



Renfrewshire Coucil

St Benedict’s High School



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2018

This report will inform you of the school’s progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2018-2019. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Gerry O’Neil

Head Teacher

OUR SCHOOL

St Benedict’s High School is a six year Roman Catholic high school in Linwood. The school’s catchment area covers the areas of Linwood, Johnstone, Bridge of Weir, Houston and the surrounding areas. There are 5 associated primary schools, Our Lady of Peace in Linwood, St Anthony’s, St David’s and St Margaret’s in Johnstone and St Fillan’s in Houston. The catchment areas comprise of a mix of local authority, traditional and new housing.

The school roll for session 2017-18 stood at 670. 37% of the young people in the school live in households within SIMD Decile 1 or 2. 17.4% of young people in the school are entitled to free school meals.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Our Vision St Benedict’s is a community where

* all young people feel valued and included
* the achievements of our young people are recognised and celebrated
* everyone is treated with respect and the values of the Gospel are evident every day.
* we share high aspirations for all of our young people.

Our Values The values that support our vision and aims are

* Respect
* Love
* Trust
* Tolerance
* Integrity

Our Aims

* To put faith into action to support everyone in our wider community and beyond.
* To fully develop the talents of all members of our community spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially and physically.
* To provide a safe, caring, inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone feels valued.
* To provide our young people with the highest possible standards of learning and teaching.
* To maximise the attainment and achievement of our young people
* To work in close partnership with parents, the Church and the wider community.
* To ensure all of our young people progress into positive and sustained destinations.
* To provide high quality opportunities for the personal and professional development of staff.

SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

* We hosted an memorable visit from a group of young people and staff from our partnership school, St Patrick’s in Malawi.
* We have achieved record SQA results in S4 and S6.
* A record number of young people, 18, achieved the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award.
* We have continued to develop our inclusive ethos, valuing all young people and recognising their individual strengths and development needs.

**HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?**

**School Leadership**

* We have completed our Senior Leadership Team with the recent appointment of an Education Support Manager and a Depute Head Teacher. In addition, we have made permanent appointments of two new Faculty Heads.
* We have appointed four Principal Teachers using Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Fund money. These appointments are in the areas of Raising Attainment, Learning and Teaching, Health & Wellbeing and Employability. These posts holders are leading working groups, which involve all staff and are driving forward developments from the school plan in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team.
* We have worked hard to develop pupil leadership through our Pupil Council; we are in the process of implementing a House system, which will increase leadership opportunities for our young people in all year groups. We have significant numbers of young people exercising leadership through programmes such as CARITAS, Sports Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh, Heart Lives Ambassadors, Buddy System, Prefect System and Peer Educators.

**Teacher Professionalism**

* We have a number of teachers across a range of subjects who are marking for the SQA. This has enabled them to develop their knowledge and understanding of the standard required at national level. They have used this knowledge to share good practice with colleagues within their faculty and across the authority through subject forums.
* All faculties have been involved in self-evaluation processes, which have entailed, seeking the views of pupils to inform practice, observing colleagues within the faculty and in some instances from across the school to develop and share good practice. The Principal Teacher, Learning & Teaching has developed the opportunity for staff to share practice more widely through a network of ‘open classrooms’, which has developed well throughout the session.
* We have further developed our links with our Cluster Primaries and recently we ran a session on our Common Language and Methodology for numeracy and mathematics, which was well received by Primary colleagues. We have plans to extend this work next session.
* We have been involved in literacy moderation work at authority and school level and continue to develop our approaches.

**Parental Engagement**

* We have further developed our Parents in Partnership Programme this session. This programme ran during the month of May and was very well attended by a group of Primary 7 parents. This has enhanced our transition programme and feedback has been very positive. Parents were able to attend lessons across a range of subjects, meet key staff and benefit from inputs from partner agencies.
* We have introduced the ‘Show my Homework’ app. While this has been beneficial in keeping parents involved in the life of the school, feedback from pupils has been very positive and they are clear that it is having a significant impact in helping them with their organisation.

**Assessment of Children’s Progress**

* We have successfully run the SNSA in the school for the first time this session. We are in the process of developing a BGE tracking system that provides staff with a wide array of data on our young people and allows us to track and monitor progress making early and effective interventions.
* We have seen a steady increase in our Positive Destinations as measured in INSIGHT and our employability team have worked hard to support all young people, particularly those needing further support to achieve a positive destination.
* Work has been done to moderate teacher judgements of pupil work in S3. Levels of literacy and numeracy have reached expected levels at the end of S3. Teachers are more confident in making these judgements due to the availability of the new Curriculum for Excellence benchmarks.

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2018-19

We believe that we have made [satisfactory/good/very good/excellent] progress during session 2017-18 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

**HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?**

**School Improvement**

* We have updated our discipline policy. Our pupil support base is now well established and is additionally supported by our new Inclusion Support Worker. Exclusions are down 40% from last session.
* The percentage of young people entering a Positive Destination in on an upward trend from 85% in 2015 to 92% in 2017. This is a continued focus for our ‘Careers Management Group’ who work together effectively to support our young people.
* We have worked in partnership with our local authority Education Manager to evaluate leadership, learning, teaching, assessment, wellbeing and attainment and achievement. This has helped us to showcase our strengths and identify areas for improvement.
* Increased collegiality through participation in working groups places the school in a strong position to drive forward our improvement agenda.

**Performance Information**

* Attainment in numeracy and literacy in August 2017 in S4 has shown an improvement on the previous year. The quality of grades achieved by pupils has also shown a significant improvement on the previous year.
* 2017 saw 40% of young people achieve 5+ level 5 awards by the end of S4. This is up almost 9% on last year and up 2.4% on the school’s previous best 2 years ago. The quality of award is also up with almost twice as many ‘A’ grades achieved. This has provided a solid basis for pupils to progress into S5.
* Results in S6 have shown a significant increase. The number of pupils achieving 1+ Advanced Higher has risen over the past three sessions from 4% to 7% to 23% this session. This was an exceptional increase based on strong Higher results the previous session and a move to meet the needs of more learners by offering more Advanced Highers within the school and through well organised consortium arrangement across the Local Authority. The number of pupils achieving 5+ Level 6 Awards by the end of S6 was up almost 10% at 29%.
* These figures show a significant improvement after a consistent pattern for the previous 5 years. These new improved figures will be a new level against which we will begin to benchmark ourselves.

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

* We have an excellent caring, ethos in the school, this has been developed through strong and consistent leadership at all levels.
* Our approaches to ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion are strong. Staff across the school provide a caring and nurturing environment, which supports our young people to thrive.
* Attainment is on an upward trend and robust tracking and monitoring in the Senior Phase allows us to provide early and effective intervention to support our young people in their academic qualifications.

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2018-19

We believe that we have made very good progress during session 2017-18 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

* Fully implement our BGE tracking system.
* Implement a whole school Nurture strategy supported by the Educational Psychology Service.
* Closing the gap between our learners from the most and least disadvantaged backgrounds while continuing the upward trend in attainment in our Senior Phase.
* Further improve our approaches to Learning & Teaching to ensure greater consistency across the school.

Full details of the school’s improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan which can be accessed on our website or by contacting the school office.

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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