

Bantaskin Primary School



Working and Learning Together

School Brochure 2011-2012



Falkirk Council
Education Services



A FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Session 2011-12

This brochure contains a range of information about your child's school which will be of interest to you and your child. It offers an insight into the life of the school and also offers advice and assistance which you may find helpful in supporting your child's education.

Falkirk Council is keen to engage parents in the education process, not only to allow you a greater opportunity to contribute to your child's education, but also to encourage you to play a greater role in the life of the school as a whole. We offer a number of other opportunities when you will be able to make your voice heard in relation to your own child's education, your local school, and the Education service.

Throughout each school year there will be opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher. There will also be four annual events for parents organised by the Education service. These evening sessions are spread across the school year and each focuses on a particular theme. The sessions are open to all parents to attend and they are also attended, wherever possible, by the Convener of the Council's Education Committee as well as myself and members of the Service's Management Team. Each of the sessions offers parents an opportunity to ask us questions about aspects of their child's education.

Parental involvement in the decision making processes and performance monitoring are now, more than ever, an integral part of school life and will continue to become even more transparent in future years. We look forward to developing that partnership with your support.

I am pleased to introduce this brochure for session 2011/12 and hope that it 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 brochure please contact the Headteacher of your child's school who will be happy to offer any clarification you may need.

Julia Swan
Director of Education
Falkirk Council

Footnote: It may be possible to offer some assistance in helping to translate all or part of this brochure to parents whose first language is not English. Enquiries should be directed to the Communications Officer for Education Services (tel: 01324 506602).



BANTASKIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Brochure
2011/2012



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the Bantaskin Primary School Brochure.

This brochure offers an introduction to our school and a general overview of the education your child will receive at Bantaskin Primary School.

If you have any questions or would like any further information on any aspect of this brochure or the education of your child please do not hesitate to contact me.

For ease of use this brochure has been divided into 5 sections:

SECTION 1 - SCHOOL INFORMATION

This section provides you with some background information on our school including our nursery class. It tells you the names of our staff and how our school day and school year are made up. Our school's educational aims and objectives are also detailed within this section.

It also includes information on our PTA and Parent Council and how parents can get involved in the life and work of the school.

SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM INFORMATION

This section describes the range of subjects your child will be learning at school. It also explains about additional support needs and the types of specialist services provided within our school.

The section gives you an insight into how your child's progress will be assessed while at school and how we will keep you informed about his/her progress.

As well as giving you information about the statutory curriculum requirements we have included details of the extra curricular activities which are available at our school together with information on sports and outdoor activities available to pupils and the range of facilities available within the school.

Further information for parents is available in Education Services Parenting Handbooks.

SECTION 3 - SCHOOL POLICIES

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.

SECTION 4 - ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUPIL WELFARE

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

- Uniform
- Admissions and attendance
- 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
- School Health Service

SECTION 5 - STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Education Services are legally required to provide the under-noted statistical information

- Attendance rates
- Authorised/Unauthorised rates of absence
- School Attainment Levels
- School costs

Whilst Falkirk Council is happy to provide this information we do have some reservations that the publications of raw statistics, without any kind of informed qualification can be misleading to the reader. In particular, they should not be construed as offering an indication of the quality of education provided in any of our schools.

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 brochure, or indeed about any aspect of our school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Elaine Gallagher

Head Teacher

Bantaskin Primary School

FALKIRK COUNCIL : EDUCATION SERVICES
Agreed Term Dates for Session 2011-2012

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Term Dates</u>	<u>Days</u>	
		<u>Staff</u>	<u>Pupils</u>
Autumn Term Begins (Staff Only - Dev Day)	Monday 22 August 2011	1	-
Autumn Term Begins (Pupils)	Tuesday 23 August 2011		
Autumn Term Ends	Friday 14 October 2011	39	40
Winter Term Begins	Monday 24 October 2011		
Winter Term Ends	Thursday 22 December 2011	44	44
Spring Term Begins	Monday 9 January 2012		
Spring Term Ends	Friday 30 March 2012	60	60
Summer Term Begins	Monday 16 April 2012		
Summer Term Ends	Friday 29 June 2012	<u>55</u>	<u>55</u>
		199	199
Less Term Time Public Holidays		4	4
Less Staff Development Days			<u>5</u>
		<u>195</u>	<u>190</u>

Term Time Public Holidays

Monday 12 September 2011
Friday 17 February 2012
Monday 20 February 2012
Monday 7 May 2012

Staff Development Days

Monday 22 August 2011
Monday 14 November 2011
Tuesday 15 November 2011
Wednesday 15 February 2012
Thursday 16 February 2012

Royal Wedding 29th April 2011 - all schools will be closed for the Royal Wedding.

SECTION 1

SCHOOL INFORMATION

THE SCHOOL

Bantaskin Primary School is a non-denominational school situated approximately 1 mile from Falkirk Town Centre. It opened in 1959.

At present our school role is 317 with pupils split across 13 classes. Our nursery class opened in August 2006 and provides pre-school education to 30 children per session.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bantaskin Primary School
Bantaskine Road
Falkirk
FK1 5HT

Telephone: 01324 508500

E-mail address: bantaskinprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk

School website: www.bantaskin.falkirk.sch.uk

THE SCHOOL DAY

Primaries 3-7

Morning Session	9.00am - 12.15pm
Lunch	12.15pm- 1.00pm
Afternoon Session	1.00pm - 3.00pm

Primaries 1 and 2

Morning Session	9.00am - 12.00 noon
Lunch	12.00 noon - 1.00pm
Afternoon Session	1.00pm - 3.00pm

Nursery

Morning Session	9.00am - 11.30am
Afternoon Session	12.30pm - 3.00pm

FACILITIES

Our school building comprises of 2 blocks: one contains the Early Years classrooms, nursery, gym hall, dining hall and 'First for Kids' after school care facility (tel; 01324 671344). Classrooms from P3-7, resource base, GP room and library/computer suite are all located within the other block.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

The school has two playgrounds both of which are complemented by areas of grass. The playground at the front of the school is used by our infant department whilst the area to the rear of the school is used by the upper school. The rear playground is surrounded by security fencing with easy access to a pitched area. Playtime activities and equipment are provided for pupils during breaks.

