of pupils in pupil councils, as well as World of Work day for P6 pupils, the school ensures the pupils in Bowhouse Primary School develop the skills for learning, life and work, including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

All pupils have the opportunity to develop skills in Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths (STEM) using problem based learning approaches and the school has achieved a Digital Schools Award and is working towards a STEM Nation Award.

Children's Services' Learning to Achieve document explains how we use Curriculum for Excellence in Bowhouse Primary School and outlines our aspirations for the children in school as they embark upon their learning journey.

In line with Falkirk Council Children's Services, we aim to ensure that all our learners have:

- A positive learning environment
- Opportunities to fully develop the four capacities
- Opportunities for play, sport, creativity and cultural activities
- Opportunities to contribute to decision making
- Opportunities to develop skills for life and skills for work
- Support that will enable them to make positive transitions at all stages of their learning.

We want all learners in school to have enjoyable, challenging experiences, allowing them to work to their full potential and be pro-active and independent within their own learning experiences. We also recognise that learning experiences will take place in and beyond school. It is vital that all adults, including parents, contribute to the educational experiences of our learners and are key players in making this vision a reality.

## **English Language**

Our aim is to teach our children to use language effectively in a wide range of contexts. Our curriculum programme supports the children to develop skills in language across in its many forms, by talking, listening, reading and writing.

Throughout the school we use a structured approach to the teaching of reading and writing. The pupils have access to wide range of texts (books and online resource)

and a variety of resources including group novels sourced from library services as children progress.

Throughout the school we have adopted the strategies of Talk 4 Writing to raise attainment and engagement in writing whilst also encouraging "the reading habit" from the earliest years - reading for pleasure as well as for study and information. Active literacy is the teaching approach implemented across the school to raise attainment in literacy with a focus on phonics, spelling and reading.

## **Mathematics**

Our aim is to give each child a good foundation in all aspects of mathematics: Number, Money, Measure, Shape Position and Movement, Information Handling and Problem Solving, with a focus on developing an understanding of numerical concepts to deepen understanding. We place an emphasis on the practical application of these skills, adopting a CPA (concrete, practical, abstract) approach across the school to ensure all children have access to the necessary concrete materials at the right time and can apply their skills to meaningful experiences across the curriculum.

## **Social Studies**

Social Studies includes the component areas of Science, History and Geography. Technology, including Information Communication Technology is taught generally through a social subject topic and an inter-disciplinary approach (IDL).

Our aim is to help the child/ren to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of the world in which he/she lives
- a wide range of skills to enable him/her to investigate and understand the environment
- informed attitudes and values towards the care and conservation of the environment

Each classroom has networked desktop computers and sets of i-Pads are used by children from P1, building on their skills as they progress through school. Digital Leaders from P5-7 support learning in ICT.

## **Expressive Arts**

In, art and design, music and drama, we aim to extend the children's ideas and horizons, promote their physical, personal and social development and raise an awareness of cultural heritage. Above all we hope they will take pleasure from these subjects and may continue some of them in their own time.

Where possible we try to integrate the Expressive Arts subjects with our topic work and develop the skills that the children require to carry out their work with confidence. At the time of writing we have visiting specialist teachers in PE, Music, and instrumental tutors in brass, violin and ukulele also visit the school.

## **Outdoor Learning**

Children at Bowhouse Primary School are encouraged to achieve success through a variety of different activities and some of these include formal accreditation. Extending learning outdoors is an area we are currently developing.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Within Health and Wellbeing, we aim to provide:

- the foundation for the development of concepts and skills necessary for participation in physical activity
- a foundation for participation in a number of active sports in later life-thereby leading a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.
- an understanding of the relationship between food, health and wellbeing
- an understanding of what constitutes a healthy balanced diet
- knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to substance use and misuse and sexual health and parenthood
- understand the impact of risk taking behaviour on life choices
- make informed personal choices which will keep them safe and healthy
- understand the importance of family relationships to help nurture health and wellbeing
- raise children`s awareness of Sexual Health and Relationships through the delivery of the authority programme which focuses on Growth and Development from infancy to puberty and the importance of relationships.

## **Sensitive Aspects of Learning**

Our Health and Wellbeing programme is delivered in line with authority guidance which engages the children and takes account of their views and experiences especially where decisions are to be made that may impact on their life choices now and in the future- this programme includes teaching and learning about substance misuse and sexual health . The Authority`s Sexual Health and Relationships programme is delivered by the class teacher and supported by the school nurse.

Should parents not wish their child to take part in the specific sexual health study unit they must inform the Headteacher in writing. Arrangements will then be made for their children to be supervised with an alternative task.

## **Religious Instruction and Observance**

### **Religious Instruction**

Schools have a statutory duty to provide Religious Instruction in the timetable. This aims to promote a knowledge of the Christian and other faiths, and encourage children and young people to develop enquiring minds through investigating spiritual, moral and philosophical issues.

