

Brunstane Primary School



School Handbook 2025-2026

A Foreword from the Chief Education Officer

Session 2025- 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

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 and ethos of the school and also offers advice and assistance which you may find helpful in supporting and getting involved in your child's education.

We are committed to working closely with parents as equal partners in your child's education, in the life of your child's school and in city-wide developments in education.

Parental involvement in the decision making process and in performance monitoring are an integral part of school life. We look forward to developing that partnership with your support.

I am pleased to introduce this brochure for session 2022-23 and hope that it will provide you with the information you need concerning your child's school. If you have any queries regarding the contents of the brochure please contact the Head Teacher of your child's school in the first instance who will be happy to offer any clarification you may need.

Amanda Hatton

Head of Schools and Life Long Learning and Chief Education Officer

Education, Children and Justice Service Vision

Our vision is for all children and young people in Edinburgh to enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.

We believe that children and young people do best when:

- they are able to live safely and happily within their own families with the right kind of support as needed
- they attend first class, inclusive schools and early years settings which meet their needs

We will do all we can to strengthen support for families, schools and communities to meet their children's needs.

Our mission is to place children, young people and families at the heart of our service and provide support when it is needed throughout childhood and the transition to adulthood.

Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Brunstane Primary School Handbook.

This handbook offers an introduction to our school and a general overview of the education your child will be engaged in at school.

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

To make our handbook easy to use I've divided the information into four different sections:

Section One – Practical Information about the School


Section Two – Parental Involvement in the School

Section Three – School Curriculum

Section Four – Support for Pupils

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Head Teacher

Contact Details

Name of Head Teacher: Chris McMillan

Name of School: Brunstane Primary School

Address: 106 Magdalene Drive
Edinburgh
EH15 3BE

Telephone Number: 0131 669 4498

Website: www.brunstane.edin.sch.uk

E-mail Address: admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk

About the school

Stages of Education provided for: Nursery- Primary 7

Present Roll: 280

Denominational Status of the School (if any): N/A

Gaelic Medium Education if relevant: N/A

Organisation of the School Day

Start Time: 8.50am

Morning Break: 10.30am – 10:50am

Lunch Time: P1-P2 12.15 P3 – P7 12.30pm

Finish Time Monday to Thursday: P1-P2 3pm P3 – P7 3.15pm

Finish Time Friday: P1-P2 12:15pm P3 – P7 12:30pm

Gym days for pupils are: Please ensure your child has a gym kit in school every day.

Assembly days for pupils are Thursday afternoons.

The School Office is open Monday- Thursday 8.30 – 3.30pm, Friday 8.30 – 12.30pm.

Press 1 to report a pupil absence, include child's name, class, and reason for absence

Press 2 for school office, leave message outwith office hours

Press 3 for nursery office

Press 4 to speak to or leave a message for our Pupil Support Officers.

Section One – Practical Information about the School

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

- 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
- how the school communicates with parents
- how to complain if you are not happy about something.

Communicating with the School

This section provides you with some background information on our school and our nursery. It tells you how our school day and school year are made up and how to contact the school if, for example, your child is ill.

Registration and enrolment

The date for registration of new school entrants is advertised [*in all local nurseries*] in the local press and on the council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk. Registration for Primary One and First Year Secondary takes place in November each year. Pupils should be registered in only one school for their catchment area. Parents will be provided with information about the school, when they register their child.

Parents who want to send their child to a school other than the catchment school must make a placing request. Please refer to section four of this handbook for more information on placing requests. Parents of pupils who have moved into the catchment area or, who wish their child to transfer to the school, should contact the school office for information.

Attendance and absence

It is the responsibility of parents of a child of school age to make sure that their child is educated.

Absence from school is recorded as authorised, that is, approved by the Children, Education and Justice department, or as unauthorised, that is unexplained by the parent.

Please let the school know each day by phone if your child is likely to be absent. If there is no explanation from a child's parents, the absence will be regarded as unauthorised.

Please make every effort to avoid family holidays during term time as this will disrupt your child's education and reduces learning time. I can approve absence from school for a family holiday in certain extreme situations, for example, in traumatic domestic circumstances where the holiday would improve the cohesion and wellbeing of the family. Please discuss your plans with me before the holiday. If I cannot give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence. I can authorise a holiday if you can prove that work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school

holiday times. Normally, your employer will need to provide evidence of your work commitments. Absence approved by me on this basis is regarded as authorised absence.