The nursery has a separate secured area for outdoor play but has access to the garden and playgrounds when required.

Over the past few years we have created a garden at the front of the school. This is used by all classes and is an excellent area for developing children's learning in the outside environment.

Plans to further develop the school grounds and garden are currently being implemented. These include a 'wild garden', an orchard, a quiet area and further play facilities.

SECURITY

To ensure a safe environment for our staff and pupils we have a secure door entry system. Access may be gained by pressing the intercom button on the main entrance. A close circuit camera links images of this entrance to school offices.

CCTV cameras are in operation at all times around the school grounds.

COMMUNITY LINKS

We recognise the importance of developing good links with businesses and groups within our local community. We encourage visitors from all walks of life and professions to come and speak to our pupils.

We have worked hard at Bantaskin to develop these links and continue to seek out opportunities that will strengthen relationships and build upon children's experiences.

FALKIRK CLUSTER

The Falkirk cluster consists of 6 primary schools whose pupils transfer to Falkirk High School. These schools have a very close working relationship and work together to ensure the highest possible standard of education for pupils in the Falkirk area.

OUR SCHOOL MOTTO : 'Working and Learning Together'

OUR SCHOOL AIMS



We aim to involve parents/carers, the local community, commerce and industry for the benefit of the individual pupil by:

- Establishing effective communication systems
- Respecting and listening to the views of parents/carers, partner agencies and industry
- Working in partnership with parents/carers to promote life-long learning
- Supporting parental organisations
- Promoting healthy lifestyle choices

We will enable all staff to work together effectively to create a positive working and learning environment by:

- Providing strong, supportive leadership/management
- Building a strong school team where all staff are valued and effective communication strategies are in place
- Ensuring school policies are clear and consistently applied
- Providing staff development for all
- Responding to educational change through the use of a consultative School Improvement Planning process

We will enable all children to be successful learners by:

- Providing a welcoming, safe and caring learning environment which will encourage our pupils to be enthusiastic, motivated and independent learners
- Maximising our pupils' potential in literacy, numeracy, communication and technology through active, challenging and enjoyable opportunities.
- Encouraging our pupils to think creatively and apply different styles of learning appropriately

We will enable all children to be confident individuals by:

- Developing their self-respect and respect for others
- Nurturing secure values and beliefs and building their self-esteem
- Encouraging them to take a pride in themselves and our school
- Promoting healthy eating and an active lifestyle

We will enable all children to be responsible citizens by:

- Encouraging our pupils to respect others' beliefs, cultures and differences
- Enabling them to make informed choices and decisions
- Raising their awareness of the contribution they can make to their community and their responsibilities to their environment

We will enable all children to be effective contributors by:

- Providing experiences which prepare them for a modern technological society and by encouraging enterprising attitudes
- Providing opportunities for children to work both collaboratively and independently and lead where appropriate

Using the above we have worked with our Pupil Council to agree upon a shorter, more child-friendly statement of aims. The following aims are known by the children and are displayed throughout the school:

- ★ Welcoming, Inclusive and Safe ★
- ★ Health Promoting ★
- ★ Challenging, Creative and Enterprising ★
- ★ Supportive, Caring and Respectful ★
- ★ Fair, Responsible and Eco-Friendly ★

THE STAFF

Certain management structures are necessary for the smooth running and well-being of Primary schools. These features have been identified and set out below as a guide to parents on the type of management, which will normally be encountered within a Falkirk Council Primary School.

Each Primary school is staffed according to national recommendations and is managed by a Headteacher supported, by a Depute Headteacher. The Headteacher is responsible to the Director of Education for the efficient management, administration and leadership of the school and for the quality of education provided in the school.

HEADTEACHER: Miss Elaine Gallagher

DEPUTE HEADTEACHERS: Mrs Moraig Baxter
Mrs Dawn Kerr

ACTING PRINCIPAL TEACHER: Mrs Nicola Soroka

TEACHERS: Mrs Joanne Brown
Mrs Lisa Brown
Mrs Carole Cowie
Miss Mhairi Haldane
Miss Nicola Kirwan
Miss Arlene Livie
Miss Nicola MacAlpine
Mrs Elizabeth McInally
Mrs Christina Muir (part-time)
Mrs Janet Russell
Mrs Nicola Soroka (part-time)
Miss Vivienne Walker
Miss Fiona Kilpatrick

LEARNING SUPPORT: Mrs Susan Brown

NURSERY CLASS: Senior Early Years Officer Mrs Ann McPherson
Teacher Mrs Susan Waddell (part-time)
Early Years Office Mrs Julie Gardiner (part-time)
Early Years Officer Mrs Lorna Kelly (part-time)
Early Years Officer Mrs Elizabeth Taylor (part-time)

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING ASSISTANTS : Mrs Susan Harley
Mrs Elizabeth McDaid (part-time)
Mrs Linda Murray
Mrs Karen Ritchie
Mrs Lynn Shirra (part-time)
Mrs Eleanor Taylor
Mrs Fiona Yarnell (part-time)
Mrs Lynn Findlay

CLERICAL ASSISTANT: Miss Gill Maitland

JANITOR: Mr Ian Anderson

Visiting specialist teachers in Physical Education and Music enhance school staffing on a timetabled basis. It is also possible for children to receive individual tuition on a musical instrument (subject to availability of staff). A fee is charged for this service.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mrs Lynne Murray

MUSIC: Mrs Audrey MacKay

In August 2006 the class contact time for class teachers was reduced from 25 hours per week to 22.5 hours. This was due to changes in conditions of service for teaching staff. In practice this means that for 2.5 hours per week visiting specialist teachers or additional teaching staff are responsible for delivering a specific area of the curriculum rather than the class teacher.

PARENT COUNCIL

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.