Religious Instruction may include visits to local places of worship, and/or visits from representatives of places of worship. This helps children and young people to develop knowledge and understanding of faiths, especially those with which they are less familiar.

Ultimately, pupils in the upper secondary school can gain a qualification through the study of Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies at Higher and Advanced Higher Levels. These courses further develop young people's skills in logical thinking, methodical enquiry and ways of expressing ideas effectively.

### **Religious Observance/Time for Reflection**

Religious Observance, which may take the form of a Time for Reflection, is held at least six times a year, in addition to traditional celebrations central to the life of the school community. Religious Observance will often (but not necessarily) take the form of an assembly.

### **Withdrawal from Religious Instruction and Religious Observance/Time for Reflection**

Parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from religious observance are encouraged to discuss their intention with the Headteacher in the first instance to enable them to make a fully informed decision. Thereafter parents who wish to proceed to withdraw their child(ren) should notify the Headteacher in writing. This is so that alternative educational activities can be planned for their child(ren) during times of Religious Instruction and/or Observance.

Please contact the Headteacher if you would like any further information about the curriculum within our school.

## **Health Promotion**

### **Healthy eating, physical activities, emotional wellbeing, oral & sexual health**

Falkirk Council is committed to the health and wellbeing of all pupils and has supported all schools to achieve Health Promoting School status.

At Bowhouse Primary School we aim to be a Health Promoting School - one in which all members of the school community work together to provide pupils with positive experiences and structures which promote and protect their health. This includes the delivery of a formal and informal health curriculum, the creation of a safe and healthy school environment, the provision of appropriate health services and the involvement of the family and the wider community in our efforts to promote health. Pupils from P5-7 also have the opportunity to lead in health promotion through the Health Council. In all of the above we are supported by Falkirk Council and partner agencies which target all areas of health, as we develop and support opportunities for our children and families to make healthier lifestyle choices.

### **Facilities for Physical Education and Outdoor Activities**

The gym hall has a variety of apparatus for physical education within the school. As part of the school's physical education programme, pupils may also use the facilities of the local sports complex, swimming pool or athletics stadium and activities and events are planned in the year at these venues. **Classes are informed of their PE day at the start of the session by the class teacher and all pupils are expected to bring to school their PE kit.**

## Active Schools

The goal of Active Schools is to provide more high quality opportunities to participate in sport within schools. We also aim to ensure that these opportunities are well connected to and supported by other local, regional and national partners.

We work with Physical Education (PE) professionals to ensure better coordination between PE and school sports and also to encourage the development of more physically active children and young people.

While our focus is sport, our activities connect to the wider landscapes of play, dance, exercise and active living – we know that a joint effort is required to deliver the health and performance related fitness our children and young people deserve.

Within Falkirk Council we have an Active Schools Manager, nine Active Schools Coordinators (Primary) and nine Active Schools Coordinators (Secondary). The Coordinators work within their respective Primary and High Schools clusters to provide further opportunities for physical activity, sport and play. We also have a coordinator designated to disability sport.

[Active Schools Falkirk | Falkirk Council \(falkirkleisureandculture.org\)](#)  
[Follow us on @falkirk sport](#)

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Every school is encouraged to offer as wide a range of sporting and cultural activities as possible. In this context, the Authority provides a degree of financial and administrative support for leagues, competitions, festivals and similar events but it is recognised that, again, the help of parents and the community is irreplaceable. Quite separately, the Council and / or Falkirk Community Trust and other partner organisations also undertake to organise and administer certain events and many schools take part in these.

There is a range of extracurricular activities available for pupils during lunchtime and after school. Parents will be informed about these by the school. In addition to in-school activities, classes also make regular educational visits and field studies. Wherever possible, these visits are linked to pupils' class work.

Where participation involves children travelling or staying late after school, written permission for children taking part is required from parents.

## Play Pedagogy and Active Learning

Curriculum for Excellence emphasises the value of an active learning approach. Active learning is engagement of the brain whilst participating in learning experiences.

In the early years, children will have a range of learning experiences that include planned and purposeful play and stimulating learning which engages and challenges children's thinking using real life and imaginary situations.

As children progress through school they continue to be involved in active learning

experiences which give them ownership of their own learning, encourage co-operative working and utilise skills required for learning, life and work.

## **Planning Children's and Young People's Learning**

Practitioners use a variety of approaches to ensure that pupils understand the purpose of their learning and are clear about how to be successful. A variety of planning approaches are used to ensure that experiences are progressive, skills – focused and meet pupils' learning needs. Often individualised targets help pupils to assess their own learning.

Pupils and teachers plan interdisciplinary learning experiences together using experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence along with pupil interest. Pupils are supported to identify their next steps in learning in Literacy and Numeracy. Pupils from P4-7 have the opportunity to participate in a pupil forum through our Smart School Council. The forum is involved in identifying development needs as part of the school improvement planning process.

