

West Lothian Council Bridgend Primary School Handbook Information

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school information

West Lothian Council Mission Statement

"Striving for excellence...working with and for our communities."

West Lothian Council Values

- Focusing on customers' needs
- Being honest, open and accountable
- Providing equality of opportunities
- Developing employees
- Making best use of resources
- Workinginpartnership

School Aims

Through discussion with pupils, staff, parents and all stakeholders we have agreed that Bridgend Primary School is a place where we inspire a love of learning to last a lifetime.

- there are high expectations for teaching and learning, everyone strives for excellence.
- children feel happy and confident in a safe & caring environment.
- children are happy to learn and are enthusiastic and inspired to be the best they can be.
- children are always treated fairly and valued at all times.
- pupil voice is encouraged and valued
- children are encouraged to care for each other and to interact with others respectfully and responsibly
- achievements are celebrated and encouraged both in and out of school
- the physical, mental and emotional health of children is fostered

It is our aim that you will see and hear:

- Quality learning and teaching which provides pupils with a variety of experiences and opportunities to raise aspirations.
- A motivated learning community, who are encouraged to participate in opportunities for leadership at all levels.
- Co-operative working which includes and values the contributions of everyone within our school community
- Happy, healthy, nurtured children with a positive mind set who are proud of themselves, their friends and their school.

ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

To raise standards of educational attainment for all in school, especially in the core skills of literacy and numeracy, and to achieve better levels in national measures of achievement including examination results.

FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING

To support and develop the skills of teachers, the self-discipline of pupils and to enhance school environments so that they are conducive to teaching and learning.

INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

To promote equality and help every pupil benefit from education, with particular regard paid to pupils with disabilities and special educational needs, and to Gaelic and other lesser used languages.

VALUES AND CITIZENSHIP

To work with parents to teach pupils respect for self and one another and their interdependence with other members of their neighbourhood and society, and to teach them the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

LEARNING FOR LIFE

To equip pupils with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations necessary to prosper in a changing society, and to encourage creativity and ambition.

2.1 Attendance

It is important that the school is contacted by phone call or email communication in the early morning (before 9.30am) if your child is going to be absent. It is therefore important that all absences are explained clearly so that this system can run smoothly. If your child is unwell it is advisable that they stay at home until they recover. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea please allow <u>48 hours</u> clear from symptoms before they return to school. Please let us know if your child has any infectious illness.

Please help us develop in your child a regular habit of good time keeping. If circumstances arise when your child will be unavoidably late please provide a note of explanation.

The school enters pupil absence electronically using codes for particular reasons for absence. To ensure an accurate record is kept it is important that, should your child be absent, you provide an explanation for that absence either by letter or by telephone. Our school has a system which sends out an automated text message to a mobile telephone in cases of unexplained absence. The text is repeated regularly until answered. Parents/carers and schools must work in partnership in order to benefit from early notification of unexplained absence from school. Parents are urged to opt into this system.

The Scottish government has issued a directive informing local authorities that, due to the impact absences during term-time have on children's learning, any such absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Family holidays should therefore be taken out-with term times. If, in exceptional circumstances, you wish to take your children out of school, you must make your request to the Head Teacher in writing.

If you become aware that your child may be absent from school for a considerable length of time, due to illness or admission to hospital, you are requested to inform the school as soon as possible.

2.2 Ethos and Behaviour

Children learn to develop values and positive attitudes towards themselves and others in many aspects of the curriculum which in turn contribute to their personal and social development. Our schools work hard to build confidence and self-esteem and provide opportunities for children to contribute to the whole school community. Much of their development in these areas helps to lay the foundations for becoming responsible citizens, successful learners, confident individuals and effective contributors.

We promote and expect a high standard of responsible behaviour from pupils towards staff, other pupils and towards their surroundings. Self-discipline is the key to good behaviour and we depend on your support in reinforcing the discipline guidelines of the school.

These guidelines are based on UNICEF Rights of the Child (CRC). We promote positive relationships, based on mutual respect and trust. At all times we ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff in school.