All parents / carers are automatically members of the Parent Forum at their child's school. 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 the school in its work with pupils
- To 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

Committee Members

Chairperson	Nicola Harvie
Vice Chairperson	Gillian Walker
Treasurer	David Hopkins
Parent Members	Mhairi Maxwell, Lorna Reid, Donna Black, Lorraine Richardson-Peat
Co-opted Members	Cllr John Patrick, Cllr Georgie Thomson
Teacher Members	Mhairi Haldane, Elaine Gallagher

Contact with the Parent Council can be made through their website or by email:

bantaskinparentcouncil@gmail.com
www.bantaskin.falkirk.sch.uk

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) / PARENTS ASSOCIATION (PA)

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

The Chairperson of our PTA is Gayle Morrison.

The PTA may be contacted through our PTA secretary, Yvonne Glen. She can be contacted through the school.

The Scottish Parent Teacher Council is the national organisation for PTAs and PAs in Scotland and runs an independent helpline service for all parents. They can be contacted by phone on 0131 226 4378, fax 0870 706 5814 or email on sptc@sptc.info or write to SPTC, 53 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2HT.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOME

From time to time your child will bring home important and routine communications from the school. Parents are encouraged to check their child's schoolbag for these communications. Enquiries of any kind should be addressed to the Headteacher in the first instance.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Falkirk Council Education Service is keen that you should be completely satisfied about your child's education. Should you have any concerns about your child's education, or indeed any reason to complain about the service provided by your child's school, please report this to the Headteacher in the first instance.

In most cases problems can be dealt with quickly. However, should you feel that the matter has not been resolved satisfactorily by the Headteacher you can make your complaint in person, by phone or in writing to the Complaints Officer for Education Services - Tel. 01324 506694 or email complaints.educ@falkirk.gov.uk.

TRANSFERRING EDUCATIONAL DATA ABOUT PUPILS

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us.

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the SQA and Careers Scotland need accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better examination results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows us to:

- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils,
- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils,
- better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement,
- share good practice,
- target resources better.

Data policy

Information about pupils' education is collected in partnership between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities through the ScotXed programme which aims to help schools and Local Authorities by supporting efficient collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Scottish Government then provides analysis of the data to support research, planning, management and monitoring of education services as well as to produce National Statistics publications.

Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints.

As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by Scottish Government is used for statistical and research purposes only.

Your data protection rights

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. The Data Protection Act gives you the right to know how we will use your data. This note can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of each individual ScotXed survey, including the purpose of each and the published data, can be found on the ScotXed website (www.scotxed.net).

Scottish Government works with a range of partners including HM Inspectorate of Education, Careers Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, we will make individual data available to partners and also academic institutions and organisations to carry out research and statistical analysis. In addition, we will provide our partners with information they need in order to fulfil their official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, which will ensure that no individual level data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that these data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Decisions on the sharing of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Senior Statistician, Peter Whitehouse, at **Peter.Whitehouse@scotland.gsi.gov.uk** or write to The ScotXed Support Office, Area 1B, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ. Alternative versions of this page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, Braille and large print.

SECTION TWO

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE AND LIFE TO LEARNING

Curriculum for Excellence has now been introduced across Scotland for all 3-18 year olds - wherever they learn. 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 enables professionals to teach subjects creatively, to **work together** across the school and with other schools, to share **emerging practice** and explore learning together. *Glow*, Scotland's unique, world-leading, online network supports learners and teachers in this and plans are already in place for parents across the country to have access to *Glow*.

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.

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. Every single teacher and practitioner will be responsible for **literacy and numeracy** - the language and numbers skills that unlock other subjects and are vital to everyday life.

It develops **skills** for learning, life and work to help young people go on to further study, secure work and navigate life. It brings real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helps young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links **knowledge** in one subject area to another helping children understand the world and make connections. It develops skills so that children can think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

There will be new ways of **assessing progress** and ensuring children achieve their potential. There will be new **qualifications** for literacy and numeracy from 2012/13. New qualifications at National 4 and 5 will be available from 2013/14. Our well regarded Access, Highers and Advanced Highers will be updated to take account of and support the new approaches to learning and teaching.

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 will be a new emphasis by all staff on looking after our children's **health and wellbeing** - to ensure that the school is a place where children feel safe and secure.

Ultimately, Curriculum for Excellence aims to improve our children's life chances, to nurture **successful** learners, **confident** individuals, **effective** contributors, and **responsible** citizens, building on Scotland's reputation for great education.

We have revised **Learning to Achieve** - our flagship policy. **Learning to Achieve** describes in detail how Curriculum for Excellence will be delivered in our educational establishments. We will use **Learning to Achieve** to monitor, develop and improve outcomes for children and young people.

LEARNING TO ACHIEVE

We have revised **Learning to Achieve** - our flagship policy. This new **Learning to Achieve** describes in detail how Curriculum for Excellence will be delivered in Falkirk Council schools. It outlines our aspirations for children and young people in Falkirk.

We want all learners in our schools to have enjoyable, challenging experiences allowing them to work to their full potential. For economic and social reasons we must enable all young people to be pro-active and independent within their own learning experiences. Our service must support young people to develop resilience of character and the creativity and flexibility necessary to function in our rapidly changing society. Learners will then develop the skills and attributes which will allow them to make a positive contribution to society and to their own health and well-being. We must inspire young people to become enthusiastic lifelong learners.

We will use **Learning to Achieve** to monitor, develop and improve outcomes for children and young people.

THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is divided into 8 curricular areas;

- Languages
- Mathematics
- Health and Wellbeing
- Expressive Arts

- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Languages

English language skills are developed through a variety of learning situations that focus on:

- Talking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Talking and Listening

We aim to help children speak with confidence, clarity and fluency within a variety of situations and to listen attentively and respond with understanding. These skills are developed through a variety of activities such as speaking to an audience, participating in discussion, responding to texts and recordings.