Any requests for extended absence over two weeks will be referred to the Senior Education Manager (Inclusion) who will decide if it will be recorded as authorised or unauthorised leave.

Parents from minority ethnic religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school to celebrate recognised religious events. Absence approved on this basis is regarded as authorised absence. Extended leave can also be granted on request for families returning to their country of origin for cultural or care reasons.

A supportive approach is taken to unexplained absence. However, the Communities and Families department has legal powers to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or refer pupils to the Reporter to the Children's Panel, if necessary.

Free School Meals, Milk and Clothing grant

Meals in school are free until children are at the end of Primary 5, but this grant also allows your child to get free milk and support to buy school clothing. For every child who successfully gains this entitlement, the school gets £1200 funding per child per year. This totals £8400 in your child's primary school life and helps us enrich the quality of school experience for your child. To put in context, 3 pupils who are entitled to this grant allow us to employ a full time Pupil Support Assistant to directly support in class learning. For online form visit: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants

From 1 April 2024, children and young people will be eligible to receive free school meals through targeted provision if their parents or carers are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income support;
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance;
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Universal Credit (where their monthly earned income is not more than £796);
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, where their income is less than £19,995
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where their income is not more than £9,552.

The forms have to be completed by the parent along with supporting documentation as detailed on the application form. An application is required for every school session. If you have any questions or difficulties in completing the online form, please come to our school office and we can help.

School Uniform

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

We also have a supply of new and pre owned uniform please contact the school office. Ties can be purchased from the school office.

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.

The appropriate clothing and footwear for PE is a T-shirt (provided by the school), 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.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled, particularly ties, sweat shirts and PE equipment which are often lost.

Please help us by ensuring that pupils do not bring valuable or expensive items of clothing to school.

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 school's dress code, please contact the school office.

School Meals

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 catering services.

Meal prices are reviewed annually. Please contact the School to be advised of the current price. All meals including Free school meals should be ordered through the Parent Pay system. The office will provide you with instruction and a code to register your account.

Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch to school also. We ask that no nuts or nut products are included in packed lunches.

Free School Meals

All children in P1-5 receive free school meals. However, families should still register so that they receive support with a milk and clothing grant. In P6-7 some families may be eligible for free school meals. Apply here www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants

The forms have to be completed by the parent along with supporting documentation as detailed on the application form. An application is required for every school session.

Breakfast Club

The school operates a breakfast club each morning. If you are interested in your child being part of the breakfast club please contact the school office.

Travel to and from School

Many of our families walk, bike or scoot to school which is fantastic for both their health and the environment. We ask that families who drive their children to school do not bring their cars into the school car park. We also ask that families take great care when entering or exiting the school as the school car park is a very busy place with many cars arriving or leaving throughout the day.

Supervision before school

Before school begins, there is no adult supervision in the playground. Therefore, pupils should not arrive at school until as near to the school start time as possible.

School Security

The safety and security of pupils and staff when attending or working in a school is very important to us. We use a number of security measures including a visitors' book, badges and escorts, while visitors are within the school building. Normally, anyone calling at the school for any reason will be asked to report to the school office. The school staff then can make the necessary arrangements for the visit. Any safety concerns should be reported to the school office immediately.

Wet Weather Arrangements

In very wet weather pupils are allowed into school during breaks and at lunchtime. Children having school lunches may remain in school during wet weather. We only keep children indoors in the event of very wet or inclement weather, it is therefore very important that children come to school dressed for the weather. Warm, storm-proof coats are available to order from the school office.

Unexpected Closures

In the event of an emergency, such as a power cut or severe weather that prevents schools from opening in the morning, or results in an early closure, a range of communications channels are used to let parents know.

In addition, announcements will be made on Radio Forth (Forth 1 and Forth 2) and via the Council's corporate Twitter account www.twitter.com/Edinburgh_CC and Facebook page www.facebook.com/edinburghcouncil. If many schools are affected, or the situation is likely to be prolonged, then the Council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk will also be used.

