



Newington Rationale for Parents

Newington Primary School is currently the largest school in Dumfries and Galloway and provides education for children mainly in the North East side of Annan. It has a school roll of 360 in the primary and 48 places in the Nursery. The school has one of the regional Learning Zone bases.

Our Vision

At Newington Primary we aspire to:

- Be a place where everyone can **feel safe** and enjoy a **welcoming atmosphere**.
- Acknowledge and **value everyone's achievements** by encouraging high levels of expectations and ambition.
- Provide opportunities for everyone to **develop confidence**, contribute to the life of the school and be **responsible citizens**.
- Deliver a **quality educational experience** which enables all pupils to develop key skills self-discipline and encourage lifelong learning.
- **Work in partnership** with the families within our community, encourage and understand everyone's rights, responsibilities and cultural diversity.

School Ethos

The school undertook a full 'Standards and Quality' survey in 2017.

Almost all parents and guardians **agreed or strongly agreed** with the majority of the statements within the survey providing the school with a clear message that we are meeting the demands of our parent body, our pupils and our community.

Our curriculum offers a **broad range of learning** experiences for our pupils both within and beyond their own horizons. Our children are encouraged to participate and contribute to the school community at every stage and are involved in bringing about change and improvement.

Areas for improvement included **communication** with parents. As a result we have further developed our **website** and set up a "**School App**" to ensure our parents and families are getting information about school events and activities in a most direct fashion.

Our Curriculum

We aim to deliver **excellence in learning** and teaching and expect all learners to be engaged in learning. Our curriculum emphasises **knowledge**, as well as **skills** and **attributes** that we hope to provide each learner with.

There is an emphasis on:

- depth and breadth of learning
- challenge
- enjoyment
- opportunities for personalisation and choice

At every level, an ethos of **high aspirations, exemplary behaviour** and ambition for all our learners is encouraged and **attainment, achievement** and **participation** are recognised and celebrated. All members of staff have been actively involved in developing our Curriculum and creating our vision of what we value and view as essential elements which underpin our daily practice.

Learning and Teaching

Teaching staff and all support staff work hard to deliver a **high quality learning** and teaching experience for all our pupils. A range of strategies are employed at all stages:

- Class teaching
- Group work
- Peer assessment
- Practical challenges
- Educational visits
- Visiting specialists
- Individual activities
- Self-assessment
- Use of texts books
- I.C.T. programs
- Residential experiences

Celebration of Success and Wider Achievement

Newington Primary staff support a wide range of **extra-curricular clubs** and activities and pupils are encouraged to participate and achieve all they can. Success is celebrated at **weekly assemblies** and **photo displays** of pupil awards are kept up to date around the school. The school has very good links with the local media to ensure success is shared within the **wider school community**.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Newington Primary School we support our pupils' Broad General Education with a wide range of Extra Curricular Activities. These clubs are supported by teaching staff, our PE and Music Specialists and cover a range of areas. We also have activities supported and led by pupils.

If appropriate and available we support and encourage the pupils to participate in local, regional and national events to provide them with valuable life experiences and further challenges.

Primary 6 and 7 pupils are offered the opportunity to participate in residential excursions to London and regional outdoor centres.

GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child

At Newington we work closely with outside agencies such as:

- Speech and Language,
- Occupational Therapy
- Social Services

We work together to provide an umbrella of support for children who may need short or long term additional input from an outside agency.

Pupil Equity Funding – P.E.F.

The Scottish Government has directed finance directly to schools as **Pupil Equity Funding**. The P.E.F. money is to be used by schools to ensure pupils all have the same opportunities to achieve and thrive in school. The money is to be used to close the attainment gap and provide experiences for pupils to help them with this. A number of initiatives have been undertaken in the school such as Bi-Lateral groups (exercises to improve brain function and co-ordination) to achieve this aim. Additional staff teaching and non-teaching staff have been employed to work with targeted groups and individuals plus the school have ambitious plans to develop a new outdoor learning space.

Our next steps

We recognise that it is important for us to continually evaluate and review our curriculum and teaching strategies and learn what works best for all our children. It is also a priority for us to ensure that there is parental confidence in our methods and plans and we are committed to seeking the views of our parents and working with them to establish continued improved.