Reading

We aim to provide purposeful and enjoyable activities to help children become, fluent, committed readers. We want children to recognise the importance of reading as a life skill and as a valuable leisure activity.

Children's reading skills are developed through our core programmes of Literacy Links and Storyworld. These are supplemented with texts and novels from our school and class libraries.

Writing

Children are taught skills to enable them to write in a variety of styles, for a range of purposes and audiences. All stages follow the 'Big Writing' approach to developing children's writing skills.

The skills which children develop during Language sessions are then used in a variety of meaningful learning activities that link together different curricular areas.

Modern Languages

At present pupils in Primaries 5-7 receive weekly lessons in French.

Primaries 3 and 4 each receive a block of Gaelic within the school year.

Mathematics

We use a range of approaches to help children acquire skills and understanding in:

- Number, money and measure
- Shape, position and movement
- Information handling

These include direct teaching, practical activities and enquiry. Children are encouraged to use mathematic skills in everyday situations and to utilise their understanding of maths and numeracy within cross-subject themes.

Health and Wellbeing

We have developed a varied programme of learning experiences to develop children's mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing. We encourage children to use their understanding of these experiences to make informed decisions about their health and lifestyle.

Expressive Arts

Experiences in the Expressive Arts focus

- Art and Design
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

These experiences all involve creating and presenting and are practical and experiential. They encourage children to be creative and to express themselves in different ways.

Religious and Moral Education

Throughout the school there are opportunities for pupils to learn about aspects of Christianity, other world faiths and to reflect upon their own moral standpoint in relation to world issues.

During weekly whole-school assemblies, we hope to encourage awareness of matters of a cultural, social and moral nature.

We aim to develop in our pupils an ethos of tolerance and understanding and respect for the beliefs and customs of others.

The school is committed to supporting the development of its pupils as whole people and as a result, wish to encourage their development in moral, social and cultural terms.

The key human aspects of learning are supported by:

- Creating an atmosphere that is both caring and challenging and which provides opportunities for the development of personal responsibility.
- Promoting social and moral learning through the way in which disciplinary issues are handled.
- Ensuring staff and adults within the school provide positive models for pupils.
- Arranging regular gatherings of the school community and using such occasions to encourage and reinforce the values on which the school is based.
- Enriching the curriculum in all appropriate areas with an emphasis on moral, social and cultural development.
- Providing opportunities within the curriculum to advance personal and social development.
- Providing a programme of religious education in which consideration will be given to responses to basic questions relating to the meaning, value and purpose of human life.
- Providing a programme of moral education.
- Taking every opportunity to acknowledge, value and appreciate the various cultures and heritage of our pupils and to encourage them to appreciate and value the cultures and heritage of others.

Our School Chaplain is Rev. Horne of St. Andrew's Church. He visits classes weekly and participates in school services at the end of each term.

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 contains a clause that allows parents/guardians to withdraw their children from Religious Education and/or observance on grounds of conscience. Parents wishing to withdraw their child must discuss this with the Headteacher and put their request for withdrawal in writing.

Sciences

We use a wide range of topics and resources to develop children's interest in, and understanding of, the living, material and physical world.

Social Studies

Social Studies involves children developing their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. Aspects of History and Geography are included within this programme.

Technologies

The Technologies curriculum involves children in developing skills, knowledge and understanding that can be applied to business and the world of work. In Bantaskin we are continuing to plan learning opportunities for children that will involve exploration, problem solving and research. Through these experiences children will develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills.

ACTIVE LEARNING

Curriculum for Excellence emphasises the value of an active learning approach. 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 are engaging and give them ownership of their own learning.

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

HOMEWORK

The school has a clearly defined policy on homework, a copy of which can be obtained from the Headteacher.

Pupils are regularly given homework to support their learning and to encourage them to become more organised and self-supporting in their learning. Homework tasks will be given where a teacher feels a particular child or group of children may benefit from it. The homework will be organised according to the stage and ability of the child, it can arise from all curricular areas, and it may include written, oral or practical activities. The tasks set will be interesting, worthwhile and challenging for the child.

Parents are encouraged to help pupils with their homework as a means of keeping them up to date with the work of the class and the child's progress and to promote partnership between the school and parents.

Homework provides an opportunity to consolidate what has been learned in class, and makes you aware of what your child is learning and provides you with a useful discussion starter. Homework is also an integral part of school work, Parental interest and co-operation in ensuring homework is undertaken is appreciated. The school encourages parents to sign each homework task.

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 fittings 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 book. Any loss of school or Council property should be reported immediately to the school.

ASSESSMENT

Baseline Assessment is completed in May for all children in their pre-school year as part of the summative reporting process informing transition to primary 1. Baseline Assessment allows a snapshot picture of where individual children have reached in their literacy and numeracy development at the end of their nursery career. This information helps Primary 1 teachers plan for learning at early stages of Primary 1.

An End of P1 Assessment is completed for all children by May of their Primary 1 year. This builds on information from Baseline Assessment and shows the progress that children have achieved in literacy and numeracy.

As pupils progress through school, teachers use a range of assessment strategies, including Assessment for Learning strategies as well as setting tests. Pupils are also involved in assessing their own progress and developing their next steps.

We recognise that all pupils do not develop and progress at the same rate and, therefore, we use both group and individual methods to ensure that all pupils are given appropriate instruction and the opportunity to succeed. Please contact the school as soon as possible if you have any concerns about your child's progress.

Parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with class teachers on Parents' Evenings. Pupil Summary Reports are sent home to parents and they have an opportunity to comment on these. In addition, of course, parents are welcome to contact the school at any time to ask for information or for an appointment to consult with the Headteacher or class teacher.

Formative Assessment

This is ongoing feedback that pupils receive every day. Pupils are encouraged to set targets for their learning through discussion with their teacher.

Staff use questioning to ensure that pupils understand the main learning points. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own learning against the criteria set by the teacher. Pupils are also supported to assess the work of their peers in a positive and constructive manner.

Summative Assessment

This is when the teacher provides an end of block test to check if pupils are secure in their learning. There are regular checks in spelling and maths.