We ask your child to:

- Be respectful
- Be a good friend
- Believe in themselves
- Be honest
- Work as a team
- Be determined to succeed in learning

We ask your child not to:

- Be disrespectful
- Be physically or verbally aggressive
- Bully others
- Vandalise property
- Leave the school without permission.

We ask parents/carers to:

- Support the school in making it a safe place for your child.
- Work in partnership with the school
- Reinforce our school values

2.3 School Dress Code

Each school has its own dress code, for the whole school, based on the Council's policy which all pupils will be expected to keep to.

At Bridgend Primary School, this is:-

Black trousers/skirts, red polo shirt, black school sweatshirt.

Our uniform supplier is Borders Embroideries. Orders should be made online at:

www.beschoolwear.co.uk

Please note that if your child is performing in a school concert/event etc. It is expected that school uniform must be worn, when representing the school.

All clothing items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

The Council will not be responsible for loss of or damage to pupils' clothing and personal belongings including mobile phones. Valuable items, including jewellery and unnecessarily expensive articles of clothing, should not be brought to school.

School Clothing Grants are available to parents in receipt of a qualifying benefit; application forms are available from the school or online. westlothian.gov.uk

The Council's Dress Code for Schools Policy is available online at westlothian.gov.uk.

3.1 Equality and Fairness

All pupils have the right to enjoy opportunities and activities, regardless of their background, race, gender or religion, so that they will be given the freedom to develop their full potential without constraint.

Our aim is promote self-esteem and a positive self-image in every pupil. Self-respect and respect for others is a priority. We treat boys and girls equally and offer the same opportunities to all pupils by offering a diverse curriculum, which addresses the needs and opinions of all. We aim to maintain an environment which is free from bullying, racism and other forms of discriminatory behaviour. We value your support in maintaining this ethos.

3.2 Partnership and Communication with Parents

West Lothian Schools operate an open, responsive policy with regard to questions or concerns that parents may have. Should you have concerns or complaints regarding the service provided you should raise these with the Head Teacher in the first instance.

Newsletters are issued monthly. Curricular open days/evenings and Parents consultations are held regularly. Your comments and suggestions on the work done in school and the service provided for you and your child are welcomed. Regular opportunities are provided throughout the year to gather your opinions and these are used to inform school improvement. Please ensure you have your say and complete/return relevant information.

Evaluation forms will be sent to you from time to time so that we can be sure that we are listening to what you say about the service provided for you and your child.

3.3 Parent Councils

A Parent Council is a group of parents selected by members of the Parent Forum to represent all the parents at a school on a voluntary basis. All parents/carers in a school are automatically members of the Parent Forum of that School.

The purpose of a Parent Council is to:

- support the school in its work with parents
- represent the views of all parents
- encourage links between school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community.

Parent Councils operate in accordance with a local constitution. Parents can put themselves forward to be members of the Parent Council in accordance with that constitution and this is formalised at an AGM.

It also helps with events in the school as well as fundraising and providing community involvement for our families.

Meetings are held on a regular basis and you can contact our Chair, Mrs Baird for further information.

Further information can be found on the Scottish Parent Teacher Council website http://www.sptc.info

4.1 General

Every child and young person in Scotland is entitled to experience a broad general education, as described by the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence.

The curriculum is organised into eight broad categories.

Expressive arts

Includes art and design, dance, drama and music. Your child will get the chance to find out about and express their feelings and emotions and those of others.

Health and wellbeing

Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, planning for choices and changes, PE, activity and sport, food and health, substance misuse and relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

Languages

Includes learning about English as well as learning an additional language. As part of Linlithgow Cluster, our additional language is currently French.

Mathematics

Includes using real life experiences to make predictions, connect to other things, provide skills to understand and examine information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions.

Religious and moral education

Includes exploring the world's major religions as well as views that are non-religious. Your child will be encouraged to think about their own beliefs and values.

Children learn about Christian practice in worship and the place of Christian action in the community. Children will also study other world religions in line with national guidelines.