Mobile Phones

The benefits of mobile phones are recognised. Many young people and their parents regard them as an essential means of communication. Mobile phones can continue to be brought into schools however all phones must be switched off and sent down to the school office for safe keeping at the start of the day. The school does not accept liability for loss of or damage to any personal possessions children bring to school.

Equality

The City of Edinburgh Council has published an Equality Scheme, which can be viewed on the council's website. This outlines 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, religion/belief, age, marriage or civil partnership, transgender status or pregnancy/maternity.

English as an Additional Language

The Children & Families Department 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.

Complaints, Comments and Suggestions Procedure

We all hope that you will be completely satisfied with your child's education and we encourage feedback on our services from parents and pupils. We are, therefore, interested in feedback of all kinds, whether it be compliments, suggestions or complaints.

If you want to register a comment of any type about our school you can do this by writing, e-mailing, telephoning or making an appointment to see the relevant members of staff. All feedback is welcome and keeps us in touch.

If, in particular, you have a complaint about the school, please let us know. It is better that these things are shared openly and resolved fairly, rather than being allowed to damage the relationship between the family and the school. There will be no negative consequences arising from making a complaint and we will deal with the issue as confidentially as possible.

There are some things which you should take note of in relation to making a complaint:

- Please make any complaints initially to the Head Teacher. This makes sure that the school knows what is going on and has an opportunity to respond and resolve the issue.
- We will try to respond as quickly as possible, but often issues are complex and we need time to investigate.
- If you are still unhappy with the service or with our response then you will have the right to take the matter further and contact Advice and Conciliation [0131 469 3233]
- If you are still unhappy after the further investigation and reply you can take the matter up with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, our reply will include the contact details.

Health and Safety

"Within the general policy laid down by The City of Edinburgh Council, the Children & Families Department has prepared and has continuing development of, safety policy statements for all areas of its responsibility in accordance with the [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#). School staff are fully instructed in their responsibilities in this respect, and safety regulations apply to all aspects of school life, both on and off the premises. It is expected that pupils will behave responsibly and comply with all safety requirements. The support of parents/carers in promoting good practice in health and safety matters is of great importance to the school".

School Health Service

A team of specialist Health Service and Children and Families Department staff work together to provide a service throughout your child's years at primary and secondary school. A planned programme is put into place to make sure that they benefit as much as possible from all that school has to offer, and to help prepare for life after leaving school. The School Health Service is part of the Community Child Health Service and has direct links with those who carry out health checks on children before they start school.

Many different services are provided. The staff involved make every effort to work closely with parents/carers and with others who are caring for your child, both at school and in other branches of the Health Service. Some of the services, e.g. testing for vision, hearing or speech, are provided to all children on a routine basis to discover which children may need further tests. Parents/carers are not necessarily notified at the time of

these screening tests and any parent who does not want a child to be included should notify the school at the beginning of the session. Naturally, if treatment is thought to be required the child's parents/carers will be informed and consent requested. The issue of maintaining confidentiality is taken seriously by the School Health Team at all times.

Some of the staff concerned and the parts they play are as follows:-

School Nurses are involved with health promotion and education, prevention of ill health, immunisation, health surveillance and screening.

The School Doctor is made aware of any possible problems and parents/carers and the family doctor are informed if any further action is considered necessary.

The School Nurse may be helped by a Health Assistant. The School Nurse acts as an important link between home and school. She visits the school and liaises with the teachers to find out whether any pupil has a health need that requires to be addressed. The School Nurse can link with other members of the health team, in the community or in hospital, concerned with a child's health. The School Nurse reviews the notes of all children in Primary 1, 4, 7 and Senior 3 as well as those of all new entrants.

An information booklet about the School Health Service is issued to all Primary 1 pupils and any new pupils coming from out with the Edinburgh area.

Parents/carers are also asked to complete a health questionnaire about their child at Primary 1, 7 and Senior 3 and asked if they would like their child to have a medical consultation with the School Doctor.

The School Doctor may ask for your consent to examine your child if his/her medical records are incomplete or if the doctor particularly wishes to check on his/her progress. You will be invited to be present at any medical examination and kept informed if the School Doctor wishes to see your child again, or thinks that he/she should be seen by the family doctor or a specialist in paediatrics. You can, if you wish, arrange for your family doctor to undertake the examinations instead of the School Doctor, but you may be charged a fee for this. In secondary schools the School Doctor may consider whether any special information should be provided for the Careers Service.