Pupils in P5-7 have the opportunity to join the Communication Team to discuss school improvement and pupils across all stages have the opportunity to share their views through our Class Meetings. Questions are set by pupils in the Communication Team to capture the views of pupils feel we need to improve upon. The Communication Team decides, plans and implements what they will take forward across the school.

## **Learning at Home**

Practitioners provide home learning activities to support reinforcement of learning or to encourage pupils to apply learning in different ways, often in real life situations. We use Seesaw and Microsoft Teams as our main platforms for sharing home learning.

Parents are encouraged to get involved in home learning tasks. This helps parents keep up-to-date about learning in class and promote positive learning partnerships. Class teachers share information about learning each week and indicate ways in which pupils can be supported with this at home.

## **Care of Books / Materials**

To enable us to provide the best possible education for your child, every care should be taken to look after the school's resources and facilities. Parents are asked to remind their child(ren) that all school equipment and fitments should be used with care.

Books and learning resources which are lost or destroyed must be paid for, either wholly or in part, depending on the age of the resource. Any loss of school or Council property should be reported immediately to the school.

## **Assessment and Reporting**

There are a variety of ways to assess progress and ensure that children and young people achieve their potential. Effective assessment practice within schools and establishments include:

- Learner involvement in setting personal targets and next steps
- On-going self-evaluation by learners, staff and school leaders
- Identification of strengths and next steps
- A range of approaches to assessment
- A variety of evidence gathered informally on a day to day basis or formally at certain points throughout the year (not exclusively - Teachers' professional judgement, Scottish National Standardised Assessments, National Qualifications)
- Moderation of standards using Education Scotland Benchmarks
- Consideration of data analysis and performance information

Achievement of a Level & Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA):  
Learner's progress is defined within the following levels:

| Level          | Stage   |
|----------------|---|
| Early          | Pre-school and P1 however may be later for some           |
| First          | To the end of P4 however may be earlier or later for some |
| Second         | To the end of P7 however may be earlier or later for some |
| Third & Fourth | S1 – S3 however this may be earlier for some              |
| Senior Phase   | S4-S6 and college or other means of study                 |

Achievement of a level means that the learner has achieved a breadth of learning across the curriculum area and has met the appropriate benchmarks; that they have responded consistently well to the level of challenge in their learning and can apply what they have learned in new and unfamiliar situation.

From August 2017, National standardised assessments have been introduced to all schools across Scotland in aspects of reading, writing and numeracy, for all learners in P1, P4, P7 and S3.

These assessments sit alongside a wide range of other evidence including ongoing classroom assessment of all aspects of literacy and numeracy. They cannot be used alone to confirm judgements of achievement of a level.

Within schools and establishments, finding out about your child's progress includes:

- Attending parents' information evenings
- Discussing progress with teacher staff and school leaders by appointment
- Attend open evenings/afternoons including "meet the teacher" events
- Reading learning logs or diaries (which usually invite parents/carers to comment)
- Summary Reports (sent home to parents/carers including an invite to make comments)
- Social media updates from staff and/or the school

Further information about what data is collected about your child is given in section 5 of this handbook.

Parent's Evenings and Open Afternoons provide opportunities for parents to share their child's progress.

A written report is issued in June detailing progress in line with national standards.

Teachers and pupils are developing methods of sharing ongoing progress using e-portfolios.

## **Section Four – Support for Pupils**

### **Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)**

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC was produced in 1989 and contains 54 Articles specifically for children, recognising the special care and protection they need throughout childhood to experience the full range of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

The Scottish Government is committed to recognising, respecting, and promoting children's rights as part of its wider commitment to improving life chances for all children and young people. The UNCRC lies at the heart of the Scottish Government's policy and practice.

[UNCRC: the foundation of Getting it right for every child - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is the Scottish Government's approach to improving children's services. The wellbeing of all children and young people is at the heart of GIRFEC. Services must work together with children, young people, their families, and those responsible for their care, to provide quick and effective support. To support the GIRFEC approach, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensure key parts of GIRFEC are within law.

### **Wellbeing**

The GIRFEC approach looks at eight areas of wellbeing. These are recognised as required areas which children and young people need to flourish both now and in the future.

The eight wellbeing indicators are:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Responsible
- Respected
- Included

These enable the adults responsible for the care and wellbeing of children and young people to provide them with support. These areas help children and young people,

families, those responsible for their care, and services, to identify any needs. Through a collaborative approach children and young people, families, those responsible for their care, and services will use these eight wellbeing indicators to identify any need and respond with appropriate planned solutions and supports.

This approach provides a common language and areas to focus on when gathering information about a child and young person's world, to ensure they are growing and developing (UNCRC Article 6).

