



# St Ninian's High School

Standards and Quality Report 2023-24











## Headteacher Introduction



Welcome to our Standards & Quality report. St Ninian's High School is a Catholic comprehensive school serving the communities of Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and the villages of Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie and Twechar. Our school roll last session was 873. 22% of our children and young people have an additional support need and 13% are registered for free school meals. The school receives additional funding through Pupil Equity to support those affected by poverty, ensuring that the aspirations of all young people are supported.

As a community of love and hope and we recognise the wide ranging talent, interests and abilities of all our pupils. Our ultimate aim is to develop the full potential of all our young people. Our success stems from the way we value every pupil by providing them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to meet the challenges of our ever changing world. Our mission to achieve this has been inspired by our partnership with Columba 1400, a social enterprise based in Staffin in Skye, whose core purpose is to develop values-based leadership in education.

Norman Drummond, founder of Columba 1400, was tasked by our previous Secretary for Education to produce short, accessible papers on the "[Moral Purpose of Education](#)". This alongside his other paper "[Be The Change](#)" have led the direction in which we are progressing as a school. Staff groups have worked on our own "Be The Change" action plan. The priorities of which you will find in our School Improvement Planning documentation.

Kind Regards,

Paul McLaughlin

Head Teacher

### School Improvement Planning

School Improvement Planning is structured around the [National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan \(NIF\)](#). There are four National priorities for Scottish Education:

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people

From these 5 National Priorities the school has self-evaluated their own work to determine where they are and identified School Improvement Priorities for the coming year.

At the end of each session each priority is evaluated, and progress reported in the Standards and Quality Report.

Within the Standards and Quality Report the evaluation of school improvement priorities has been structured under the National Improvement Framework, which aims to support improvement in attainment, achievement and equity for all children. For specific information regarding our SQA attainment, attendance and levels of achievement within Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) please use the [Secondary Dashboard](#). If you are not sure about any of the information within that dashboard, then please use the [Secondary Dashboard Parent/Carer Guide](#) or contact the school and we will be happy to talk you through this as there is a lot of information within the dashboard.



School Priority One: Improving attainment, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy, through values-based leadership.



In order to improve attainment, we must maintain a focus on high quality learning and teaching. This was done this year through a calendar of classroom visits and lesson observations carried out by the Senior Management Team, colleagues within departments and by inter-departmental partners.

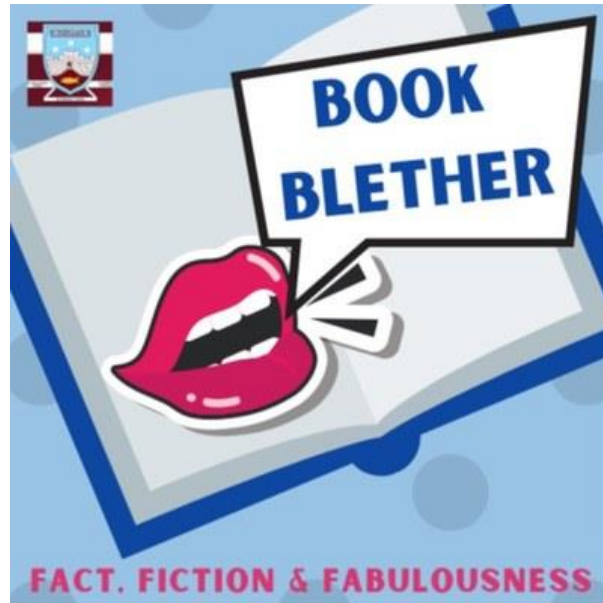
Staff development opportunities were arranged to allow newly qualified teachers to learn more about our school priorities and to share digital learning resources with all staff.

A major success in improving Literacy attainment has been the work carried out across the school on developing a reading culture. Led by our school librarian, a team of staff from across the school has been working on our Reading Schools Award and we successfully achieved Silver level and are well on our way to Gold with initiatives such as Drop Everything and Read, World Poetry Day, the introduction of Book Nooks around the school and our very own [Book Blether](#) Podcast.

We regularly use assessment data to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our learners. This year young people were supported in raising their attainment in Literacy and Numeracy through extraction groups and a pilot class delivered by a specialist teacher. There were great successes as a result of these interventions.

Hearing from our pupils about their experiences is extremely important and allows us to continually evaluate our practices. Departments gather the views of the pupils in a variety of ways and our Skills Academy has been a great way to facilitate pupil voice activities.

High quality leadership at all levels will continue to allow us to drive forward with our successes. This year, we have invested time and resources into providing a range of opportunities for staff and pupils alike to further develop values-based leadership both in school and on residential experiences.



1 - Why not listen to our [Book Blether](#) Podcast?



