

Gilnahirk Primary School Development Plan 2025–2028

“Today’s Learning for Tomorrow’s World”



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you a summary of our new School Development Plan (SDP), which outlines our vision and priorities for the next three years. This plan reflects our commitment to providing a high-quality, inclusive, and forward-thinking education for every child at Gilnahirk Primary School.

Our Vision & Ethos

At Gilnahirk, we aim to create a happy, caring, and inclusive learning environment where every child is valued and supported. Our mission is to help children realise their potential, celebrate achievements, and respect differences.

What our community says:

- 98% of parents say their child is happy and engaged.
- 97% of pupils feel safe.
- 100% of staff feel proud to work at Gilnahirk.

Next Steps:

- Strengthen our ethos through staff development.
- Launch “Gilly’s Gilnahirk Values” – a new initiative promoting our 10 core values.

Learning, Teaching & Achievement

We continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, with strong outcomes in literacy, numeracy, and ICT.

Key Achievements:

- A majority of pupils perform at or above expected levels in literacy.
- A majority of pupils perform at or above expected levels in numeracy.
- End-of-Key-Stage results exceed national averages.

Plans Ahead:

- Strengthen writing across the curriculum using digital tools.
- Consolidate work done on mental maths and problem-solving strategies.
- Embed “Just2Easy” as a digital learning platform.

Supporting Individual Needs

We are proud of our inclusive approach to education and our strong SEN provision.

Highlights:

- 92% of parents feel SEN support is effective.
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are co-created with pupils and parents.
- Staff work closely with external agencies to support children's needs.

Next Steps:

- Transition to Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) – this will be dependent on directives from the Department of Education and the Education Authority.
- Finalise mapping of SEN provision across the school.

Wellbeing, Safeguarding & Behaviour

Pupil wellbeing is central to our school life. We promote physical health, emotional wellbeing, and positive behaviour.

Survey Highlights:

- 97% of pupils feel safe.
- 98% of parents believe children are encouraged to behave well.
- 94% of parents are aware of our safeguarding policies.

Next Steps:

- Continue staff safeguarding training.
- Promote attendance and punctuality.
- Link school values to wellbeing initiatives.

Staff Development & Wellbeing

We invest in our staff through training, mentoring, and leadership opportunities, while promoting a healthy work-life balance.

Staff Feedback:

- "Supportive, kind and affirming leadership."
- "Work/life balance is encouraged and appreciated."

Next Steps:

- Expand leadership development.
- Continue staff development sessions.
- Provide team-building and wellbeing activities.

Parent & Community Engagement

We value our strong relationships with parents and the wider community.

Engagement Highlights:

- Active Parents' Association raising approximately £10,000 annually.
- Weekly updates via Microsoft Sway.
- Strong links with local churches, charities and businesses.

Next Steps:

- Expand "Connect and Inspire" partnership with Stranmillis PS.
- Run another "Aspire" careers week.
- Continue building links with parents and external agencies.

ICT in Learning & Leadership

Technology is embedded across learning, teaching, and school management.

Highlights:

- Refurbished ICT suite and interactive panels in every classroom.
- Use of iPads, coding tools, and digital platforms like Mathletics and SeeSaw.
- Staff training in Microsoft tools and digital teaching strategies.

Next Steps:

- Continue upgrading ICT equipment – finance dependent.
- Expand use of "Just2Easy" across subjects.
- Evaluate impact of digital tools on learning outcomes.

Financial Planning

Despite being consistently oversubscribed, Gilnahirk faces financial challenges due to underfunding and rising costs.

Current Situation:

- Chronic underfunding of the Primary Sector particularly, has led to a deficit situation in the school's financial position at the end of each financial year.
- Governors actively monitor spending and advocate for fair funding.

Next Steps:

- Monthly financial reviews at Board of Governor meetings.
- Liaise with the Education Authority to address funding concerns.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Our SDP is a living document, regularly reviewed and updated with input from staff, governors, and parents.

Review Process Includes:

- Annual action plan evaluations.
- Data analysis from standardised tests.
- Regular updates to governors and stakeholders.

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges:

- Financial constraints.
- Increasing complexity of SEN needs.
- Large class sizes and workload pressures.

Opportunities:

- Motivated pupils and committed staff.
- Strong parental and community support.
- Innovative partnerships with other schools.

Key Priorities for 2025–2028

1. Strengthen Writing Across the Curriculum
2. Embed “Just2Easy” as a Core Digital Platform
3. Promote Wellbeing Through School Values
4. Develop Middle Leadership

Thank you for your continued support.

Together, we will ensure Gilnahirk Primary School remains a place where children thrive, learn, and grow.

Warm regards,

☎ Corbett

Principal