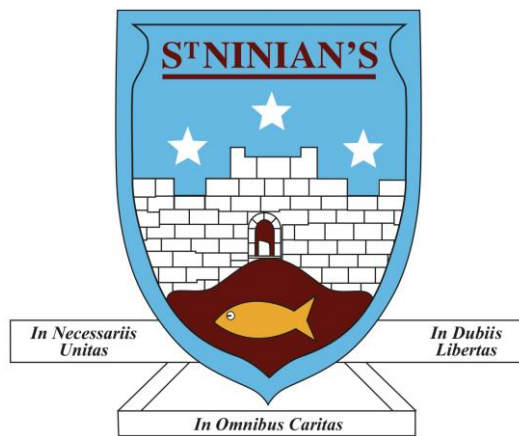


# St Ninian's High School

## Kirkintilloch

### Standards and Quality Report

#### Session 2018 - 2019





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## 1. School Context

St. Ninian’s High School serves the town of Kirkintilloch and surrounding area including Lenzie and the villages of Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie and Twechar. St. Ninian’s is a denominational comprehensive with a roll of 830 in session 2018-2019. The pupils mainly come from three partner primary schools, with a number of placing requests from other schools. The school has a well-established Language & Communications Resource. 19% of pupils are recorded as having an additional support need and 11 % of pupils are registered for free school meals. 15% of pupils are living in the most deprived data zones in Scotland.

The school inspection report was published on 27 March 2018.

Quality Indicator	Evaluation
Leadership of change	Excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	Very Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Very Good

## 2. Our Aims

We strive to ensure that our young people are fully prepared for life. We encourage pupils to be ambitious in their achievements, confident in their abilities, responsible within their community and effective in their learning by promoting the Gospel values and developing the talents of each individual. The aims of the school highlight the importance of the individual, which is in keeping with the Catholic ethos we promote.

- To use our Catholic beliefs as the basis for developing good values which promote respect for self and others.
- To provide a broad range of experiences which develop successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- To provide a curriculum which encourages enthusiasm and motivation for learning, enabling each individual to reach the highest standards of achievement.
- To utilise enterprising learning and teaching practices which encourage self-reliance and ambition.

### 3. Priorities for 2018 - 2019

- Raising attainment for all, with a specific focus on Literacy and Numeracy, through ongoing improvement in the learning provision.
- Closing the gap between the most and least disadvantaged learners to ensure equity for all.
- Improving the Health and Wellbeing of learners.
- Further develop the Catholic Ethos across the contexts for learning.

### 4. Leadership and Management

- Our shared vision has been developed and sustained through ongoing professional learning opportunities. As a result, our pupils are fully aware of the support available to enable them to achieve and to be successful after leaving school.
- Our shared values underpin the strong relationships that are evident across the school and the wider community. The ethos of the school promotes leadership opportunities at all levels.
- The outstanding leadership of the Head Teacher in promoting a culture of learning and high aspirations and developing a belief that 'anything is possible.' *Education Scotland Inspection 2018*
- In recognition of outstanding leadership and sustained improvement, we have been shortlisted for the 2019 TES Awards in two categories; School Business Manager of the Year and Head Teacher of the Year.
- The Scottish Education Awards recognised the leadership of Mr John McKean who was awarded Teacher of the Year.
- All Depute Head Teachers have successfully completed the Columba 1400 Head Teacher Leadership Academy. The Government and Sir Tom Hunter support this programme. This shared approach to leadership will continue to drive forward improvements in all areas of school life.
- Partnership working with an accredited General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTCS) provider has resulted in Principal Teachers completing a four-day training programme in coaching.



- SMT have visited schools in their role as Professional Learning Advocates for the GTCS to look at different models of professional learning. This has shared good practice from across the country, further supporting our approaches to improving outcomes for our pupils.

#### **4. Leadership and Management (cont.)**

- We have developed a partnership with Larbert High School focusing on the learning experience in S3. Pupils and staff have visited Larbert High to find out what it is like to be a learner there and to share aspects of practice.
- Clear and effective systems for strategic planning are embedded across the school. A systematic approach to self- evaluation ensures that our priorities are evidenced based.
- Our priorities are well judged and reflect the school's context and local and national priorities. All staff are aware of the needs of our community.
- There is a strong culture of collaborative professional learning with partners including Columba 1400, Positive People Development and others. Effective leadership is evident at all levels and staff and pupils are encouraged and supported to develop leadership capacities across the contexts for learning.
- Pupil leadership opportunities are contributing to the ongoing success of the school through the development of values based leadership projects that are providing service to the school and its community.
- Principal Teachers work in consultation with SMT to shape and plan the school's approach to improvement through planned strategic meetings.
- All staff are involved in discussing the quality of educational provision through the use of challenge questions. This has reinforced the high expectations that staff have for themselves and for our pupils.

## 5. Learning Provision

- The very positive relationships between staff and pupils are a significant strength of the school.
- Positive learning environments are supporting our pupils to contribute well in lessons and challenge themselves in their learning. This is allowing pupils to achieve success.
- Improvement Teams in Learning & Teaching, Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing are working to share good practice and improve pupils' experiences.
- The curriculum was revised to provide a dedicated lesson each week for S2 pupils in numeracy and for S3 learners in literacy.
- Pupils experience a range of high quality planned activities that provide challenge and enjoyment. Pupils are motivated, engaged and active learners. Through the experiences provided for them, pupils are developing in confidence as independent learners.
- Consistency in pupils' experiences is supported through staff using the 'ten features' of an effective lesson.
- Pupils experience opportunities in class, through inter-disciplinary learning, across the life of the school and through wider achievements. This range of learning environments has supported the development of skills for life, learning and work.
- All pupils get regular feedback to inform their progress. Learner conversations encourage pupils to reflect on strengths and inform next steps in learning including target setting.
- Pupils are growing in confidence and resilience through participation in Growth Mindset workshops. This is developing positive attitudes and responsibilities for their own learning.
- Pupils are experiencing and enjoying an increasing range of Digital Learning approaches. This is enhancing the learning experience.
- The Senior Phase curriculum offers a variety of flexible pathways to support the ambitions of pupils. In addition to National Qualification courses there are opportunities for accreditation through National Progression Awards, Foundation Apprenticeships and Work placements.