[Policies & strategies - Getting it Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\) | Falkirk Council](#)

## **Main Contact**

In 2019, the Scottish Government repealed the relevant sections of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 relating to the Named Person service. A named person was defined as a central point of contact for children, young people, and parents. This person had the responsibility for providing families with information for getting the support if, and when, they needed it. As a result of the Scottish Government's decision, education authorities are no longer legally required to provide this service.

Every child and young person will still have a main contact within a school establishment to support and promote their wellbeing. The role of the main contact is to act as the first point of contact for children, young people, those responsible for their care, and families.

If the main contact is not available, please speak to another member of staff who will be able to help. During school holidays an officer from Children's Services Central Team will provide the advice and support you may require.

## **Family Support Service**

Family Support Services work in partnership with families, schools, and other agencies to support young people's wellbeing from early intervention to more intensive support.

Children, young people, and families may require additional support at different times in their life due to changing circumstances, such as: following a bereavement, trauma, illness, increased anxiety, and transition points in life. Support can be tailored to meet the individual needs of children, young people, and families, when they need it most and as locally as possible.

A request for support can be made through a member of school staff (main school contact) who will be able to talk with you, gather information and your family's views. This helps identify the most appropriate service. Support can be delivered in school, at home or in the community, on an individual or group basis.

## **Protecting Children and Young People**

Article 19 of the UNCRC states that all children and young people have a right to be protected from violence, abuse and neglect. Everyone who works with children or young people has an important role in keeping them safe. Any individual could

identify a concern that a child or young person may be at risk from abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence.

Falkirk Council has clear procedures for all staff to follow when there are concerns that a child might have been abused, are at risk of abuse or are likely to be exposed to significant harm. Sharing relevant information is an essential part of protecting children. Where there is concern about a child's safety or welfare, relevant information will be shared with police or Social work without delay, provided it is necessary, proportionate and lawful to do so.

All concerns that may indicate a risk of significant harm will lead to an Inter -agency referral discussion (IRD). This multi-agency forum involving Social Work, Police, Health and Education share relevant information they hold about the family and will decide on the next steps that are required, whether to progress an investigation and make plans to ensure the immediate safety of the child.

## **Additional Support Needs**

As with all local authority schools in Scotland, this school operates under the terms of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (amended 2009) and its accompanying Code of Practice. This has been strengthened through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Further details of the policies and procedures can be found on the Falkirk Council website:

[www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/schools-education/additional-support-needs/](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/schools-education/additional-support-needs/)

Children, young people, and families will work together with this school, other agencies and professionals to provide the best possible educational provision to meet their needs within the resources available. This may include working with Social Work Services, Educational Psychology Service, and the National Health Service.

## **Support for Pupils**

The school makes provision for pupils with additional support needs throughout their education (UNCRC Articles 23, 28 and 29):

- each teacher differentiates the Curriculum for Excellence within their class to provide educational targets and objectives suited to their age and stage of development
- the school has an experienced Support for Learning Teacher or Pupil Support Teacher to co-ordinate and organise support for children
- the school can utilise Support for Learning Assistant time for exceptional cases

For the children and young people who require further support, the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators, and other assessments, may be used to identify their additional support needs. Those involved in helping to complete a rounded picture of assessment are referred to as the Team Around the Child (TAC) (UNCRC Article 3).

Members of the TAC may include the following. Depending on the circumstances,

others may be involved:

- the child or young person (UNCRC Article 12)
- parents or carers
- others responsible for the care of the child or young person
- school staff
- social work
- Children's Rights Officer
- ASN Advisor

The Team will also draw up and review plans to meet the identified needs. Their activities are co-ordinated by the Lead Professional, who is responsible for ensuring plans are implemented and has an overall picture of the child or young person's progress.

If you believe your child may have unrecognised additional support needs, your first point of contact should be the child's class teacher (primary) or their Guidance teacher/Pastoral Head (secondary).

## Disputes and Resolution in Additional Support Needs

Schools and Early Learning Centres (ELC) do their best to support and respond to the needs of their children and young people. It is important for good communication between home and school so that should a problem arise, it can be identified and discussed as soon as possible.

In the first instance, the school or ELC should be contacted directly. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, services from centrally based staff may be called upon: the Additional Support for Learning Adviser, the Educational Psychologist or the school's attached Team Manager. Children's Services also commission independent mediation through Children in Scotland. This is a free service to parents, carers, and young people. It offers an independent mediation service by fully trained, experienced mediators in neutral venues and operates with a child-centred approach. Their services, called Resolve, may be arranged by the Additional Support for Learning Adviser, or accessed directly by parents and carers.