## School Improvement Priority Two: Closing the attainment gap through Outdoor Learning and Skills Academy.



This school year has seen the successful implementation and delivery of our innovative Skills Academy in S1-S3. Inspired by our aspiration to be the change we want to see in education, the changes that we have made to the curriculum in the Broad General Education have allowed our learners to spend more time developing core skills, reflecting on their values and focussing on the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.

Working together with colleagues across the school and with external partners such as Sustrans, Glasgow Paddle Board Club, Aspect Mountaineering, Gen+ Street League, all learners in S1-S3 have experienced high quality learning in a wide range of contexts.

Outdoor learning opportunities have been available to all through innovative approaches to the curriculum but also through residential experiences. We accessed funding streams to ensure that there were no financial barriers for any young person wanting to attend these trips. 82 First year pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time supported by 10 staff at Lendrickmuir in March and 68 Second Year pupils had a fantastic time in May at Auchengillan. Our S1 Leadership Residential to Barcaple in June saw us develop a deeper partnership with Alva Academy as the young people from both schools worked together to develop their leadership qualities in an outdoor setting.



The success of our approach to raising attainment was recognised at the Scottish Education Awards this year at which we were finalists in the category of Curriculum Innovation.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/WYAhDvcySKF8bQW7#content=tCwvlqAqCjvy9D>

School Improvement Priority Three: Improvement in Mental Health and Wellbeing through our "Light Up" approach.



Empowering young people to take charge of their mental health and wellbeing is crucial in building resilience and a feeling of self-regulation. This has been at the forefront of our planning of our Light Up approach. Senior pupils senior pupils have taken up a range of opportunities offered to them to undertake training to help develop their own understanding of mental health and wellbeing and equality and inclusion such as MVP

training, Peer Education in Mental Health, Wellbeing Ambassador, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid and an accredited course in British Sign Language. Young people from across the school were established and undertook training to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and have been planning activities required for the Diana Award: Wellbeing Badge. In addition, staff have undertaken opportunities to develop their understanding of mental health and wellbeing, equalities and inclusion.

Mental health and wellbeing, equalities and inclusion have played a key role in the work of Skills Academy and Supporting Learners. There have been sessions on nutrition, safe and appropriate use of social media, sleep hygiene, mental health café, wellbeing afternoons, racism and hate crimes, Black authors and "Black and Scottish" documentary making. S4 learners have completed Level 5 Wellbeing Awards and S5 one unit from the SCQF 5 Mental Health award. All year groups completed SHINE Wellbeing Survey.

Our Equalities and Inclusion Pupil Group worked to coordinate activities to mark such occasions as Black History Month and Women's History Month. Wellbeing Captains worked with staff and peers to coordinate activities for Anti-Bullying Week and Mental Health Awareness Week.

The spiritual wellbeing of our staff and young people continues to be well looked after. Opportunities to attend Mass in school is now offered 3 times per week. First and Sixth year pupils have taken responsibility for the Liturgy of the Word at these Masses. NET Ministries worked with almost all year group in retreats in school and over 40 of our S6 pupils attended a residential Retreat at Castlerigg Manor. Local priests have been engaging with pupils in RE classes and the Sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to all pupils in school prior to Easter.

This session we have taken further steps in embedding children's rights into the heart of our school by embedding rights into our curriculum across the school. We also incorporated the UNCRC into school policy through a revision, with pupils, of our school discipline policy. Linked to this, pupils, teachers, support staff and the wider community took part in the creation of our very own St Ninian's Rights Charter. Our charter proudly displays our five chosen rights from the UNCRC and is displayed in the school social area and in every classroom.

Our Rights group has also led on a key area of participation this school session which has embedded rights into our ethos. Pupils chose to campaign about children's rights in Iran, in particular the rights of girls. In November we had a day of activism where all pupils took part in supporting girls in Iran by removing their school ties (in solidarity with the removal of the hijab) and writing messages of support.

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charity walk for @beatsoncharity today! Well done... more  
28 August 2022



**stninianshs**  
St Ninian's High School, Kirkintilloch



**108 likes**  
**stninianshs** Another event week in S3 Skills Academy!  
Cyber security, sports science, art projects, Street League  
and more!





18:57 64%  
 Liked by **audrey12022** and **70 others**

**stninianshs** What a success the first Community WellBean was! Pupils, different departments and... more  
26 October 2022



**stninianshs**



**57 likes**

**stninianshs** Our S6 MVP Mentors are taking part in day 1 of their training as part of their work with S2 pupile  
26 October 2022