This part of the curriculum operates through class teaching, assemblies, outside visits and visitors to school. Mr Marshall, Winchburgh Parish Church, contributes to our curriculum, however, this is currently on hold due to COVID restrictions.

Any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child from religious education/observance should inform the Head Teacher, in the first instance.

Sciences

Includes learning about the natural world and living things, forces, chemical changes and our senses.

Social studies

Includes developing understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances.

Technologies

Includes business, computing science, food, textiles, craft, engineering, graphics and applied technologies.

More information about Curriculum for Excellence is available on the Education Scotland website http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/thecurriculum

At our meet the Teacher events, parents will get an overview of what their child is learning. However, we actively encourage pupils to lead their learning, therefore topics may change frequently.

4.2 Instrumental Tuition

The Council offers instruction in bagpipes, brass, percussion, strings and woodwind. Schools will tell children when there is an opportunity to apply for lessons. There is a charge for lessons, but concessions are available. You can find out more from the Instrumental Music Service

4.3 Use of the Internet

Children access information and resources on local and worldwide networks as part of their studies.

We teach children about internet safety and how to report any items that make them feel uncomfortable.

We ask parents to promote the responsible and safe use of the internet at home, including the use of social media if parents permit their children to access it.

Further information on safe use of the Internet is available at: http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

4.4 Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching process and your child will be continually assessed during their school career. This assessment can be both formal and informal and takes many forms; observation, tests, pupil/teacher dialogue, written or spoken tasks and teacher judgement. The result of the assessment process allows teachers to form next

steps in your child's learning.

It is the authority's policy to also carry out standardised testing in literacy and numeracy at P1-P7. These results form part of the overall assessment information about your child. Information about your child's progress will be shared between home and school throughout the session. This will include parents' nights and an annual report. The aim of the annual report is to provide details of your child's strengths, development needs and attainment within Curriculum for Excellence. Parents and children are welcome to comment on the annual report.

Parents are welcome to contact their child's school at any time if they have any questions or concerns regarding their child's progress.

4.5 Support for Learning

Class teachers are continuously assessing the needs of pupils in their class. The authority provides access to Support for Learning staff and resources for pupils requiring additional support.

Should your child require additional support in a particular area you are invited to discuss this with the class teacher. We consult with parents and carers to ensure the needs of children are met. Each school follows the principles of the Scottish Government's policy of "Getting it Right for Every Child", for more information see the Scottish Government website.

This authority has a policy of inclusion. This promotes the placement into primary and secondary schools of pupils with significant needs. We consult with parents and carers to ensure the needs of children are met. Each school follows the principles of the Scottish Government's policy of "Getting it Right for Every Child", for more information see the Scottish Government website.

admission procedures

5.1 Admission Procedures

West Lothian is divided into catchment areas for primary and secondary schools. The catchment areas for all West Lothian Council schools are available online at www.westlothian.gov.uk

Each school is either denominational (linked to a particular religion) or non-denominational (not linked to any particular religion). All the denominational schools in West Lothian are Roman Catholic. Each home address has a catchment denominational school and a catchment non-denominational school, for both primary and secondary education.

The Pupil Placement section deals with all applications for pre-school and wraparound, and deals with applications for the August primary one (P1) and secondary one (S1) intakes. Schools deal with applications for other stages and for P1 and S1 after the pupils start school. To apply for a school, pre-school or wraparound place you must fill in an application form. You can get application forms online at https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/apply-for-pre-school-and-school-places or paper forms are available from schools, nursery schools, libraries, Council Information Service Offices and from the Pupil Placement Section.

To contact the Pupil Placement Section e-mail <u>pupilplacement@westlothian.gov.uk</u> or phone 01506 280000. Information is also available on the Council website www.westlothian.gov.uk

5.2 New Entrants to P1

You can apply for a P1 place from the November of the year before your child is due to start school, and the places are allocated in March of the same year that your child is due to start school.