Parents, carers and children or young people with additional support needs can also seek independent advice and support through:

- **Enquire** – the Scottish advice and information Service for additional support for learning managed by Children in Scotland: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk), [info@enquire.org.uk](mailto:info@enquire.org.uk) 0345 123 2303
- **Resolve: ASL** - to contact the service, or to find out more: [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk), [info@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@childreninscotland.org.uk) Sandra Mitchell, Mediation Manager [smitchell@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:smitchell@childreninscotland.org.uk) Children in Scotland, Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR
- **Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance** - [www.siaa.org.uk](http://www.siaa.org.uk), [enquiry@siaa.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@siaa.org.uk) 0131 510 9410
- **Let's Talk ASN Scotland** - is a Scottish Government funded service for the parents of children with additional support needs and run in partnership with

Barnardo's. The service provides legal representation in appropriate education law cases to parents or pupils. It also provides advocacy support for families with a right of reference to the ASN Tribunal for Scotland., c/o Govan Law Centre, [letstalkasn@edlaw-org.uk](mailto:letstalkasn@edlaw-org.uk) 0141 445 1955

- **Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland** - [www.cypcs.org.uk/about/](http://www.cypcs.org.uk/about/)

More detailed information about Falkirk Council's ASN service can be found here: [Falkirk Council Additional Support Needs | Supporting Children & Young People with Additional Support Needs Across Falkirk Council \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Falkirk Council Additional Support Needs | Supporting Children & Young People with Additional Support Needs Across Falkirk Council (glowscotland.org.uk))

## Disputes and Resolution

Schools and Early Years facilities do their best to support pupils, and are responsive to the needs of parents, carers and pupils. Nevertheless, problems may arise, and it is important to deal with these as soon as possible.

In the first instant it is usually wise to contact the school or nursery directly, and if the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, they may call on the services of some of centrally-based staff – the Additional Support for Learning Adviser, the Educational Psychologist or the school's attached Team Manager. Children's Services also commission independent mediation through Children in Scotland. Their services, called Resolve, may be arranged by the Additional Support for Learning Adviser, or accessed directly by parents on 0131 222 2456.

Parents, carers and children with additional support needs can also seek independent advice and support through:

- Enquire – the Scottish advice and information Service for additional support for learning: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk), 0845 123 2303
- Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance; [www.siaa.org.uk](http://www.siaa.org.uk), 0131-260-5380
- Take Note: National Advocacy Service for Additional Support Needs (Barnados in association with the Scottish Child Law Centre) [www.sclc.org.uk](http://www.sclc.org.uk), 0131-667-6633.

## Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service is a statutory service with a role to provide advice to both the school and parents. Educational Psychologists work in collaboration with teachers, parents and other professionals to support children and young people with their learning and development, and to make the most of their lives.

Every school and pre-five establishment has a link Educational Psychologist who provides consultation, assessment, intervention, training and project work. The Service works within the Staged Intervention Approach of Children's Services. We expect that all schools will have undertaken appropriate assessment and intervention at stage 2 before asking for educational psychology assistance.

The school must obtain the agreement of parents and, where appropriate, the pupil before involving the Educational Psychology Service. Further information is on the website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/epservice>

As a statutory service we are required to publish a privacy notice which is available here: [Privacy notices: Schools & education - Educational Psychology Service | Falkirk Council](#)

Parents can contact the service directly on Educational Psychology Service [educationalpsychologyservice@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educationalpsychologyservice@falkirk.gov.uk) or 01324 506600. Please ask for the link psychologist for your child's school or Nick Balchin, the Principal Educational Psychologist.

### **EPS Prioritisation**

The Educational Psychology Service does not operate a waiting list system. We aim to be responsive as a service and so we do this through a prioritisation system.

A. Respond to statutory requests within agreed timescales these are written request for an educational Psychology Assessment from the parent, child/young person or the local authority from the Additional Support Needs Team

OR

B. Prioritise with school manager/cluster approximately termly and prioritise as follows:

1. Critical incidents
2. Children at risk of education placement breakdown
3. Children where there is evidence that high levels of adaptation are required
4. Assessment in relation to significant Additional Support Needs or placement change
5. Exploratory Assessment to identify areas of concern

### **Pastoral Support**

Every member of staff has responsibility for the pastoral support of our pupils. For some pupils additional support is offered through a key person in school. This usually will be one of the management team. An integrated approach with partner agencies is employed where greater support is needed.

### **Transitions**

Comprehensive transition programmes have been well established to ensure a smooth transition from Nursery to P1 and P7 to S1.

In the summer term a planned Nursery- P1 transition project is delivered to all children in the cluster nurseries giving them the opportunity to have a shared learning experience which they bring to the primary school. In June each year we have an induction afternoon and the children have the opportunity to meet their P1 teacher in

their classroom and parents and carers meet collectively in the school hall with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, where a presentation about P1 is presented followed by the opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns. The School Handbook summary is issued to all parents at this time which gives easy access to key information about the school.

In September of the first term parents are invited to an Open Afternoon, Meet The Teacher and any questions / concerns can be addressed at this time.