PLANNING CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING

Teachers in nursery, primary and secondary schools increasingly share their learning intentions with pupils, parents and carers. This takes place on a day-to-day basis, for instance, when agreeing the aims of an individual piece of work.

Longer-term planning also takes place, in a variety of forms. Pupils in primary schools negotiate with their teachers their aims for the next block of learning. At the end of the block progress against these aims is assessed by the teacher and pupil, and, new targets are set for the following block of learning.

In secondary schools, pupils review progress against targets and negotiate new ones with their pastoral teacher.

In order to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their learning, a growing number of primary schools use Learning Logs in which pupils plan their programme for completing homework assessments. In secondary schools, homework diaries serve a similar purpose. These diaries are also used for pupils to record their long-term targets.

CHILDREN'S PROGRESS AND VISITS BY PARENTS

We welcome visits by parents. We are pleased to discuss the work of the school and the children's work and progress with you at any time, but if parents wish to discuss matters in detail, it is preferable that they make an appointment.

Opportunities will be given throughout the session for you to discuss your child's progress with teaching staff;

November: parent/teacher interview

March: parent/teacher interview

June: final report and final report consultation if required

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a range of extra curricular 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.

All activities are supervised by members of staff, and many schools have a study support co-ordinator whose job it is to plan and oversee the extra curricular programme of activities. Where participation involves children travelling or staying late after school, written permission for children taking part is required from parents.

FACILITIES FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The gym hall has a variety of apparatus for physical education within the school. Whenever possible, classes also make regular use of the large dining hall and outdoor space. 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.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS

The fundamental aim of Active Schools is to give school-aged children the tools, motivation and the opportunities to be more active throughout their school years and into adulthood. These opportunities are available before, during and after school, as well as in the wider community. For further information contact the Active Schools Team on 01324 501656 or visit our website www.activeschoolsfalkirk.co.uk.

SECTION 3

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. Copies are also available to view on our website;

www.bantaskin.falkirk.sch.uk

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We take a positive approach to promoting responsible behaviour. We recognise and praise good behaviour, effort and application through the use of certificates, stickers, public display etc.

Certificates are presented to individual children for effort and special achievements at fortnightly assemblies. Evidence of this good work is displayed on our Golden Wall in the dining hall for all to see.

Bantaskin has a very active and successful 'House System'. On entry to school each pupil is allocated to one of four Houses - Bruce, Graeme, Livingstone or Wallace. House Captains and Vice Captains from Primary 7 are elected each term by the pupils. Pupils are awarded points in a variety of ways e.g. special achievements, good manners, acts of kindness, achievements outwith school etc. These points are totalled on alternate Fridays and a cup is awarded to the winning House at assembly.

House points are displayed on the noticeboard in the dining hall. At the end of each term the accumulated House points for the term are totalled to give a House winner. The winning House is awarded the cup at the end of term service.

House meetings are held fortnightly to celebrate success and to encourage all pupils to work hard for their House.

PUPIL CONDUCT

A partnership between the school and parents is required in order to ensure the best possible standards of pupil conduct. Pupils are expected to set themselves high standards in appearance and behaviour. School rules have been devised to encourage the maximum amount of self-discipline. The rules themselves are relatively simple and few in number to allow for the smooth running of the school. 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).

GOLDEN RULES (SCHOOL RULES)

We aim to provide a safe and pleasant environment for all the community, where individuals are treated with respect and consideration. To make this possible pupils are asked to obey the following rules.

1. We are gentle. We don't hurt others.
2. We are kind and helpful. We don't hurt anybody's feelings.
3. We listen. We don't interrupt.
4. We are honest. We don't cover up the truth.
5. We work hard. We don't waste our own or others' time.
6. We look after property. We don't waste or damage things.

Every class has a copy of the Golden Rules. These are regularly reinforced to promote positive behaviour. Each class also has its own 'class rules' which are drawn up between teacher and pupils at the start of each school session.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

As an extension of our House System we have Golden Time which is used to reward good behaviour. This is a special time for the children and lasts 45 minutes. The children are able to choose from a selection of activities from a list drawn up by themselves. If a child breaks a Golden Rule they can lose some or all of the time at their chosen activity. It is however also possible for lost Golden Time to be reinstated if behaviour improves.

If a child's behaviour continues to cause concern this will result in a referral to the depute headteacher and /or the headteacher. A referral to the headteacher will automatically result in parents being contacted.

Very occasionally, when all normal procedures have been exhausted, a pupil may be excluded from school.

This is a serious and exceptional option that requires a parental visit, accompanied by guarantees of improved behaviour before the pupil can be re-admitted.

PUPIL COMMITTEES

Pupil Council

An elected Pupil Council meets regularly to discuss matters of importance to the pupils of the school. They play an active part in the decision making process, are consulted about the School Improvement Plan and manage a small budget.

Two of our senior Pupil Council pupils represent our school on the Falkirk Cluster Pupil Council. This enables children from all schools within the Falkirk area to share ideas and good practice.

Eco Committee

The ECO Committee manages environmental issues within the school e.g. energy management, litter reduction and recycling initiatives. We are currently working towards our second Green Flag.

Buddies

In May our Primary 5 pupils are selected to become Buddies to our new intake children. They spend time in the nursery in June to develop a friendship with their nominated pupil. When this child then starts Primary 1 they have a senior pupil as their special friend. They undertake a range of duties, the most significant of these being the support and training they provide to their P1 pupil in the dining room and playground during their first few weeks at school.

MULTICULTURAL AND ANTI-RACIST POLICY

The Authority has a multicultural and anti-racist policy.

We endorse and implement the Racist Attacks and Harassment Multi-Agency Strategy. All educational establishments have a responsibility to report racist incidents by completing a Racist Incident Monitoring Form.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICIES

Falkirk Council has published an Equality Opportunities Policy and an Equality Scheme, which can be viewed on the council's website. These outline the duties which the Council is required to undertake to tackle discrimination, prevent harassment and ensure our work promotes equality. The Council is committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, faith/belief or age.