A special visit is held in the summer term, usually in June, for new entrants. The children have an opportunity to see the school, meet their P7 Buddy and to play with some of the materials they will encounter. Your child will also have the opportunity to try a school lunch. Parents have an opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher and Principal Teacher before the end of the children's nursery year usually in June. During the first few months of school, workshops are held to explain to parents of P1 pupils how reading, writing and mathematics are approached in the early years. Should any new entrant require enhanced transition arrangements, this is arranged with school, Nursery and parents/carers.

admission procedures

5.3 Transfer from P7 to Secondary School

You can apply for an S1 place from the November of the year before your child is due to start secondary school. For more information on admission arrangements please see our website www.westlothian.gov.uk or contact the Pupil Placement Section pupilplacement@westlothian.gov.uk or phone 01506 280000.

Each secondary school admits pupils from a number of associated primaries. Bridgend Primary School is associated with Linlithgow Academy and the children living in the catchment area of the school would therefore normally transfer to Linlithgow Academy.

Information on progress in each curricular area is passed on to the secondary school. There is excellent liaison between Linlithgow Academy and Bridgend Primary. Linlithgow Academy provide 'bags for life' as part of Pupil Equity fund (PEF) to all P7 pupils. They will also have an information event for our community.

Transition Days

Our close link with the high school mean's that Primary 7s enjoy a number of transition activities, either attending the high school itself or high school staff coming to Bridgend. The Primary 7 teachers also prepare their pupils for transition from the previous August.

Linlithgow Academy will be allocating every pupil to one of their three houses and will be adding them to their new House Team (Watt, Bell, Kelvin). Each House Team will meet with their new Head of House as well as other key staff at regular points during this term. During this time they will participate in a range of activities focused around their transition to high school.

Enhanced Transition

Enhanced transition days will take place for some pupils who may require some additional support in that they attended on several occasions and have the opportunity for a tour of the school and to meet up with other pupils who will be starting the Academy with them. Be rest assured, that all our pupils will continue to be supported when they start at the Academy.

5.4 Extra-Curricular Activities

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is free of charge and available to all children, serving toast, cereal, yoghurt and fruit. Doors open at 8.10 in the school hall where children have the opportunity to take part in activities and then go outside until the bell goes.

Due to CIVID, these activities are currently restricted.

In winter months, please ensure your child does not attend prior to 8:10am.

Our Family Support Worker has a walking bus and if this is something you would like your child to be included in, please contact the school.

6.1 Medication in Schools

Most pupils will at some time have a medical condition that may affect their participation in school activities. For many this will be short-term; perhaps finishing prescribed medication even though the child's doctor regards the child as fit to attend school. Others have medical conditions which, without help, could limit their access to education.

Parents have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide schools with up to date information about their child's medical condition.

Please tell the school if your child needs medication. Forms for any child requiring medicine to be taken during school time are available from the school website, school office or can be downloaded from www.westlothian.gov.uk

6.2 Emergency Contacts and Arrangements

It is essential that the school has the name, address and telephone number of an adult to be contacted in case of an accident or your child feeling ill. Please ensure records are kept up to date by notifying the school of any change of address and telephone number of your child's emergency contact. Please also ensure that you sign up to parentsportal on council website the single point of access for online school payments (iPayImpact) and a variety of additional services to support you and your child.

Children will only be sent home early in special circumstances. The school will make every effort to contact you in such situations. Where there is no adult to receive the child, they will be supervised in school until such time as suitable arrangements are made. In the event of extreme weather conditions you may check the council website for information on any school closures. During these times, your child will be encouraged to use digital technology to access online learning set by their class teacher. All pupils have a GLOW account and password. P1-P2 pupils use Seesaw and P3-P7 use TEAMS. All pupils are familiar in accessing this as part of their daily learning in school. Homework activities are sometimes set on these digital platforms. If you have any issues with digital learning, please inform the school.