The School Doctor or Nurse will be pleased to see you and your child at a mutually convenient time if you are concerned about his/her health or general progress at school.

With your consent, the School Health Service Staff also carry out immunisations to protect against various diseases.

The Audiometric Team normally checks children's hearing on a number of occasions before the age of 13/14 years. The School Health Team will be told if your child seems to have a hearing problem and they will inform parents/carers and GPs as necessary.

The Speech and Language Therapist can provide assessment and, if necessary, treatment if you, a teacher or the School Doctor feels that your child may have a speech or language problem.

Any enquiries concerning the provision of dental services should be made to:

The Director of the Community Dental Service, 16 Duncan Street, Edinburgh, EH9 1SR (Tel. 0131 667-7114).

We hope that the School Health Service can, together with yourselves, contribute to your child's overall well-being and development. Please do not hesitate to arrange through the Head Teacher to see the School Doctor or School Nurse should you require any further information".

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 treat it speedily.

Medicine administration

If your child requires to take medication during the school day then please bring the medication to the school office where staff will provide you with the correct forms to complete. If you would like to discuss the health needs of your child please feel free to make an appointment with the Head Teacher.

Gaelic Education

Gaelic-medium education, where pupils are taught the entire curriculum through the medium of Gaelic, is available at nursery and primary levels. There are Gaelic parent and toddler groups and playgroups across the city.

Edinburgh's first dedicated Gaelic nursery and primary school opened in the former Bonnington Primary School Building August 2013. Pupils attending the school do not need to have prior knowledge of Gaelic. If you wish your child to attend the new Gaelic School from August 2013, you should register them at the existing Gaelic-medium unit at Tollcross Primary School. Pupils who wish to study Gaelic at secondary level can transfer to James Gillespie's High School which offers Standard Grade and Higher courses.

Section Two – Parental Involvement in the School

Parental involvement is very important as we know it helps children do better in school.

This section contains information about how parents can be involved in supporting learning at home as part of a home – school partnership.

It includes information on our Parent Teacher Association/Parent Association and Parent Council, how to contact them and how parents can get involved in the life and work of the school.

Ethos

At Brunstane Primary School we aim to create a safe, welcoming, inclusive and aspirational ethos for all of our learners. We treat all children as individuals and work together as a school community to support all children to reach their full personal potential.

Values

We are committed to supporting the development of the whole pupil and as a result, wish to encourage their development in spiritual, moral, social and cultural terms.

Our school values are:

- Respect
- Community
- Ambition
- Creativity

These key human aspects of learning are supported through the following arrangements by:-

- *Creating a school ethos which, in every way possible, gives value to these aspects of development, especially by providing an overall 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 that staff and adults within the school provide positive models for pupils.*
- *Arranging regular gatherings of the school as a 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 spiritual, 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 appropriate opportunity to acknowledge, value and appreciate the various cultures and heritage of the pupils and to encourage them to appreciate and value the cultures and heritage of others.*

Promoting Positive Relationships

Relationships are key to everything we do at Brunstane Primary. We work in partnership between staff, children and parents/carers to promote high standards of behaviour for all. Our school expectations are summarised in 'The Standard' which is displayed and referred to in every classroom in the school. We are committed to being a nurturing school and consider the six key principles in all our practice.

The six key principles of nurture are:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom/school offers a safe base
3. Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem
4. Language is understood as a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication

6. Transitions are significant in the lives of children

Anti Bullying Policy

At Brunstane Primary School we work hard to promote positive behaviour and relations between children. Concerns about possible bullying are taken seriously and acted upon swiftly. The school uses a restorative, solution focussed approach to improving peer relations and works with children and their families to improve behaviour.

Parents Welcome

We welcome parental involvement as research has shown that when parents are involved children do better in school.

Regular whole school and class newsletters are sent home in paper and/or electronic form to keep parents/carers informed about the life and work of the school.

The school operates a popular Twitter page where members of the school community and the wider world can share in the learning, events and successes here at Brunstane. A new school website launched in the first term of Session 2015/16.