P7 pupils preparing to transfer to High School meet with other P7 pupils as part of the residential experience in March, meet with the High School staff and former pupils in March/ April when a Roadshow is presented by the High School to all pupils informing them of their day, curriculum subjects, and procedures for lunch and breaks etc. This road show has been established over the last few years and is very successful with pupils and staff alike.

In June the pupils have a 2 day visit to the school, experiencing the routines and becoming familiar with the school building. Parents are also invited to a parents` evening, Children with additional support needs have an enhanced transition with additional visits to the High School and parents have the opportunity to meet with school staff to discuss their child`s individual needs.

Children transferring to another High School, nursery school/ class or primary school are supported similarly with a transition programme agreed between schools.

## **Nursery Class Provision**

The school`s nursery class provides places for children aged 3-5 years. Nursery class provision is non-denominational, which allows children of parents from all religions and beliefs to attend the nursery. Attendance at the nursery class does not however guarantee a place in the school.

## **Admission to Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) Establishments in Falkirk**

ELC places are allocated according to the Early Learning and Childcare Admission Policy. A funded pre-school education place is available for every child aged 3 to 5 years who lives in Falkirk. A funded place can be provided in either a Falkirk Council ELC Centre, private nursery or childminder which is in partnership with Falkirk Council.

Children become eligible for pre-school education as follows:

- For children who reach 3 years of age between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July the start date will be the beginning of the Autumn Term (August)
- For children reaching 3 years of age between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> February of the following year the start date will be a month after the child`s 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Parents can apply for a nursery place between 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February each year via the Council's website <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/children-families/early-learning-childcare/elc-admissions.aspx>

Please note you will need to create a MyFalkirk account before applying.

## **Transition from Nursery to Primary**

Each establishment has a detailed approach to ensure a smooth transition for children to primary school. This involves nursery and primary staff working together to share information about children's progress and achievements which will inform future planning.

## **Primary School Admissions**

Children's Services must set a date each year for the commencement of children's attendance at Primary school. This date is usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in August.

When commencing Primary 1 education, your child will normally attend the local denominational or non-denominational Primary school and transfer from it, after Primary 7, to its associated Secondary school. Details of the catchment areas and boundaries can be obtained from the Forward Planning Section – Tel. 01324 506608 in the Children's Services, on the website - [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk) or the relevant school.

Pupils who are baptised Roman Catholic and who live within the catchment area of a denominational school are automatically entitled to enrol at the school. All other pupils will require a placing request (see below).

Any movement between denominational and non-denominational schools at year stages other than Primary 1 will require a Placing Request Form to be completed.

The authority will place adverts in the local press and nurseries advertising the date(s) for enrolment.

Parents of pupils enrolling at a denominational school must also present their child's RC baptismal certificate. Parents of pupils that are not RC baptised will be required to submit a placing request (see below).

You are still required to enrol your child(ren) at your catchment denominational school (if RC baptised) or catchment non-denominational school (if not RC baptised) even if you do not wish him/her to attend that school.

Enrolment timetables will also be available through the Falkirk Council website at [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk).

Children eligible for enrolment are those whose 5<sup>th</sup> birthday falls between 1<sup>st</sup> March and the end of February the following year. Requests for enrolment will only be

prioritised if Children's Services receive more requests for enrolment than places available at the school.

## **Primary to Secondary Transfer**

There are a range of activities that take place to ensure that all children are well supported as they move from Primary 7 to 1<sup>st</sup> year, and these are all decided by each secondary school and its associated primary schools.

Generally, visits take place in the summer term, with a programme of activities for pupils in classroom relating to their secondary subjects. Sporting and social activities may also be planned. Pupils, therefore, become familiar with the new school, their new teachers, and their new classmates.

Clusters also arrange for secondary school subject teachers to visit Primary 7 classes from time to time, with the cluster agreeing each year which subject areas should be the focus for these. Opportunities for senior pupils from secondary schools to visit classes in their associated primaries offer further reassurance and can help supportive peer relationships to be developed before S1 begins.

Most secondary schools also have an information evening for parents of Primary 7 children at which they can gain information about uniform, lunchtime arrangements, school clubs, etc.

### Pupils with Additional Support Needs

Secondary school Pastoral and Support for Learning teachers make visits to the Primary 7 class to get to know the children and their needs, including any Additional Support for Learning needs. Visits by Support for Learning staff sometimes take place as early as Primary 6 to help with additional arrangements for those children for whom the move to secondary school may present challenges.

### Moving to the denominational secondary school

#### *Children who are baptised Catholic*

With the exception of some pupils at St Patrick's PS, pupils who are in Primary 7 in denominational primary schools (Sacred Heart PS, St Andrew's PS, St Mary's PS, St Francis Xavier's PS and St Joseph's PS) move to St Mungo's HS.

Pupils in Primary 7 at St Patrick's PS attend St Modan's HS in Stirling.