Education Services has policies and statements to address equalities issues specific to education to enable us to fulfil these duties. All schools have copies of these policies. The Service also supports the Racist Attacks and Harassment Multi-Agency Strategy and all education establishments have a responsibility to report racist incidents.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

The Authority provides a support service of teachers of English as an additional language. The teachers visit schools to work with those bilingual pupils who require assistance in developing English language skills.

GENDER EQUALITY

Falkirk Council Education Services has a Gender Equality statement that commits the Service to eliminating sexism and gender discrimination and to actively promoting equality of opportunity, regardless of gender.

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

When specific support needs are identified for individuals 'Individual Educational Programmes' (IEP's) are drawn up.

These outline the specific needs of a child, state targets to be achieved and the means by which this support will be undertaken.

We place a high priority of involving parents in consultations regarding additional support and parents will be invited to become involved from the outset.

All IEP's are reviewed and adjusted as required on a regular basis throughout the school year. Where necessary we involve other agencies to assist our support programme with parental consent e.g.

- Psychological Services
- Minor Motor Skills Programme
- Speech Therapy
- Medical Specialists
- Behavioural Support
- Supervisory Assistant

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

As with all local authority schools in Scotland, this school operates under the terms of the Additional Support for Learning Act (2009) and its accompanying Code of Practice. Further details of the policies and procedures can be found on the Falkirk Council website, and the school's Additional Support for Learning Co-ordinator will be able to outline the support that can be offered in school.

Working with other agencies and professionals - for example, Social Work Services, Educational Psychology Service, National Health Service and parents - decisions are made with regards to the best possible education to meet the needs of the child within the resources available.

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

- Enquire: www.enquire.org.uk Telephone number: 0845 123 2303
- Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance: www.siaa.org.uk Telephone number: 0131 260 5380
- Take Note National Advocacy Service for Additional Support Needs (Barnardos in association with the Scottish Child Law Centre) www.sclc.org.uk Telephone number : 0131 667 6633

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

The Educational Psychology Service is part of Education Services. Every school has a link Educational Psychologist providing consultation, assessment, intervention, staff development and project work.

Educational Psychologists can be consulted by schools and others about questions or concerns they have about pupils and how best to support them. The school must obtain the agreement of parents and, where appropriate, the pupil before involving the Educational Psychologist.

INSURANCE COVER FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Public liability

Personal Injury

Falkirk Council has in force a Public Liability policy which operates in respect of claims for injury to any school child whilst in the control of the Council or employees. In the event of any claim, the Council will have been deemed negligent in order for compensation to be payable.

Pupil's Property

Each session, unfortunately but inevitably, pupil's property is lost, damaged or stolen from school.

Parents are to be discouraged from allowing their children to carry expensive items of personal belongings to the school but are reminded that a standard household policy can be extended to provide a degree of cover for personal items taken away from the home.

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 Education Services, and the claim will only be settled if it is shown that the Council can be held legally liable for the loss.

Personal Accident Cover - Educational Excursions

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

Policy Cover: Whilst attending any activities involving a journey outside the premises of the school organised by or on behalf of the school/Council under the supervision of a responsible adult appointed thereby.

<u>Compensation:</u>	1. Death	£20,000
	2. Permanent Total/Partial Disablement (continental scale of benefits)	£20,000

The above information is given in summary form only and is subject to the insurers standard policy, terms and conditions.

SECTION 4

PUPIL WELFARE

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

It is a duty of parents, by law, to make sure that their children attend school regularly and punctually.

If your child is late for school on occasion, please send a note of explanation with your child.

Whenever your child is absent from school, you should contact the school as soon as possible (preferably before 9.45am in primary schools and before 10am in secondary schools/additional support needs schools) on the first day of absence to let them know.

If the absence is three days or longer, parents are required to notify the school, either by note or telephone, reporting the reason for absence.

When a child has an afternoon absence, having been present in the morning, parents must inform the school immediately for safety purposes.

Please note that family holidays should be taken during the recognised school holidays and not during term time. Other than in exceptional circumstances, which should always be discussed and agreed in advance with the Head Teacher, all family holidays taken during term time will be recorded as 'unauthorised absence' on the part of the pupil(s) concerned. Furthermore, if family holidays are arranged during term time, parents should be aware that the school is not obliged to make special arrangements to help pupils catch up with any missed school work.

Schools are obliged to report persistent pupil absences to Education Services. Attendance panels will then consider the attendance and where there is not improvement after an Attendance Panel Hearing, the matter will then be referred on to the Attendance Committee.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Education Services must set a date each year for the commencement of children's attendance at Primary school. This date is usually the 2nd or 3rd week in August.

When commencing Primary 1 education, your child will normally attend the local denominational or non-denominational Primary school (regardless of religion) 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 506619/506608 Education Services, or the relevant school.

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

Enrolment dates will be set by each school and the enrolment should be completed in January prior to the start of term in August. The school will place adverts in the local press and nurseries advertising the date(s) for enrolment. Enrolment Forms should be completed on enrolment day at your catchment school. Parents are asked to bring the relevant birth certificate(s) and proof of residency when enrolling their child(ren). Enrolment timetables will also be available through the Falkirk Council website at www.falkirk.gov.uk.

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 to a particular school. You should also note that a successful Placing Request for one child does not guarantee a successful one for another child. It may be, therefore, that a parent could end up with children at different schools.

Primary 1 children must also be enrolled at the catchment area school on the appropriate Enrolment Form 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 Education 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. Education Services can also reserve places in a class for future catchment pupils they expect to move into the area in the following 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.

If you wish to make a Placing Request, you should complete the appropriate application form (one for each child involved) and return it to Forward Planning Section, Education Services, Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB.

This Form must be completed by the child's Parent/carer. Placing Requests for primary 1 and secondary commencing in the next school session must be made by the 15th of March each year for consideration and response no later than the 30th 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 15th 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.