Learning Profiles are sent out over the course of the school year to update parents/carers on their child's progress in learning. Parent Consultations are held in November and March where parents/carers are given the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

Parents/carers are regularly invited to school events such as assemblies, coffee mornings, fundraisers and shows.

Parental Involvement

We warmly welcome and strongly encourage parental involvement in the life and work of the school.

Here's how you can get involved:

- As a class helper you can help children with their learning.
- As a library helper in our parent run library.
- As a member of the Parent Council.

Parent Councils

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.

Parents are welcomed to be:

- involved with their child's education and learning;
- be active participants in the life of the school; and
- express their views on school education generally and work in partnership with their children's schools.

All parents / carers are automatically members of the Parent Forum at their child's school. As a member of the Parent Forum all parents can expect to –

- receive information about the school and its activities;
- hear about what partnership with parents means in our school;
- be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you;
- identify issues you want the parent council, to work on with the school;
- be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and the education it provides;
- work in partnership with staff; and
- enjoy taking part in the life of the school in whatever way possible.

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
- To be involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff.
- To raise funds for the school for the benefit of pupils (in some schools the PTA/PA fulfils this role).

If you would like to join the Parent Council please contact the school office who can put you in touch with our Parent Council chair and invite you to the next meeting.

For more information on parental involvement or to find out about parents as partners in their children's learning, please contact the school or visit the Parentzone website at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk.

The Scottish Parent Teacher Council is the national organisation for PTAs and PAs in Scotland, Parent Councils can join too, and it runs an independent helpline service for all parents.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland has been set up to give Parent Councils and parents an opportunity to discuss and raise educational issues of mutual interest or concerns at a national level.

Pupil Voice

The school offers lots of opportunities for pupil voice, allowing children to be active contributors to the life and work of the school.

Section Three – School Curriculum

This section describes how the curriculum is planned and delivered in our school including the range of subjects and subject areas your child will be learning. It also includes information on how pupils develop skills for learning, life and work, including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

As well as giving you information about the statutory curriculum requirements we have included details on sports and outdoor activities available to pupils and the range of facilities available within the school.

Details of how parents will be informed about sensitive aspects of learning e.g. relationships, sexual health, parenthood and drugs awareness are included as well as information about religious instruction and observance and arrangements for parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child.

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 will be fully implemented by 2016.

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 the development of literacy and numeracy from Early Level through to Senior Phase.

It develops skills for learning, life and work, bringing real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helping young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links knowledge in one subject area to another helping make connections in their learning. It develops skills which can enable children to 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. New qualifications at National 4 and 5 were rolled out in 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.

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

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.

Planning Children's and Young People's Learning

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

Longer-term planning also takes place in a variety of forms.

Home Learning

Pupils are regularly given home learning suggestions to support and enhance their classroom learning.

The home learning 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 home learning as much as possible.

Extra Curricular Activities

We offer as wide a range of sporting and cultural activities as possible. A full calendar of activities will be sent out each term.

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 Coordinator through the school office.

Religious Instruction and Observance

Parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from religious instruction and / or observance should contact the head teacher, in writing, and alternative arrangements will be made for your child.

Assessment

As pupils progress through our school, teachers use a range of assessment strategies, including Assessment for Learning strategies as well as setting more formal assessments. 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.

Section Four – Support for Pupils

This section gives information about how pupils' additional support needs will be identified and addressed and the types of specialist services provided within our school.

Getting It Right for Every Child

Taking care of our children's well-being and making sure they are safe and healthy - even before they are born - helps us ensure the most positive outcomes for them later in life. It gives them the potential to grow up ready to succeed and play their part in society. Our school adopts the Getting it right for every child in Edinburgh approach to give the right help to children, young people and families, when they need it from a joined up multi agency team.

Getting it right for every child aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It promotes a shared approach that:

- builds solutions with and around children and families
- enables children to get the help they need when they need it
- supports a positive shift in culture, systems and practice
- involves working together to make things better

Getting it right for every child is the foundation for work with all children and young people, including adult services where parents are involved. It builds on universal health and education services, and is embedded in the developing early years and youth frameworks. Developments in the universal services of health and education, such as Better Health Better Care and Curriculum for Excellence, are identifying what needs to be done in those particular areas to improve outcomes for children.