#### *Children who are non-Catholic*

Parents of non-RC baptised pupils who were enrolled through a Placing Request at a denominational primary school must submit a further Placing Request if they wish them to transfer to St Mungo's High School. These pupils are, otherwise, automatically entitled to transfer to their catchment non-denomination secondary school.

### *Moving between denominational and non-denominational schools*

Parents who intend to send their children to St Mungo's HS from a non-denominational primary school, or from a Catholic primary school to their catchment non-denominational high school, should make known their intentions both to the primary school and the secondary school as soon as possible. This enables the necessary transfer arrangements to be made.

## **Catchment Secondary School**

At the end of P7 pupils from Bowhouse Primary School normally transfer to Grangemouth High School.

Work with secondary school staff is ongoing throughout the school session to ensure each P7 child's learning and welfare is fully supported during the transition from primary to secondary school and a comprehensive transition programme begins early in P7 with direct links between the Support for Learning staff at both schools.

In addition, visits to various departments within Grangemouth High are arranged throughout the year.

Enhanced transition will be arranged for those children requiring additional support.

Further information about Grangemouth High School can be obtained by contacting:-

Mr Brian Millar

Grangemouth High School

Tinto Drive

Grangemouth

FK3 OHW

Telephone: 01324 660210

## **Placing Requests**

As a parent, you have the right to make a Placing Request for your child(ren) to be educated in a school other than the local school. Applications for Primary 1 and Secondary 1 Placing Requests to commence school in August will only be accepted following the publication of an advert in the local press inviting applications in early December.

Every effort will be made to try to meet parental wishes, but you should note that it is not always possible to grant every Placing Request. You should also note that a

successful Placing Request for one child does not guarantee a successful one for another child. A parent could, therefore, end up with children attending different schools.

Primary 1 children must also be enrolled at the catchment area school whilst awaiting the outcome of their Placing Request Application. If the Placing Request is granted, the child's enrolment at the catchment school will automatically be withdrawn by Children's Services.

Placing Requests can only be approved when there are sufficient places remaining in the class after all catchment area children have enrolled and if staffing and accommodation at the school are able to meet the numbers of Placing Requests at that school. Children's Services will also reserve places in a class for catchment pupils they expect to move into the area during the school year.

If more Placing Requests are made for admission to a particular school than places available, these Requests will be prioritised according to Falkirk Council's Admissions Policy and requests accepted and refused accordingly.

Online placing request applications can be made via the Council's website [www.falkirk.gov.uk/placingrequests](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/placingrequests). Written application forms are available from all schools and from Children's Services. Written applications must be returned to the Director of Children's Services, Suite 1A, Falkirk Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE. Placing requests for Primary 1 and Secondary 1, commencing in the next school session, should be made by the 15<sup>th</sup> March each year. Responses will be issued no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Your Placing Request will be considered against a set of criteria which is set out in the Council's priorities for admission.

Any Placing Requests received after the 15<sup>th</sup> March for Primary 1 and Secondary 1 will not be considered in the first round of Placing Requests. Parents / Carers will be notified of the outcome of their request within 8 weeks of receipt.

As soon as a decision has been made, you will be notified of the result. If your Placing Request is successful, you will be asked to contact the school to establish arrangements for enrolment.

## **Mid-Session Transfers**

You may make a Placing Request at any time during a school session. If your child is experiencing problems at school, you are advised to discuss the matter with the Head Teacher prior to making a Placing Request. Completing the Application Form does not guarantee a place for your child at your chosen school.

## **Transport for Placing Requests**

If a Placing Request is successful, parents will be responsible for the safety and transportation costs of their child to and from their chosen school.

## **Section Five – School Improvement**

### **Raising Attainment**

Monitoring performance and using the resulting information to secure improvement is an important part of the work of head teachers, school staff and officers within Children's Services. Head Teachers regularly track pupils' progress at meetings with each teacher to ensure that progress is maintained and to identify effective strategies progress when necessary.

### **Standards and Quality Report**

Every year each school publishes a Standards and Quality report which highlights the school's major achievements.

#### **Standards and Quality Reports – Operational Guidance**

Schools and centres must provide an annual Standards and Quality Report (SQR) as a record of the progress made with the annual improvement plan. The SQR should be based on the results of on-going self-evaluation which is rigorous, effective and based on consideration of impact. This self-evaluation should be informed by How good is our school? 4<sup>th</sup> edition (HGIOS?4) and/or How good is our early learning and childcare? (HGIOELC?) and How good is OUR school? It should give a clear indication of where the school is now in relation to its process of continuous improvement.

It should state clearly and briefly the progress towards the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities and drivers and Children's Services NIF Improvement Plan priorities. The report should be written using evaluative language.

