

# Parent Council Head Teacher Report

Date of meeting **11.5.22**

I know I've said this in all communications I have sent but AGAIN, it has been such a pleasure to join the team at Abbeyhill.

The welcome has been wonderful from everyone and our leadership journey will reflect that ..... it is absolutely about the people in my school, and putting them at the centre of all the decisions we are making.

## **My First Few Weeks**

I can't believe how fast time is zooming by, my first term is flying in and every day I am getting a deeper understanding of Abbeyhill.

I'd like to outline my key actions since starting and outline what first steps have been taken and then move on to a few changes planned for this term and finally give a wee flavour of the themes that are likely to feature in next year's improvement planning – These are not at all set in stone as further pupil voice is needed and parents, partners and stakeholder views are still to be collected.

I am values driven leader and therefore I want to know and understand my new setting.

I have engaged in 1:1 meetings with all the Admin staff, Janitors, PSAs, and teaching staff and will be meeting with ELC staff starting next week.

We are discussing Abbeyhill's strengths and areas for improvement from each of these perspectives. Thinking about quick wins and longer-term improvement priorities.

I am delivering weekly assemblies with a clear focus on Wellbeing, our 3 rules and our expectations in school- Learning at the heart of everything we do- with a current focusing on Inclusion-Equality vs Equity.

See if your child can tell you why being a teacher is a bit like being a Dr!

With the whole staff team my focus is on:

Recovery, Relationships, Rooms and Routines – how is our school working on a daily basis.

What is our collective aspirational vision for Abbeyhill and what are the values that as a whole school we will focus on to drive us forward towards that goal

Consistency is the name of the game. By the end of next session, I want us all to be very clear what Abbeyhill stands for and what we are working towards together.

**Ready**

**Respectful**

**Responsible**

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## With the teaching Staff

We have discussed the impact of COVID on the consistency of how we communicate in school and with parents, plan and deliver our curriculum.

We are recognising the excellent learning and teaching in place in the school and the wealth of opportunities our learners have on their doorstep

Moving forward we will be looking at our curriculum and how we are tracking progress in learning to ensure progress and equity of opportunity.

## Reporting to parents

Learning Journals have not been well accessed by all parents and from data gathered there is a substantial group of parents not engaging with this forum at all.

To ensure all parents and cares have access to a summative report on learning, the staff and I have designed an interim report format to report on the children's progress in learning. This will replace Learning Journals in P1-7 this term and following consultation with children and families we will finalise an approach that will reach all families throughout the year.

## Next steps- this term

Calendar of events out to parents

Empowered Learning roll out in school and WIFI capacity update ☺☺

School Survey out to Parents/carers, partners and stakeholders on Microsoft forms

Nurture room set up

Advertise for a new Business Manager- Sadly Mrs Watt will be retiring in June

Advertise for a new Pupil support officer to lead on Nurture and Connected Compassionate Communities base

School improvement planning

## Priorities identified so far

### **Recovery (from COVID)**

Focus on our curriculum, planning for where our children are and what they need to succeed

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Sharing Learning focus with parents and clarifying the yearly overview of learning

Re-establishing Leadership roles at all levels

## Relationships-

Training for All staff on Sensory integration

Zones of regulation- supporting self-regulation and strategies that work for you

Nurture principles and consistent approach to distressed behaviours through additional pivotal training

Develop role of Buddies across the school

Increase Parent/carer helpers in school

Consistent communication with Parents and Carers

## Routines

Agreeing and establishing the routines in school through a planned calendar of events, weekly flow of the school and daily expectations

### 1) Home-school communication.

- *Methods of communication*

A coherent plan with regular newsletters, termly updates for parents on the planned learning focus across the 4 contexts of learning and class timetables shared- these of course will be subject to change if required but will give a framework of what a usual week looks like 😊

As part of the consultation on communication we will focus on a consistent approach for the classes

#### *Homework*

This was raised in discussions with staff and we will look at it in more depth next session and agree the expectation

### 2) School structure and processes

#### *Class sizes*

P1-25 P2-30 P3-7 33 Composite classes 25

Legal limit for space for each child is in place and classrooms will be checked for capacity if class sizes are large or children need specialised equipment.

Where space is available in school children can enrol

Parents have choice in which school their children attend

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As HT I have the say on composition of the classes but this is within the agreed envelope of finances allocated to the school. Each school is allocated a number of teachers for their roll and HTs work within this.

*This year we are looking at 8 classes again*

## ***Probationer teachers.***

Probationer teachers are allocated to the school for 1 year

Interviews are held in March and from that NQTs and RQTs are either offered a permanent, temporary or no contract

This year we will again have probationers and a temporary vacancy- Mr McNeil is heading off on an amazing adventure in the summer

- **Teacher allocations**

We will have 3 vacancies and I hope I will be able to share the plans by the end of the month.

Transition is planned

Probationer and Deployment info will be out soon.....