

Frequently asked questions

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If you would like any further questions answered the please email:

gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

My Child is coming to the school how can I get involved? – PC, PTA, etc..

The Parent Council meet on the first Monday of most months to discuss key school initiatives. The actual dates for all meeting can be found on the school website, under the 'PARTNERSHIPS' tab, the 'Parent Council'.

Mr Torquil Murray chairs the meetings and they are open to any parent/carer who would like to come along and discuss any aspect of school life. You can attend all meetings, or just sample one meeting as we are always happy to see you.

Details about the Parent Council, and all their meetings times for the year, can be found on our school website, under the 'PARTNERSHIPS' tab.

The Parent Teachers Association meets on a Monday evening four times per session. The focus is on fundraising through whole school events. We aim to organise three significant events every year where families and the wider school community can come together to have fun and raise money for school resources. If you can spare some time to help support us, please contact Mr Kevin Christie DHT, using the enquiries option on the school website.

gryffehighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

My child has special requirements who are the people I should speak to? Learning support, behaviour support etc..

What are the various support structures that I can access?

In the first instance you should contact Miss Brown, who is our Principal Teacher of Pupil Support: Support for Learning.

Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Support for Learning

Miss Brown<gw07brownfiona6@glow.sch.uk>

You can also find out more about our Support for Learning Department by looking at our school website, under the 'CURRICULUM' tab, then 'Support for Learning'

My child has complained of bullying – what should I do?

The first thing to do is to speak to either a member of staff or to one of our sixth year Wellbeing Ambassadors – They can be identified by the Wellbeing lanyard that they wear. We have an Anti-Bullying pledge and work hard to state that bullying is never acceptable as we create a school community where bullying cannot thrive.

You can find out more detail, and our Anti-Bullying Procedures on the school website, under the 'PUPIL ZONE' tab, then 'Anti-Bullying'

My child is very keen to become involved in.... What is the procedure for registering interest? Music, bands, clubs etc.

What clubs/activities are organised through the school?

We have a large number of clubs and activities within Gryffe, all overseen by our Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Achievement and Participation

Miss lafrate<gw10iafrateannette@glow.sch.uk>

Our school sport programme can be found on the school website with updates regularly posted on our sports twitter feed (@gryffe_sports) and HWB instagram feed (gryffehwb). From this, pupils can see what member(s) of staff lead the different parts of our school sport programme. Mr O'Hare is available to discuss our school sport programme with any pupil at any point, and also welcomes suggestions for additional clubs and teams. Although such requests are not always able to be met immediately, we do look to provide as many opportunities as possible for our pupils.

How is discipline handled at Gryffe?

Each Year Head, Depute Head Teachers, normally oversee all disciplines issues within their year group. We have a very high profile on Promoting Positive Relationships.....

We believe the good behaviour is based on mutual respect and positive relationships. Behaviour expectations are in line with our school charter with a focus on co-operation and respect. We have a staff committee who produced procedures when dealing with behavioural issues, which all staff follow to promote consistency.

Expectations are shared at the beginning of each year and via monthly assemblies by Year Heads who are responsible for managing the behaviour of the year group.

Year(s)	Depute Head Teacher
S1 and S6	Mrs Angela Brown
S2	Mrs Ruth Sharp
S3	Mr Kevin Christie
S4 and S5	Mrs Ann Marie Skillen

We use a 'demerit' system for low level behaviour. Pupils will be informed of the demerit and issued with a sanction. This may take the form of a reflection sheet or detention depending on the situation. Demerits are tracked and monitored by Faculty Heads/Principal Teachers within their own departments. Year Heads analyse demerit data – this data is shared with pupils and staff. Behaviour support staff and year heads meet to discuss to pupils require support to help them improve their behaviour.

For more serious incidents a referral system is used – a member of staff can refer a pupil to their Faculty Head/Principal Teacher, who will then take action based on the circumstance. If strategies used by the head of department is not working then they would refer to the year head. Serious incidents would be referred directly to the year head.