Protecting Children and Young People

We place a high priority on the well-being and safety of our pupils. To this end we have in place a personal safety programme to give pupils knowledge and life skills to keep them safe from all form of abuse. Where we have concerns about the possible abuse of pupils we are required to follow the Edinburgh and the Lothian's Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures which set out the specific duties and responsibilities towards the child and their parents/carers.

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 Edinburgh Council website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/InOnTheAct

[In on the Act - Supporting children and young people with additional support needs provides the following information](#)

specified by the Education (additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 which includes –

- (a) the authority’s policy in relation to provision for additional support needs,
- (b) the arrangements made by the authority in making appropriate arrangement for keeping under consideration the additional support needs of each such child and young person and the particular additional support needs of the children and young persons so identified.
- c) the other opportunities available under this Act for the identification of children and young persons who -
 - a) have additional support needs,
 - b) require, or would require, a co-ordinated support plan,
 - c) the role of parents, children and young persons in the arrangements referred to in paragraph (b),
 - d) the mediation services provided
- e) the officer or officers of the authority from whom parents of children having additional support needs, and young persons having such needs, can obtain advice and further information about provision for such needs.

If you have any concerns about your child’s learning and you think they may require additional support please make an appointment to see a member of the school management team.

We work with other agencies and professionals – for example, Social Work Services, Educational Psychology Service, National Health Service and you the parent to make decisions with regards to the best possible education to meet the needs of your 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, 0845 123 2303

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, www.siaa.org.uk, 0131 260 5380 Take Note: National Advocacy Service for Additional Support Needs (Barnados in association with the Scottish Child Law Centre) www.sclc.org.uk, 0131 667 6633.

Sensitive Aspects of Learning

Parents/carers will be informed of any sensitive areas of learning which children will engage in such as sexual health or drug education. Parents/Carers are welcome to discuss these areas in more detail with school staff.

Transitions – Moving to a New School or Leaving School

This section also gives information about transition. There are also details about making a placing request to another school.

Nursery class provision

The school's nursery class provides 32 full time places for children aged 3 - 5 years and 16 morning and afternoon places.

Nursery class provision is non-denominational. This means that all nurseries are open to children and parents of all religions and beliefs. Placement in the nursery class does not guarantee a place in the primary school.

Transfer from nursery to primary

Before leaving nursery, a transfer of information record for each child will be prepared by nursery staff to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of education for the child transferring to primary.

Primary School Admissions

Starting school is a very important milestone both for children and their parents. The vast majority of our parents choose their local, catchment school and we plan our education provision to ensure we can provide places for new pupils at their catchment school.

In the run-up to November's registration week for the new Primary 1 intake each school will offer an opportunity for you to visit them. You can speak to staff to find out more about the school first-hand. You can see how the school runs; discuss the curriculum and their priorities as well as seeing recent examples of pupils' work on display. In many cases you may also have the chance to meet other parents who already have children there. All of this will help you understand the school's unique character and give you an insight into the learning environment that your child could enjoy there.

All our schools do offer a high quality educational experience.

Primary to Secondary Transfer

Visits to our local secondary school 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. While the children are participating in classroom activities and meeting their class teacher, parents will have an opportunity to view the school and are given a brief explanation of school life.

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.

Catchment Secondary School

The catchment secondary school is Portobello High School.

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.

If you would prefer that your child start P1 or S1 at another school instead of one of the catchment schools, you have to make a placing request. You can get an application form at any nursery or primary school in the city from mid November. Forms must be returned to: Grants, Awards and Placements, The City of Edinburgh Council, Level 1.1 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG by 24 December. If you apply for a place after this date, your request will be considered but if you apply after 15 March places in your chosen school may no longer be available.

All parents have the right to make a request for a place for their child in another school. The Council must grant these requests where possible. When there are more places available in a school than there are placing requests for that school, then all the requests are usually granted. If the school you specify has more requests than available places, then each case is examined individually. Whatever you write on your application form is taken into account, so it is important that you include relevant details on the form.

In recent years, as the primary school rolls have increased there has been a decrease in the number of places available for children living outside the catchment area and this has resulted in high numbers of placing request being refused.

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.

All children must also be enrolled at the catchment area school on the appropriate Enrolment Form whilst awaiting the outcome of their Placing Request Application.

