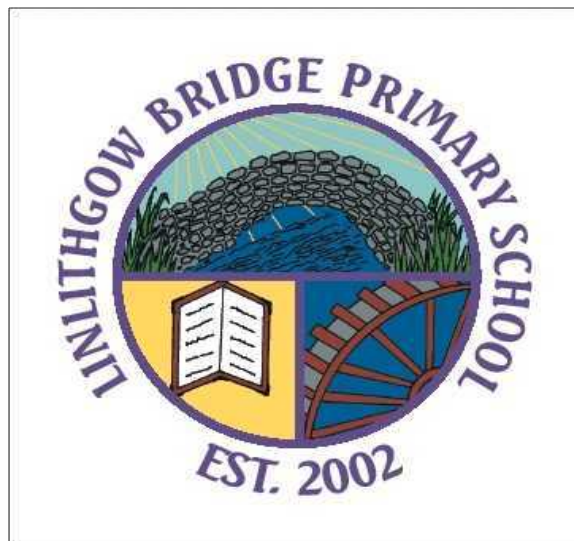


# Linlithgow Bridge Primary School

## Standards and Quality Report

Session 2004/2005



# **Linlithgow Bridge Primary School**

## **Standards and Quality Report for session 2004/2005**

### ***Background Information***

Linlithgow Bridge Primary School was opened in August 2002 under the Public Private Partnership initiative. Children attending the school come from the northwest side of Linlithgow with a number attending from outwith the catchment area. There are two nursery classes offering places to sixty children aged three and four. The nursery is staffed by one teacher and two nursery nurses.

The current school roll is 228 and staffing is in line with authority guidelines, currently the Head Teacher, one principal teacher, ten class teachers (including one probationer teacher), a part time learning support teacher and visiting specialists of music, physical education, swimming, strings and brass. In line with the McCrone agreement, reduction in class contact time for teachers is provided by our music and physical education specialists and Irene Allison, who teaches ICT to classes. In addition to this, six support assistants and two classrooms assistants work in the nursery, early years and middle/upper school departments. Three ancillary staff complete the team at Linlithgow Bridge.

There is a very supportive School Board and an active PSA and links with the local community are strong.

In May 2004, HMIe inspected the school and awarded us the highest possible accolade, with 'very good' in all areas inspected. We are one of only three schools to have achieved this. It was important however that we maintained this standard and staff have worked conscientiously throughout the year to plan for continuous improvement and ensure a high quality learning and teaching environment remains in place for our children.

### ***School Aims***

At Linlithgow Bridge our main aim is to provide a quality education for every pupil. Staff, with authority support, are committed to inclusion and strive to provide high quality learning and teaching experiences tailored to meet pupils' needs.

We aim to develop every member of staff professionally so that we are equipped to take the school forward in line with the recommendations for continuing professional development within the McCrone Report.

### ***Previous Year's Priorities***

This session, the basis of our planning for improvement has been West Lothian Education Department's Succeeding Together initiative. This enables all staff to work together with pupils to support them to become independent learners who have the confidence to take responsibility for and pride in their learning.

Our main focus was, 'to improve children's individual and collaborative problem solving skills', with particular emphasis in year one on the area of technology. A programme for the teaching of technology skills from nursery to P7 was drawn up in consultation with the technology curriculum support teacher who has worked in school to support teachers with its implementation. After an audit, new resources were purchased as appropriate. The Senior Management Team monitored the technology programme and the development of children's problem solving skills. As a staff, we evaluated the success of the programme this year and believe we have achieved our aims. There is now a clear programme for technology teaching in place showing progression from nursery to P7. Children throughout the school are more aware of the importance of the design process in technology. They are becoming more aware of the importance of thinking through a problem rather than focussing on the eventual outcome. We are also seeing an improvement in children's ability to work together to solve problems, to share ideas, to value others' opinions and to listen to others' points of view. This is evidenced throughout the

curriculum eg in P6/5's very successful enterprise topic where their company, Bridge Business, planned for and produced our Child of the Earth CD to raise funds for our wildlife garden.

Following our very successful HMIe Inspection in May 2004, we also identified the development of play in the early years as a focus for improvement this session. Early years staff visited schools where high quality programmes were in place and a working party met in September 2004 to plan for this development. As space was restricted in classrooms due to class sizes, we identified the upper GP room as the most practical area for our playroom. It became clear that the strategies planned required more adult support than could be found from school staff and so a request was sent out for parent volunteers to help. A number came forward and we are indebted to them for all their hard work helping staff set up and staff the area. Our extended play room is now firmly embedded in the early years curriculum and gives our children the opportunity to develop many skills including listening, talking, drama, art and design and technology.

An audit of our other areas for improvement showed a high level of success. A working party, lead by Hazel Clarke, met to produce programmes of study from levels A-E for the writer's craft strand of writing and this programme is now being implemented throughout the school. A minority of children find the writer's craft strand difficult and have required considerable support and this has affected our attainment levels in writing for this session. Support materials ensuring continuity and progression are now in place, which allow teachers to plan for continuous improvement in this area of study.