Behaviour across the school is of a very high standard. As part of our Promoting Positive Relationships Procedures, we recognise this by issuing effort badges for any pupil who receives 5 or less demerits in the year. Pupils can earn bronze after one year, silver in the second and gold in the third. Pupils wear these badges proudly on their blazers.

We use our Support Hub for any pupil who needs time out of class for behavioural support. The Support Hub is a safe, productive environment for pupils who require time to work independently away from a busy classroom, require peer/teacher one-to-one support or time to reflect on their behaviour. Pupils who are attending due to challenging behaviour will meet with a pupil support teacher before returning to class.

We have designated support teachers who focus on pupil behaviour. This targeted system allows pupils who are experiencing challenges with their behaviour the opportunity to discuss their behaviour, the impact it has and how we as a school can support them.

Do I have to get involved in social media in order to find stuff out?

We try and get as much information out to Parents/Carers as possible. We use a wide range of media in order to get information to Parents/Carers – The school Website; Show My Homework; Twitter; Facebook and just recently Instagram. We have a monthly Newsletter, detailing some of the many significant achievements of our pupils and staff, which gets uploaded to the school website on the first Wednesday of each month.

The primary source of information to parents/carers is via Show My Homework.

What do the pupils do for themselves, how are the year groups organised/represented?

What is the pupil council?

The Pupil Council represent the views of all pupils by giving them a voice within the school. Pupils apply to be part of the council, which is split into a Junior Council (S1-3) and a Senior Council (S4-6). Those selected, meet three times a year to discuss ways that their school experience can be enhanced. A pupil survey is conducted with all pupils, which forms the basis of discussion at these meetings and the focus for the year ahead.

The meetings are chaired by the School Captains who put together an appropriate agenda and document discussion via formal minutes. Areas of improvement are identified and taken forward by the S6 Pupil Council Management Team. Actions are shared by the pupils by a variety of mediums including Social Media, Assemblies and displays around the school.

The Pupil Council runs in conjunction with the S6 Pupil Management Team who meet weekly and are again chaired by the School Captains. New to session 2019-20, the S6 Pupil Council Management Team lead Focus Groups in conjunction with Pupil Support in order to obtain additional information on a variety of areas. Each year group take part in the focus groups across the session.

How do I claim free school meals

Who is eligible for free school meals and/or clothing grants?

Parents or guardians of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or special schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions, detailed on the school website under the 'MORE' tab, then 'Free Meals and Clothing Grants' are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants.

How do pupils find out about their career and course options beyond school?

All pupils are encouraged via year group assemblies to follow our Gryffe High Careers Facebook and Twitter accounts. These are updated regularly with various job, modern apprenticeship, college and university opportunities. If pupils need further information on anything they can visit Miss Paterson, Project Leader for Employability who will provide any further help with applications or information.

At all assemblies and throughout PSE, pupils are made aware of jobs and opportunities available to them via our My World of Work ambassadors and this is also highlighted to them during our Career Pathway focus weeks. Bi-yearly, we also host a Career Event called the 'I can do anything day' where pupils visit various workshops about different jobs and careers that they could get into after leaving school.

How much homework is my son/ daughter expected to do each day/ week?

We pride ourselves in our high expectations, and as such sit amongst the top attaining and achieving schools in Scotland, with a proud focus on caring, learning and achieving. Homework plays a key role in maintaining this success. Sutton Trust research suggests homework can significantly progress learning.

The optimum amount is 1-2 hours per school day. We detail the minimum length of time that a pupil, in each year group, should commit to Homework, see our Homework leaflet – this can be found on our school website under the 'CURRICULUM' tab, then 'Show My Homework'

How is my child's progress monitored, tracked and explained to me and my son/ daughter?

We believe that effective tracking, monitoring and reporting is essential to achieve our core values of caring, learning and achieving. Throughout your child's time in Gryffe, staff will communicate class attainment, effort, behaviour during lessons and homework record at the following times:

Broad General Education (S1-S3)			
<i>Two printed reports each academic year with comments focused on current subject progress and next steps. One formal Parent's Evening.</i>			
Year Group	1st Report	2nd Report	Parent's Evening
S1	November	May	October
S2	October	February	February
S3	January	May	October

In the Broad General Education your child will be working through Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2-4. We will not only report which level your child is working at, but also their progress within their level. Each report will come with a copy of 'The Learner Journey' which will display the pathways we would expect your child to follow based on their current working level.