All schools have a means of contacting parents and carers via Groupcall text message.

health & safety and pupil welfare

6.3 Meals and Milk

All pupils of nursery schools and classes are entitled to 0.25 litres of milk daily free of charge. Children whose parents are in receipt of qualifying benefits may also receive milk free of charge. Milk is available to other primary pupils at a reduced cost.

The school dining area is organised as a self-service cafeteria. This area is supervised by a member of staff. Children may have school meals regularly or on odd days when necessary. Children choose from three options each day. This usually includes a non-meat meal. A 3

coloured tray system is used - green- usually a packed lunch, red - a hot two-course meal and blue - a snack type meal. These are on display to allow the children to see the choices. The menu is available on the Council website. If your child has special dietary requirements, please let the school know.

All P1-P3 children, and P4-P7 children whose parents are in receipt of qualifying benefits, are entitled to free school meals. Other children can buy a school lunch. Ipay accounts are preferred as we are encouraged to be a cashless school.

If a child loses or forgets lunch money, we will provide a meal and inform parents of the cost. This amount must be paid the following day.

Some parents prefer their children to have a packed lunch and facilities are provided in the school for the eating of packed lunches. Due to current restrictions, classes are eating their lunch in the classrooms to keep to their 'Bubble'.

Further information and application forms for free school meals and milk can be obtained from the school or from the Council's website **www.westlothian.gov.uk**.

6.4 Security

The school has a security system which allows all doors to be locked electronically once the children are in school. The locking system is released automatically if the fire alarm goes off. All visitors should report to the school office via the front entrance of the school, sign in and collect a visitor's badge. The school welcomes parents and carers but asks them to help to ensure the security of the school by reporting to the school office.

health & safety and pupil welfare

6.5 Photography

West Lothian schools have a photography consent form which is in accordance with data protection and human rights legislation. All parents are asked to sign a consent form before any photographs are taken.

If you have any concerns about photography, please tell the school.

6.6 Child Protection Guidelines

The safety of your child at school is a priority for the authority. All West Lothian schools follow the Lothian Child Protection guidelines. A copy can be found on **www.westlothian.gov.uk**

6.7 Playground Supervision

Supervision is provided in the school grounds from 8:35am, during intervals and the lunch hour. If children have an accident or any other problem in the playground they report initially to the pupil support worker who will take the necessary action. Staff are trained in emergency aid and in addition we have 2 fully qualified first aiders. When pupils are at school, the responsibility for their safety rests with the Local Authority. The Head Teacher and staff undertake this responsibility on behalf of the Local Authority.

6.8 Transport

West Lothian Council will provide transport assistance for all primary pupils living more than 1.5 miles from their designated school. The provision of transport for pupils attending special schools and classes is not subject to these limitations, but is based on individual pupil need. Further information can be obtained from School Transport (telephone 01506 775291) or from the School Transport policy on www.westlothian.gov.uk

Parents, who choose to send their children to a school out with their catchment area, will be responsible for any extra travelling expenses incurred.

6.9 Car Park

In the interests of safety parents must not use the car park to access the school. The car park is for school staff only and must not be used for dropping off or picking up children at any time. Children should enter via the side gate and remain on the pavement until they reach the breakfast club or playground. At no time should children be in the car park. Cars must not be parked in the bus turning circle or at the school gates. This area needs to be kept free to allow for emergency access, if required.

6.10 Requested Early Release of Pupil

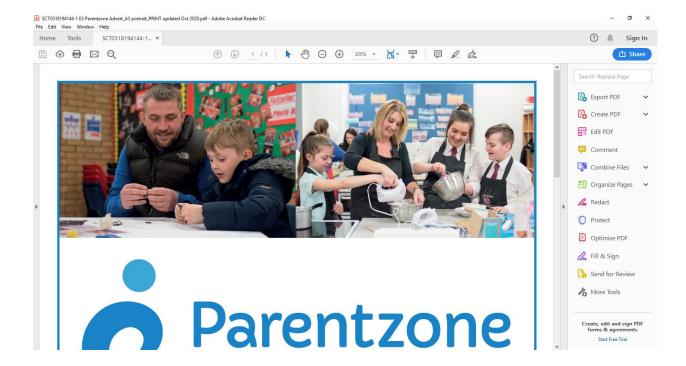
There are occasions when parents wish their children to be released from school at other than normal closing times, to enable them to keep a dental or medical appointment outside school, or for other reasons. In all cases, a written request must be made for early release. Parents must then call at the school office and their child will be brought to them. No child will be allowed to leave unless accompanied by an adult.