Irene Allison continued to develop the ICT programme throughout the school and the purchase of two interactive whiteboards this session has supported our programme. It is hoped to add to this resource next session.

Staff have begun using a programme of study for Religious and Moral Education which has been endorsed by the cluster. An inservice session was held for staff lead by the programme's author.

Our Eco School committee, lead by Caroline Rowatt and Kirsty Jones, successfully steered the school to Green Flag status and our award ceremony is scheduled for early June. It is so positive to see how aware both pupils and staff have become about the importance of taking care of our environment for the future.

The importance of Equality Education, taking into account The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, was highlighted and a working party lead by Hazel Clarke produced programmes of study from nursery to P7. Staff and pupils have been consulted about the programmes regularly to ensure their relevance within our school. We have a zero tolerance policy towards any kind of inequality.

Our programme for French language teaching from nursery to P7 continues to develop under the guidance of Irene Allison and a very successful French week was held in February. Our nursery children use the very successful created context of 'Bernard and Barnaby Bear' to develop children's knowledge of the French language and a group of children and staff had a memorable visit, organised by Simon Sutton, to Edinburgh Airport to welcome the bears back from their holiday in France. We have successfully applied to support a foreign language assistant next session and await further details from the Comenius programme organisers.

Our Health Education programme was audited and improvements made by a working party. Guidelines were issued to all staff and these are now used throughout the school.

A working party is meeting during May and June to look at science investigations and this will complete the priorities which were identified last year. This will lead directly on to our science focus next session.

### ***How evidence was gathered***

Staff have been fully involved in monitoring and evaluating our performance through the use of the performance indicators identified in 'How Good Is Our School' (primary) and The Child at the Centre (nursery).

All pupils from pre school nursery children to P7 took part in a self-evaluation exercise. The results of this were discussed with parents at parents' meetings or sent home with reports. This exercise has become an integral part of our self evaluation programme. A number of parents commented favourably on it and used it as a discussion tool with their child.

Pupils' attainment in national assessments in reading, writing and mathematics is carefully evaluated and the evidence gathered forms the basis of our progress towards meeting the targets set for the school.

Additional funding this session ensured that the Principal Teacher had no class commitment, allowing her to support the Head Teacher in the monitoring of standards throughout the school.

Members of the School Board continue to be consulted using the Quality Indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of the school and nursery's communication with parents and their views help form the basis of our priorities for the coming year.

West Lothian Council is striving to become Charter Mark compliant by June 2007 and with this in mind, we decided to apply for Charter Mark status. This prioritises our customer focus and ensures that we have in place procedures for consulting with our customers ie pupils, parents and the community. I am delighted to say that we successfully achieved our Charter Mark award in May 2005.

### ***Evaluation Curriculum***

High quality programmes of study which ensure breadth and balance are in place in all areas of the curriculum, taking into account pupils' needs and individual learning styles. Considering how children learn and the importance of differing learning styles has been a major focus of our work this year.

### ***Attainment***

At Linlithgow Bridge Primary School one of the keys aims is to challenge and extend each individual allowing them to reach their full potential. Overall this year, we judge that attainment is excellent.

Teachers' planning includes assessment procedures for each curriculum area. Evidence of pupils' writing attainment is placed in an individual writing file and passed on with the child. Class files contain information on group attainment. National assessments in writing, reading and mathematics confirm teachers' judgements of attainment levels reached. Standardised spelling tests are undertaken in May and we are making use of standardised tests in mathematics and reading with P3, P5 and P7 in line with West Lothian Council's recommendations.

Evaluation of national assessment results this session confirms the following:

- P2 Most children have attained level A for reading and for writing and the majority have attained level A for mathematics.
- P3 Almost all children have attained level A for reading with 28 achieving level B, almost all have achieved level A for writing with 31 achieving level B, almost all children have achieved level A for mathematics with 1 achieving level B.
- P4 All children have achieved level B for reading, writing and mathematics.
- P5 Almost all children have achieved level B for reading with 21 achieving level C, almost all children have achieved level B for writing with 19 achieving level C and almost all children have achieved level B for mathematics with 19 achieving level C
- P6 All children have achieved level C for reading with 7 achieving level D, almost all children have achieved level C for writing with 4 achieving level D and almost all children have achieved level C for mathematics with 8 achieving level D.

P7 Most children have achieved level D for reading with 19 achieving level E, most children have achieved level D for writing with 3 achieving level E and most children have achieved level D for mathematics with 15 achieving level E.