## 5. Learning Provision (cont.)

- We have established strong communication and developed excellent working relationships with all partners. They participate in the life and work of the school with involvement at school events.
- Effective partnership working has provided pupils with access to an extended range of learning pathways, supporting them to develop skills for learning, work and life and securing positive destinations after leaving school.
- The Supporting Learners Programme has supported pupils to develop their wellbeing skills. Emotional wellbeing has been developed through partnership working to deliver information on the responsible and safe use of social media use.
- The Parental Empowerment Programme continues to allow us to support families overcome barriers to support their child's learning.
- Courses in the Broad General Education provide pace and challenge for all pupils. In the Senior Phase all National Qualification courses have been updated to reflect changes from the SQA to maximise attainment for our pupils.
- The views of pupils are captured across the school. S6 pupils are involved in leading this process to find the views of pupils on their learning experience. Almost all pupils feel that they are progressing well with their learning and get help when they need it.
- Pupils are involved in discussions about decisions affecting them and the school community. Approaches to capture Pupil Voice are well established with clear next steps shared with pupils and staff.
- Community involvement allows our pupils to provide service to others. They are involved in a range of activities including buddying, supporting learners with additional support needs, charity work and visits across our associated primaries.
- Our pupils enjoyed a range of learning visits and educational excursions. This included overseas trips to Belgium and Barcelona.
- 24 of our S3 pupils enjoyed a residential experience with the Outward Bound Trust. S1 pupils enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Parliament.

## 6. Successes and Achievements

- In S1, S2 and S3 our pupils are making good progress in their learning across curricular areas.
- By the end of S3 our pupils are achieving in line with or exceeding expectations at Levels 3 and 4 in numeracy, reading, writing, listening and talking.
- The work of the Pupil Equity Team has resulted in improvement for all and for targeted groups of pupils. The work to improve equity is raising the attainment of those pupils facing additional challenges.
- Targeted intervention in literacy resulted in significant increasing in reading ages for S1 pupils. In Numeracy pupils became more confident in number work.
- An on-line sign up system was introduced for supported study and transport provided to enable more pupils to attend. Pupil participation levels were high.
- A successful residential study weekend in March 2019 supported 30 pupils prepare for SQA exams. Pupils were supported by staff tutors across a range of subjects.
- The trend in leaver destinations has been positive over the last five years. In 2019 this figure increase to was 98.4%
- Attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for S4 pupils is very positive at Levels 4 and 5. There is a similar positive trend for S5 and S6 pupils in literacy and numeracy where we outperform our comparator at both levels 5 and 6.
- Our assertive mentoring programme in S4, S5 and S6 has provided very effective support to pupils to ensure that they achieve their potential in national examinations.
- Parental Partnership through literacy and numeracy workshops is enabling parents to support learning in S1 and S2. These interactive workshops have engaged parents with curriculum content, methodologies in numeracy and assessment standards in literacy.
- Attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for S4 pupils is very positive at Levels 4 and 5. There is a similar positive trend for S5 and S6 pupils in literacy and numeracy where we outperform our comparator at both levels 5 and 6.

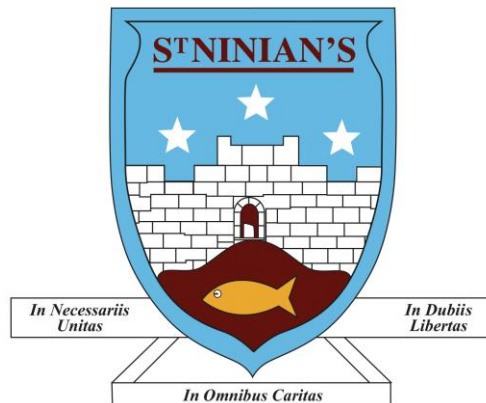




- An increasing number of learners are being recognised for a wide variety of achievements including music, sport and community involvement. These achievements are celebrated at our award ceremonies.
- An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities supports our pupils to achieve. Participation in community events continues to be developed through the work of CARITAS, Columba 1400 Leadership and charity work.
- Over 300 pupils have been involved in a range of cycling activities. A number of pupils have been involved in cycling trips to the Falkirk Wheel and Campsie Fells.
- In sport, the U14 boy's football team won the Scottish Plate. At the County Sports a team of over 40 pupils represented the school in athletics achieving 3 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze medals.
- All S4 pupils have completed an award in Wellbeing as part of the PE curriculum.
- At the UK Junior Maths challenge a number of pupils were successful achieving bronze and silver awards.
- An extensive programme of extracurricular opportunities encourages the wider achievement of pupils. At the annual Dance Show almost 200 pupils performed.

## 7. Summary

St. Ninian's High School clearly demonstrates the capacity for continuous improvement. Under the outstanding strategic leadership of the Head Teacher and his approach to distributive leadership, built on trust, openness and communication there is a strong culture of collaboration; the outstanding commitment of all staff to developing their leadership capacity and structured opportunities for professional dialogue and consultation effectively drives the agenda for change



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