

Ratho Primary School and Nursery Class



A Curious, Creative Community



Nurturing the Learning Adventure

How are we making our school better?
A summary for Parents and Carers
2019/2020

How did we improve our school in session
2018/2019?

To make our school better, we planned on improving the following things last year...

Meeting the Learning Needs of our Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Involve our children in the planning of their learning✓ Helping children to talk, think and learn about learning (metacognition)
Helping our pupils to feel safe and included in our school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Update our 'Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood' Programme.✓ Set up 'Vision Time'✓ Train all staff in working with children with Autism effectively.✓ Continue to build relationships throughout the school using a 'restorative' approach.



In the last year we have achieved the following:

Meeting the Learning Needs of our Children

Our teachers took part in training with Peter Tarrent, from the University of Edinburgh. He uses 'metacognition' (thinking about thinking) as a way for children to understand how they learn best. Teachers were given simple and practical ways of doing this in their classroom.



Forest School continues to be a fantastic setting for children to learn. Our nursery children still use Clifton Hall as a base for this. However, last year, Primary 1 also took their learning outdoors into the school grounds. We now have a number of staff trained in teaching through forest schools and we are hugely proud of how successful this has been.

Helping our pupils to feel safe and included in our school

All staff took part in training with specialists from Edinburgh City Council on working with children with autism. They were able to share their expertise with us and staff found the training helpful for supporting those learners with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

We worked together to update our 'Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood' (RSHP) programme. This was in direct response to feedback from parents and carers who felt that the old programme could do with a refresh. We have updated the content and the resources used to teach this throughout the school. The updated programme was shared at a parent information evening and received very positive feedback. We have also updated our information leaflets in this area so families have a better understanding of what is covered during RSHP. We continue to welcome your feedback on this, and all areas of our curriculum.

During the last school year, 'Vision Time' was introduced. Our school vision is to be a 'Curious, Creative Community' and we wanted to find ways to promote these ideas throughout the school. 'Vision Time' is a chance for our children in P2-7 to build relationships and be 'Creative', 'Curious' and part of our 'Community'. Each activity promotes our school vision and helps us to connect more with the wider community. We are going to continue to develop this idea throughout the new school year.



Improvement Priorities for Session 2019/2020

At Ratho, we are committed to improving our school year on year. Below is a brief summary of what we hope to achieve this academic session.

Getting Parents and Carers Involved in School Life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Make our policies and procedures clearer for parents/carers, removing educational jargon.➤ Invite families into the classroom to share in the learning of their children.➤ Make sure our reports to parents are clear and useful.
Creating a Nurturing Environment to Learn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Train all our staff in nurture practices. This will help all our children to have happy, positive relationships and feel confident at school.➤ Run 'Raising Children with Confidence' classes for parents and carers to offer support and advice.➤ To offer small groups for children to support them socially and emotionally.

If you require a full copy of the Standards, Quality and Improvement plan, please contact our school office.