#### **The National Improvement Framework's 4 key priorities are:**

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children;
- Improvement in children's and young people's health and wellbeing; and
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people

#### **The 6 key drivers of improvement identified in the NIF are:**

- School leadership
- Teacher professionalism
- Parental engagement
- Assessment of children's progress
- School improvement
- Performance information

We have successfully achieved our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award and working towards achieving our Gold Accreditation.

We have achieved our Reading Schools Accreditation and Grangemouth Cluster were achieved the first authority Cluster Reading Schools Accreditation.

In November 2022 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bowhouse PS and ELC and found the following strengths:

- Polite children who are respectful of staff, practitioners, visitors and each other. Children are proud of their school and achievements, including those shared on attractive displays.
- Children's progress in their learning and development in the ELC and practitioners who ensure that children have the best possible start in their education. This respects their parents' role.
- Children's skills in digital technology which they use in different areas of their learning at the primary stages.
- The ELC and school's focus and arrangements for supporting and promoting wellbeing is having a positive impact on outcomes for staff, practitioners, children and their families.
- The headteacher is a strong and positive role model, with a clear vision for school improvement. Together, the headteacher, depute headteacher, principal teachers and senior early years officer provide high quality guidance and support to practitioners, support staff, teachers, children and families. This is having a positive impact on improving outcomes for the life and work of the school.

School priorities have focused on the following areas of improvement as identified by the team of inspectors:

- Take forward plans to improve further the quality of learning and teaching at the primary stages, including using outdoor spaces.
- Continue to raise children's attainment at the primary stages, particularly in writing.

The evaluations for the primary school were:

- Leadership of change - very good
- Learning, teaching and assessment - good
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion - very good
- Raising attainment and achievement – good

The evaluations for the ELC were:

- Leadership of change - very good
- Learning, teaching and assessment - very good
- Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion - very good
- Securing children's progress – very good

## School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan priorities for this session can be obtained from the school website and the school app.

## Transferring Educational Data About Pupils

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils in schools (e.g. the number and characteristics of pupils, their attendance, absence and exclusions, their attainment and their destination when leaving school) to help to improve education across Scotland.

Information on how this data is used and what the Scottish Government and its partners do to protect the information supplied to them can be found via the link below:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/PrivacyInformation>

For more information on why we transfer educational data to the Scottish Government and third parties, please see the Primary page on the Falkirk Council website : [www.falkirk.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/privacy)

## Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis at [ScotXed@gov.scot](mailto:ScotXed@gov.scot) or write to Education Analytical Services, Area 2D, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ.

## Websites

You may find the following websites useful.

- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/> - parents can find out about everything from school term dates to exam results. This site also offers information for pre-5 and post school. It also lists relevant publications for parents and provides hyper-links to other useful organisations.
- <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports> - parents can access school and local authority inspection reports and find out more about the work of Education Scotland.
- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/> - parents can find out about individual schools. They can choose a school and select what type of information they need such as Education Scotland reports, exam results, stay on rates and free school meal entitlement.
- [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk) - contains information for parents and information on Falkirk schools.
- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullyinginfo.aspx> - contains

information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying.

- <http://www.respectme.org.uk/> - Scotland's anti-bullying service. Contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying
- <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/> - provides information and advice for parents as well as support and resources for education in Scotland
- <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/> - contains information for everyone on equality laws within the government and local authorities.
- Scottish Attainment Challenge: [1. Introduction - Scottish Attainment Challenge: framework for recovery and accelerating progress - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#), [Scottish Attainment Challenge | Learning in Scotland | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#) and [Scottish Attainment Challenge | Learning resources | National Improvement Hub \(education.gov.scot\)](#)
- Curriculum for Excellence: [What is Curriculum for Excellence? | Curriculum for Excellence | Policy drivers | Policy for Scottish education | Scottish education system | Education Scotland](#)
- National Improvement Framework 2022: [Education - Achieving Excellence and Equity: national improvement framework and improvement plan 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and [National Improvement Framework | Learning in Scotland | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

## Glossary

ASL – Additional Support for Learning

ASN – Additional Support Needs

CFE - Curriculum for Excellence

CLD – Community Learning and Development

DHT - Depute Headteacher

EMA – Education Maintenance Allowance

FFB - For Falkirk's Bairns - Integrated Children's Service Plan

FOI – Freedom of Information

FVNHS - Forth Valley National Health Service

GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child

Glow - Scottish Schools National Intranet (Glow doesn't stand for anything)

HT - Headteacher

LIPs - Local Improvement Priorities

LTA - Learning to Achieve

MFiF - My Future's in Falkirk

NPFS - National Parent Forum of Scotland

PC - Parent Council

PLPs - Personal Learning Plans (personal learning planning)

PT - Principal Teacher

PTA/PA - Parent/Teacher Association/Parents Association

SEEMiS - Management Information Systems (SEEMiS is the pupil database)

SIP - School Improvement Plan

SPTC - Scottish Parent Teacher Council

SQA – Scottish Qualifications Authority