Senior Phase (S4-S6)				
<i>Three printed reports each academic year including one full report with comments focused on current subject progress and next steps. One formal Parent's Evening.</i>				
Year Group	1st Report	2nd Report	3rd Report	Parent's Evening
S4	September	November	January	November
S5/S6	September	November	February	December

In the Senior Phase we will provide the current working grade of your child as well as the target level for their next report. The grades are an indication of their application, knowledge and potential within the subject:

- 2 = Working at/potential for a **very good pass**
- 4 = Working at/potential for a **good pass**
- 6 = Working at/potential for a **pass**
- 7 = **Potential** for a pass, with significant work
- 8 = **Pass unlikely**

We are committed to raising attainment for all our young people through the provision of a high-quality learning and teaching experience. We have established accessible tracking systems which staff utilize to monitor your child's progress within every subject, at each level. Should your child find aspects of their course challenging we will provide subject-specific support to aid and reinforce their learning. We will also use our tracking data to identify pupils' who require specific targeted support. This is varied and will depend on the individual needs of the pupil. For example, small group tuition, one to one tuition, models of excellence, online resources, etc.

How do we pay for items such as school meals, trips/ excursions/ celebration events/ equipment for subjects? What -if any- financial assistance is available?

Parent Pay

Gryffe High School is a cashless school. In order for Parents to pay for school meals etc a Parent Pay account needs to be activated.

More details and a Parent Pay Activation Guide can be found on the school website under the 'MORE' tab, then 'Parent Pay'. Pupils can also pay money into the Parent Pay system using the Reval Machines in the canteen. Pupils on Free School Meals should wherever possible receive a 20% discount on all trips/excursions.

What is the policy regarding school uniform?

Our expectations in Gryffe High School is that all pupils should be in full school uniform, including Blazer. Renfrewshire Council encourages each school to adopt a dress code after discussion with parents/carers, pupils and the parent council. The council supports an agreed dress code because of the benefits it brings, including improvements in safety, security, discipline, ethos, community spirit and a decrease in bullying and expense for parents/carers.

Our full explanation, and Policy, can be found on the school website, under the 'MORE' tab, then 'Uniform'

I want to speak to a class teacher, how do I get in touch with them

If any Parent/Carer would like detail from the class teacher then they should, in the first instance, contact their child's Pupil Support Guidance Teacher. The Guidance teacher will then liaise with the class teacher, and Principal Teacher of that subject, in order to support any requests/concerns from Parents/Carers.

Email addresses for all support staff are:

Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Attainment		Ms Dhesi< gw07dhesisara@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Data Literacy BGE		Mr Anderson<gw14andersonchristo2@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Achievement and Participation		Miss lafrate< gw10iafrateannette@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Guidance	Burns	Mrs Carmichael<gw17carmichaelshelle@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Guidance	Fleming	Mr Clark< gw07clarkjames5@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Guidance	Mackintosh	Mr Findlay <gw12findlayadam@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Guidance	Wallace	Miss Holmes<gw13holmeshannah2@glow.sch.uk>
Supporting Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Guidance		Miss Still< gw15stillstephanie@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Support for Learning		Miss Brown<gw07brownfiona6@glow.sch.uk>
Principal Teacher Pupil Support: Wellbeing		Mrs Costello< gw13costellosheena@glow.sch.uk>

What is the Whole School Improvement Plan

This is the document which shows how the school strategically plans to take forward its priorities for the coming session. These priorities take account of Renfrewshire Council priorities and the National Improvement framework from the Scottish Government.

The School Improvement Plan is discussed and agreed annually with all staff, pupils and parent/carers. The Parent Council is the forum for parent/carer discussion on the priorities. Identified priorities from the School Improvement Plan are agenda items and discussed on a monthly basis.

You can find the Improvement Plan on our school website under the 'ABOUT US' tab.