Placing Request Forms are available from Forward Planning Section, Education Services at Sealock House, all schools, Libraries, One-Stop Shops and on the Falkirk Council website.

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. Your Placing Request will only be granted if there are surplus places available at the School.

PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSFER

Visits to secondary schools are organised before the summer holidays and children from other catchment schools who will be attending the same secondary school will have the opportunity to meet and get to know each other and their teachers.

If you wish your child to attend a secondary school other than the catchment denominational or non-denominational secondary school for your home address, you will be required to make a Placing Request as detailed in the Placing Request section below.

You do not need to submit a Placing Request if you want your child to transfer from a non-denominational secondary school or vice-versa at the primary to secondary transfer stage, as long as the intended secondary school is still the catchment school for your home address.

Parents of children who are planning to change from denominational to non-denominational or vice-versa between primary and secondary school should ensure that both the primary school and the intended secondary school know what is to happen.

Pupils from this school normally transfer to:

Falkirk High School

Westburn Avenue

Falkirk

FK1 5BZ

Tel: 01324 679010

Staff from Falkirk High School, work closely with our school to ensure a smooth transition to secondary school for our pupils. In June our Primary 7 pupils spend 3 days at the high school as part of their induction programme.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of the school uniform.

The uniform was agreed in consultation with parents, pupils and staff. It incorporates a range of popular items of dress, e.g. sweatshirts, T-shirts.

Wearing school uniform contributes to a positive school ethos helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing.

A school's reputation can also be enhanced in the local community by the wearing of school uniform and school security will be improved as it will be easier to identify intruders.

UNIFORM

Trousers	dark grey/black
Skirt	dark grey/black
Polo shirt	white - from £7.50
Sweatshirt	Bantaskin Blue (royal blue) - from £9.50
Waterproof	
Fleece	Bantaskin Blue (royal blue) - from £20.49
Book Bags	£5.25

Uniform can be purchased from 'Trutex' - 32 Vicar Street, Falkirk (618810).

We ask that all of your child's clothing and belongings are clearly marked with their name.

Clothing samples and more information about the school uniform is available from the school office.

GRANTS FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING

Some families may be eligible for free school meals. Application forms are available from Falkirk Council One Stop Shops, or can be downloaded from the Falkirk Council website. The forms have to be completed by the parent or carer along with supporting documentation as detailed on the application form. An application is required for every school session. Help with filling out the form, and more information on school meals and grants can be obtained from the Council's Advice & Information helpline on 01324 590599.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

The appropriate clothing and footwear for PE is a T-shirt, shorts 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.

In certain circumstances, appropriate clothing will be necessary for school activities for safety reasons, e.g. in games areas, science laboratories, 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 painted with obscene language or illustrations are not permitted. Football colours are also inappropriate as they can lead to incidents of rivalry.

If you have any queries regarding the dress code, please contact the headteacher.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Pedestrians - We actively encourage all our pupils to walk to school. Care should be taken crossing roads and where available use should be made of crossing patrols. While the school stresses the importance of road safety the safety of the pupils en route to school is the responsibility of parents/ guardians.

Only pupils who have passed their cycling proficiency test may cycle to school. Helmets must be worn.

Cars - The car park at the rear of the school is for staff and deliveries only and should not be used for dropping off or picking up children as this is a hazard. Parents bringing children to school by car should avoid stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines at the school gate.

Bus travellers - good behaviour is expected at the bus stop, while boarding the bus and during the journey. Primary 1 and 2 pupils travelling by bus are escorted to the bus stop at the end of the school day. Please note that no supervision is provided on the school bus. Any complaints regarding this service or pupil behaviour should be made directly to the bus company concerned.

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 operates a more generous distance entitlement policy than required by law.

Distance entitled children will be:

- All children under 8 years of age who live one mile or over from their catchment school.
- All children over 8 years of age who live two miles or over from their catchment school.

Concessions, details of times of operation, criteria and application forms are available from the Transport Planning Unit within Falkirk Council. Tel: 01324 504724/504753.

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.

SCHOOL MEALS

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

Special diets and allergies are usually accommodated subject to consultation with parent/guardian and the regional dietician.

Primary School menus provide 3 daily choices with High Schools providing a range of plated meals, pasta, meals deals and salad boxes.

Meal prices are reviewed annually. The price at August 2011 for a Primary Lunch is £1.70.

Bantaskin Primary benefits from having a working kitchen and a dedicated dining hall in which meals are taken.

Through consultation with pupils and school staff, catering menus now offer a wide variety of choices including hot meals and pic' 'n' mix (snack) lunches.

The current price of a school lunch is £1.70. Prices are reviewed annually.

The EC Milk Subsidy Scheme subsidises the charge for milk provided with pupils' lunches.

Some pupils prefer to bring their own packed lunch. Please ensure that your child's lunch box is clearly labelled to ensure their safe return. No glass bottles are allowed.

In the interest of safety, children staying for lunch are not allowed out of school grounds after finishing their meal.

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 they exercise good behaviour.

Children who go home for lunch should, where possible, return as late in the lunchtime as possible.

GENERAL SUPERVISION

Before school begins supervision is very limited, therefore pupils should not arrive at school until as near to nine o'clock as possible.

During intervals the school support staff and the janitor supervise the children in the playground with the help of senior pupils. In addition, the Senior Management

Team is on call to cope with any difficulties that may arise. There is always access to the building and the children are made aware of this.

Children are regularly reminded that they should report any concerns they may have to the playground supervisors immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

UNEXPECTED CLOSURES

Most school 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 inclement weather. In the event of an early school closure parents will be contacted using our 'SMS Texting' text alert system in the first instance. Please ensure that your child knows where to go if you are not usually at home during the day. For this reason it is important that emergency contacts are kept up-to-date on our records.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

A Health Promoting School is 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 both formal and informal 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 efforts to promote health.

Falkirk Council and partner agencies will continue to develop and support opportunities for children, young people and families to make healthier lifestyle choices.

In our schools and communities we will promote services targeting all areas of health.