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.

Section Five – School Improvement

The section gives you an overview of how the school manages its improvement work to ensure positive outcomes for learners.

Raising Attainment

Monitoring performance and using the resulting information to secure improvement is an important part of the work of head teachers, school staff and officers within Children and Families.

Brunstane is a pilot school for the national Raising Attainment programme. We are working hard in a number of areas on ‘change projects’ aimed at supporting children to meet their full potential.

Standards and Quality Report

Every year each school publishes a Standards and Quality report which highlights the school’s major achievements.

School Improvement Plan

Every year the school produces a School Improvement Plan which identifies the key areas for improvement which the school is working on.

Transferring Educational Data about Pupils

Education authorities and the Scottish Government collected data about pupils on paper forms for many years. We now work together with schools to transfer data electronically through the ScotXed programme. Thus the Scottish Government has two functions: acting as a 'hub' for supporting data exchange within the education system in Scotland and the analysis of data for statistical purposes within the Scottish Government itself.

What pupil data is collected and transferred?

Data on each pupil is collected by schools, local authorities and the Scottish Government.

The data collected and transferred covers areas such as date of birth, Scottish Candidate Number (SCN), postcode, registration for free-school meals, whether a pupil is looked after by his/her local authority, additional support needs including disability and English as an Additional Language (EAL), and attendance, absence and exclusions from school. The SCN acts as the unique pupil identifier. Pupil names and addresses are not passed to the Scottish Government. Your postcode is the only part of your address that is transferred for statistical purposes, and postcodes are grouped to identify 'localities' rather than specific addresses. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be published by the Scottish Government.

Providing national identity and ethnic background data is entirely voluntary. You can choose the 'not disclosed' option if you do not want to provide this data. However, we hope that the explanations contained in this message and on the ScotXed website will help you understand the importance of providing the data.

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, the Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the Scottish Qualifications Authority and Skills Development 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.

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 message can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of the use of pupil data can be found on the ScotXed website (www.scotxed.net).

The Scottish Government works with a range of partners including Education Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, we will make individual data available to partners and also academic institutions 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 the 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 colleagues within and outwith the Scottish Government.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Senior Statistician, scotxed@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.

Websites

You may find the following websites useful.

- www.edinburgh.gov.uk- contains information for parents and information on Edinburgh schools.
- <http://www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk>- parents can find out about everything from school term dates to exam results. This site also offers information for pre-5 and post school. It also lists relevant publications for parents and provides hyper-links to other useful organisations.
- www.hmie.gov.uk - parents can access school and local authority inspection reports and find out more about the work of Education Scotland.
- <http://www.scottishschoolsonline.gov.uk> - parents can find out about individual schools. They can choose a school and select what type of information they need such as Education Scotland reports, exam results, stay on rates and free school meal entitlement.
- <http://www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullyinginfo.aspx> - contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying.

- <http://www.respectme.org.uk/> - Scotland's anti-bullying service. Contains information for parents and children on varying forms of bullying and provides help for parents and children who are affected by bullying
- <http://www.educationscotland.org.uk/> - provides information and advice for parents as well as support and resources for education in Scotland
- <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/> - contains information for everyone on equality laws within the government and local authorities.

GLOSSARY

CFE - Curriculum for Excellence

ASN – Additional Support Needs

EMA – Education Maintenance Allowance

ASL – Additional Support for Learning

SQA – Scottish Qualifications Authority

FOI – Freedom of Information

HT/PT – Head Teacher/Principal Teacher

DHT- Depute Head Teacher

CLD – Community Learning and Development

GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child

Parent feedback

Please take a few minutes to fill in and return the questionnaire on this page. Your feedback will help us improve the hand book next year.

Tell us what you think

Your feedback will help us to improve our handbook.

Did you find	Please tick	
1. the handbook useful?	Yes	No
2. the information you expected?	Yes	No
3. the handbook easy to use?	Yes	No

Please tell us how we can improve the handbook next year.

Thank you for filling in the questionnaire. Your views are appreciated. Please return this questionnaire to the school office.

Throughout this handbook the term 'parent' has the meaning attributed in the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 and the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006. This includes grandparents, carer or anyone else who has parental responsibility for the child.