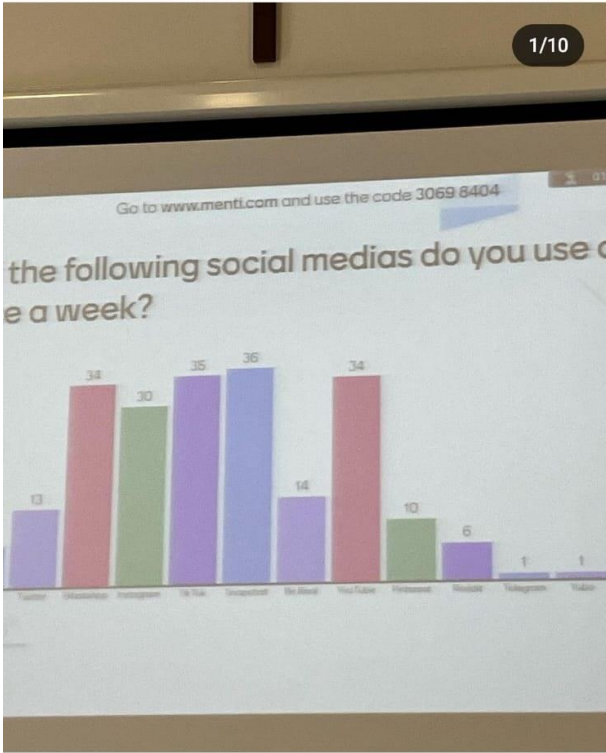


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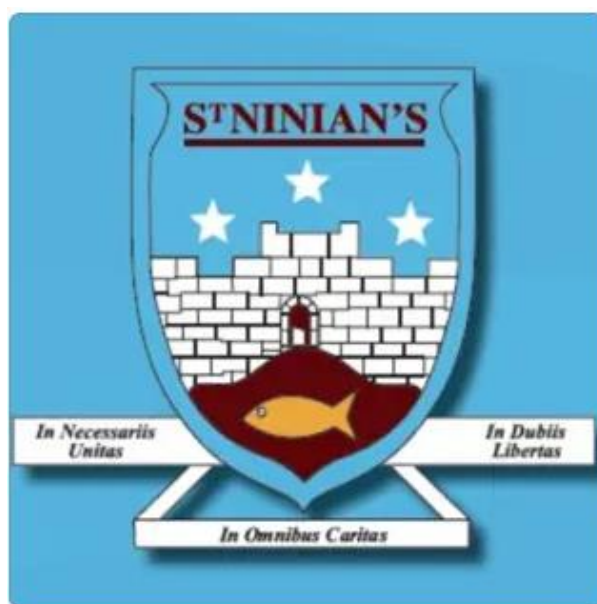
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2 - Listen to our Rights Respecting Schools Podcast [here](#) or [here](#).



School Priority Four: Improvement in employability skills and sustained positive destination through our skills development framework

← St Ninian's HS  
12.2K Tweets

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



↻ 2

♡ 4

📊 1,302



↻ You Retweeted



**Gen+** @genplus\_ · 14 Mar

Another great visit to @stninianshs last week. Pupils and staff exploring, sharing and feeding back, to make the #genplus programme reach its full potential. #metaskills #leadership #pupilvoice @BeccaDobson8



228 views



↻ 2

♡ 6

📊 673



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**St Ninian's HS Music** @stnini... · 14

A big well done to Rachel, Amy, Calum and



In order to effectively prepare young people for the work of work after school, we have been looking at the pathways available to our senior learners and we are aiming to gain the SQA SCQF Ambassador Award. In addition to courses already established, departments have evaluated their provision in Senior Phase and courses running this year include: Criminology Level 5, Environmental Science Higher, Events Level 6, Leadership Level 6, Lab Skills Level 5, SFA Referee Level 7, Furniture Craft at Level 5 and Early Learning and Childcare Level 5.

Our Princes' Trust group worked very successfully this year with their Shared Reading community project being such a success that the young people were invited to other primary schools to lead these activities and to assist with other reading events at associated primary schools.

Our Youth Development Worker has worked with targeted groups and on a one-to-one basis with young people to achieve Dynamic Youth Award and also supporting groups in other opportunities in which our learners have had employability training with providers such as Specific and TIGERS with the opportunity to gain their CSCS card.

The Wellbeing Café continues to be a successful context in which our learners can develop skills for work. As well as our S6 pupils running the café on a day-to-day basis, it has been developed further this year with Level 5 Barista Skills being delivered by Kelvin College staff for 3 groups of S4 pupils undertaking college taster courses. Pupils in the BGE involved in our Bespoke Curriculum were also trained in barista skills by school staff.

All S4 pupils undertook training sessions on WorkIt during Supporting Learners to explore the opportunity for work experience and were encouraged to make arrangements for work experience placements throughout the year.



## Improvement Plan Priorities 2023-24



As we continue to focus on our "Be The change Action Plan", our improvement priorities for next session, linking with the National Improvement Framework are:

Be The Change: Values-Based Leadership

Be The Change: Health and Wellbeing, Equalities and Inclusion

Be The Change: Skills Development and Outdoor Learning

[Important Links](#)

[School Website](#)

[St Ninian's HS Twitter](#)

[St Ninian's HS Instagram](#)