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.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Forth Valley NHS Board has a statutory obligation to provide a health service for all school-age children in Falkirk District.

The aim of the service is to make sure that all children are in the best possible health to benefit from their education and to provide the Education Authority with

advice about the spread of infections and the promotion of good health. This service is provided by staff from Forth Valley Primary Care NHS Trust.

Parents will be given the opportunity to meet the named nurse for the school when their child starts in Primary 1. This will involve the parents completing a health questionnaire for the child and requesting an appointment if required. All children in primary 1 and at other selected stages will be seen to have their height, weight and vision checked. High school pupils are also offered immunisation and at the appropriate time will be issued with a form for information and consent. If you have any concerns with your child's health, which may affect their education, then an appointment can be arranged with your named nurse by contacting the department at the telephone number below. School staff with parental permission can request an appointment with the named nurse at any time. Hearing is no longer being tested in school and teachers and parents are encouraged to report any concern about hearing especially in Primary children. The named nurse will also offer health promotion sessions within the school setting at agreed times with the school. If you wish further details about the content of these sessions then this is available by either speaking to the teacher or contacting the named nurse at the telephone number below.

The school doctor (Community Paediatrician) sees children with Additional Support Needs or with any significant ongoing medical or developmental conditions affecting their education. School staff and parents can request a consultation with the school doctor at any time.

The school dentist carries out dental inspections in Primary 1 and 7, and offers full treatment facilities for those children not registered with a general dental practitioner.

With parental consent, the school health team can refer a child to other specialists such as speech and language therapy, chiropody, occupational therapy, physiotherapy etc.

The School Health Service can be contacted at:-

Area Community Child Health Department,
Stirling Royal Infirmary,
Livilands,
Stirling.
FK8 2AU.
Tel (01786) 434059
Fax no. (01786) 434479

Infectious Diseases

Colds, flu and gastroenteritis are the most common infections affecting children of school age. It is important that you keep your child off school in the early stages of flu and while they still have diarrhoea. It is also important that your child understands how to prevent picking up and spreading such infections.

You will be able to get further advice about good health from staff in your Health Centre or GP Practice.

For advice about early detection and treatment for other infectious diseases eg chickenpox and mumps, please consult your GP or Nurse.

Head Lice

Head lice are spread through head to head contact at home, while playing or in school.

Regular wet combing of your child's hair using a head lice detection comb is the best way to catch this possible problem at an early stage.

The only way to be sure that your child has head lice is to find a live louse. If you find live lice, get the correct lotion from your doctor, health visitor or pharmacist. Shampoos and other treatments are not effective.

One treatment is two applications of the treatment lotion, seven days apart. If this is not followed then re-infection is likely.

Advise family members and close friends that your child has head lice and that they should check their own hair. Only treat if live lice are found. Don't be shy about advising others of this possible problem because you would likely tell family and friends about other infections which might affect them.

Regular wet combing of your child's hair with the head lice detector comb is the best protection as it allows you to detect the condition and then treat it speedily.

Further advice can be obtained from the Health Board head lice leaflet which is available in all schools and health centres. Education Services leaflet "Frequently Asked Questions", which is also available in schools.

If you would like to discuss your particular concerns, you could speak to:

Ms. Sybil Solomon
Infection Control Lead Nurse
Primary Care Operating Division
Room 1
Microbiology Lab
Falkirk District Royal Infirmary
Westburn Avenue
Falkirk
FK1 5QE
Tel: 01324 614687
E-mail: sybil.solomon@fvpc.scot.nhs.uk

Clinics

From time to time some children are asked to attend clinics (eye clinics, dentist, doctor, etc). Please inform the school of these visits and arrange for your child to be collected if he/she must leave school to attend the clinic.

No child will be allowed away from school during school hours unless accompanied by a responsible adult or unless written permission to do so has been given by the parent.

Protecting Children and Young People

Education Services have an important role in identifying children who have been abused or are at risk of being abused.

Falkirk Council has clear procedures for all staff to follow. Headteachers or designated member of staff are instructed to notify Falkirk Council and Social Work Services when a member of staff has a suspicion that a child might have been abused or at risk of abuse.

Social Work Services will make a decision on whether or not an investigation is necessary and will advise accordingly.

Medicine administration

The administration of medicines prescribed by a family doctor is undertaken at the discretion of the Head Teacher but schools are generally happy to co-operate with parents in doing so. In order to safeguard the health and safety of children, procedures are drawn up by Falkirk Council Education Services.

SECTION 5

STATISTICS

RAISING ATTAINMENT

Monitoring performance and using the resulting information to secure improvement is an important part of the work of headteachers, school staff and officers within Education Services.

Details of the school attainment in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics, along with attendance information, can be found in the following pages.

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2010
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

School: Bantaskin Primary School	Id No.: 240 - 5742226
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Budgeted Running Costs For Financial Year 2010-2011

School Roll at September 2009	341
Total School Running Costs at April 2010 (£)	1,222,880
Cost per Pupil (£)	3,586

Attendance And Absence For School Year 2009-2010

	Stage							
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P1-7
Total Number of Possible Attendances (Pupil Half Days)	17,782	15,472	20,496	16,104	18,238	15,656	22,206	125,954
Percentage Authorised Absences	3.0	3.3	2.7	3.7	4.1	4.9	3.3	3.5
Percentage Unauthorised Absences	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2010
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

School: Bantaskin Primary School	Id No.: 240 - 5742226
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5-14 Attainment

	Previous level of performance (June 2009) % P3, P4, P6 and P7 roll attaining or exceeding minimum 5-14 levels for their stage	Present level of performance (June 2010) % P3, P4, P6 and P7 roll attaining or exceeding minimum 5-14 levels for their stage
Reading	81	86
Writing	78	78
Mathematics	86	91

Minimising Overall Absence

	Absence recorded (2008/2009) Average number of half days absence per pupil	Absence recorded (2009/2010) Average number of half days absence per pupil
Absence	17.6	17.8