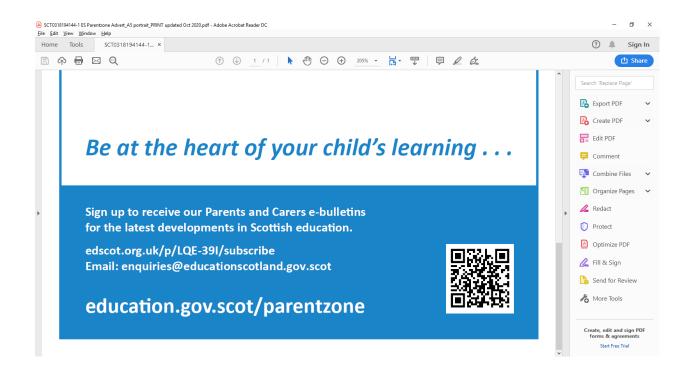
In the event of a child leaving school premises on their own, this is formally recorded and the police may be notified. Please reinforce the importance of this safety measure with your child.

6.11 Data Sharing

On occasion, schools will make data available to partners and also academic institutions to carry out research and statistical analysis. In addition, schools will provide our partners with information they need in order to fulfil their official responsibilities.

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of data is done in accordance with the Data Protection Act. For more information on how children's data is handled please see our Privacy Notice https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/21250/Education-Schools-Privacy_Notice/pdf/Education_-Schools_Privacy_Notice1.pdf?m=637049262959500000





6.12 Feedback, Concerns and Complaints

If you have feedback, concerns or complaints regarding the service you are receiving, these can be addressed by contacting the Head Teacher in the first instance.

If you are dissatisfied with that response you should contact:

Education Services West Lothian Council West Lothian Civic Centre Howden South Road Livingston, EH54 6FF Tel: 01506 281952

Educationcustomerservices@westlothian.gov.uk

The Complaints Policy and Procedures for Education & Cultural Services is available in booklet form on request or can be downloaded from the web at www.westlothian.gov.uk

Information is available in Braille, tape, large print and community languages.

Please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service on 0131 242 8181.

هذه المعلومات متوفرة بلغة بحربل وعلى شريط وبخط كبيـر وبلغات الجالية. الرجاء الإتصال بخدمة الترجمة على الهاتف 8181 242 0131

এই তথ্য আপনি ব্রেইল, টেপ, বড় অক্ষরে এবং কমিউনিটির বিভিন্ন ভাষাগুলিতেও পাবেন। অনুগ্রহ করে ইন্টারপ্রেটেশান অ্যান্ড ট্রান্সলেশন সার্ভিসের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন। টেলিঃ 0131 242 8181

這份資料是可以凸字、錄音帶、大字印刷及社區語言的式本提供。請聯絡傳譯及翻譯服務部,電話:O131 242 8181

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ (ਬ੍ਰੇਲ) ਨੇਤ੍ਰੀਨ ਦੇ ਪੜਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਲਿਪੀ, ਟੇਪ, ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀਆ ਹੋਰ ਤਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ। ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟੇਸ਼ਨ ਅਤੇ ਟਰਾਂਸਲੇਸ਼ਨ ਸਰਵਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ : 0131 242 8181

> یہ معلومات بریل (اندھوں کے رسم الخط)، ثیب، بڑے حروف کی طباعت اور کیو نفی میں بولی جانے والی ڈیانوں میں وستیاب ب براہ سر بائی انٹر پر یٹنگ آئیڈ ٹرانسلیٹ سر وس سے ٹیلیفون نمبر 8181 242 0131 پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