

How did our pupils perform?.....



FALKIRK COUNCIL
Education Services



St Andrew's RC Primary School Standards & Quality Report Session 2006 - 2007

Attainment		2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Reading	School	93	93	95	94
	EA	83	83	84	85
Writing	School	85	82	87	83
	EA	77	79	81	81
Mathematics	School	91	90	94	90
	EA	84	86	87	88
Listening					96 85
Talking					96 85

(Note : EA = Average for all Falkirk Council Primary Schools)

While our overall attainment figures are slightly down on last session, the figures above do not include one group of children who were tested in June 2007. Figures for achievement in Listening and Talking are now also included. The pupils of St Andrew's Primary School continue to make steady progress and this is being maintained each year.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend staff and pupils for all their hard work during last session.

Congratulations to all.

Dear Parent / Carer

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well Schools and Local Authorities are improving pupil performance year on year.

In similar fashion, we in St Andrew's RC Primary School would like to tell you how we are progressing in our School. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our "Standards and Quality Report" for last Session.

Inside, you will find a brief description of our main achievements during last Session. Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we have focused on what we consider to be the most important areas. In similar fashion, I have outlined the School's main priorities for next Session.

I hope you find the leaflet helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to phone the School Office for an appointment. I will be pleased to offer clarification.

Maria Cassidy
Headteacher

What we achieved in 2006 / 2007

As part of Falkirk Council Education Services quality improvement programme a review team visited St. Andrew's in May 2007 to monitor and evaluate the school's performance. The key focus of the day was inclusion. The team gathered information from class visits, interviews with teachers, support staff, pupils and parents. This review was a very positive experience for the school, indicating areas of strength and also areas for us to work on to improve in line with A Curriculum for Excellence.

- During this session we revised the school vision and aims. Staff, children and parents were involved in this process. The new version has been included in the school handbook and a simplified version will be produced with the children making clear links to a Curriculum for Excellence.
- We had a major audit of the resources in the school. As a result a wide range of improvements have been made, including the purchase of Interactive Whiteboards for all shared areas in the school and providing ICT in these areas to support children's learning. We worked closely with the PA to purchase additional resources for playtimes and for the Library.
- Staff and children were involved in developing a whole school policy to promote effective systems for behaviour management. This has been a successful development, with clear procedures for children and staff to use. It has also enabled us to work closely with parents to improve behaviour in the school.
- A Curriculum for Excellence highlights the need for children in Scottish schools to be more aware of becoming Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We had a working party which examined Citizenship across the curriculum and we hope to further develop aspects of Global Citizenship this year. We had a very successful Health Promotion Week and our school lunches have been improved through 'Hungry for Success'.
- We continued to develop the children's attainment in functional writing - We have a solid foundation in the use of the North Lanarkshire approach to writing in of its all forms. Children continue to be encouraged to discuss their writing through conferencing.
- Our Active Schools Coordinator provided a number of very popular lunchtime clubs which included cheerleading, dodgeball league and aerobics. These activities have been greatly enjoyed by the participating pupils, helping to raise the children's self-esteem and confidence.

Our priorities for 2007 / 2008....

- Developments in the curriculum and in approaches to teaching and learning mean that teachers have to constantly update their planning for teaching and for children's learning. This year we will work as a whole school team and as stage groups to look at the planning process across the school to engage with Successful Learning.
- In the recent past we have focused on encouraging children's language ability to write clearly and appropriately. This year we intend to examine the use of phonics and spelling across all areas of the school. Integral to children's ability to spell correctly and to decode words is their ability to identify aurally and visually sounds and to write these. We aim to produce a coherent framework for progression through the school for the teaching of phonics and spelling.
- This year we aim to further develop the teaching of Environmental Studies - Social Studies. By auditing the topics we currently cover, consulting the children about their interests and looking at a Curriculum for Excellence we hope to provide an interesting and relevant programme of Social Studies topics. This new programme will have consideration of aspects of citizenship, sustainable development, equity, diversity and ethical issues.
- As part of our working party on resources in 2006 - 2007 we became aware of the need to review our school programme on Science Education. The 'My Future's in Falkirk' campaign has also made the community in Falkirk more aware of the employment opportunities available in science. This year we aim to audit and produce a whole school policy in line with current local and national approaches to teaching science in primary school. We will also look closely at developing strategies which encourage children's thinking and awareness of science in real life.
- Next session, we will be following Falkirk Council's Action Plan to further implement developments in relation to the Additional Support for Learning Act