Our progress towards our agreed targets for pupils in P3, P4, P6 and P7 is as follows:

	2005	Target
Reading	94%	90%
Writing	92%	90%
Mathematics	95%	89%

### **Learning and Teaching**

Using the Quality Indicators from How Good is Our School, we evaluated that the learning and teaching within the school is very good. We have considered learning styles and have focussed on teacher/pupil interaction during individual staff self evaluation exercises. Work for pupils is carefully differentiated to meet their individual needs and pupil progress is communicated to parents through formal parents' meetings, annual reports and informal parents' meetings. We have prioritised the assessment of Religious and Moral Education as a development for next session.

### **Support for Pupils**

We continue to have a large number of pupils with special educational needs and the Senior Management Team has been well supported by Pam Fletcher, LST, in the writing of Individual Education Plans. As a school we are firmly committed to the authority's inclusion programme and this commitment by teaching staff in addition to the excellent support offered by our SEN assistants has ensured that the needs of all of our pupils are met.

We have formed strong links with other agencies supporting our children eg Educational Psychologist, Health Professionals and Social Work and strive to liaise with them to ensure all appropriate support mechanisms are in place.

Our 'Buddy' programme continues to go from strength to strength with classes paired as follows: P7/P2, P6,5/P3 and P5/P1. Older pupils support younger ones with reading, writing and ICT. In addition to this, our P4 pupils have paired with youngsters coming into P1 next session and have met with them once a week during the summer term. The success of this programme is evident in the confident way our younger children conduct themselves within the school environment and the way in which their older buddies 'look out' for them in the dining room and playground.

Our nursery/P1 transition programme continues to be very successful, with children visiting school once a week since April. They have become familiar with the classrooms and staff and know where to hang their coats and where the toilets are. Those children in our nursery class have also played in the early years playground during break with their buddies supporting them and making sure they feel confident in their new environment.

Our Pupil Council meets twice a month at 8.30am with Mrs Corr and Mrs Reid. They are a committed and enthusiastic group of children from P4 to P7 who were elected by their peers and they have undertaken their remits confidently. They have a notice board, which keeps others informed of their work and a suggestion box, which is brought to each meeting, ensuring pupils' views are discussed regularly.

In January, our nursery had a very successful Care Commission inspection which confirmed that all necessary procedures are in place to provide a supportive, nurturing environment for our three and four year olds.

### **Ethos**

At Linlithgow Bridge Primary School we consider the ethos we have created in our first three years to be one of our major strengths. All school staff are committed to making the school a place where children are happy and learn confidently and where parents feel welcomed as partners in their children's education.

We have a zero tolerance programme for bullying and all pupils and parents are encouraged to report any incidents to members of the Senior Management Team so they can be investigated fully. Friendship areas have been created in the lower and upper playgrounds to support those children who feel a little vulnerable during breaks. P7 and P4 (from the P4/3 class) volunteers act as friendship teams on a rota basis.

We continue to build on our partnership with the local community and our school grounds are awash with bulbs given to us by Linlithgow and Bo'ness Rotary Club. Pupils and staff enthusiastically support community competitions such as the Round Table Marches competition, the Burgh Beautiful art competition won this year by Cristina Haston (P2), the Linlithgow Players Pantomime Art competition won by Emma Hutchison, the George Allan Memorial Football Tournament and the Round Table Marches Football Tournament.

In partnership with Linlithgow Link, we planted hyacinth bulbs which were distributed to household members of the community at Christmas time. Two pupils accompanied Link members to deliver the bulbs.

Our very supportive PSA continues to work hard to raise money for the school and this year they contributed to a number of resources for the children including the buses for the annual Christmas pantomime visit and the cost of the end of year outing for P7 pupils. In addition to this they have helped considerably with the purchase of additional ICT resources.

In November, our second School Board elections were held. Once again the level of interest was very pleasing and the Board continues to prove its commitment to and support for the school.

This year's chosen charities are Deaf, Blind Scotland and Hope and Homes for Children and to date our fund raising activities have amounted to £2000. Money has also been raised for Children in Need, Red Nose Day and a staggering £1400 was raised during our Funky Friday for the Asian Tsunami appeal which was added to by gift aid.

Our links with Riddochhill Adult Training Workshop continue and they recently made our two Friendship Stop benches which sit resplendent in the playgrounds.

Pupils visited various residential homes in Linlithgow after the Harvest Thanksgiving service, taking gifts of flowers to the residents. In addition to this, a collection was made of dry goods which were put into aqua boxes by members of the Rotary Club of Linlithgow Grange for dispersal to Darfur.

### **Resources**

The development of our playground continues and our wildlife garden in the lower playground is almost complete. We are grateful to support from The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Oatridge College students, Trees for All, B&Q, South Logie Nursery, The West Lothian Environmental Award Scheme and a number of our parents who, through the Eco School programme, will ensure we have a first hand learning environment for the children.

Our nursery garden is beginning to take shape and work has been ongoing through the spring to create raised flower beds and grassy areas for the children. Our wooden sculptures are now strategically placed to provide the children with an exciting area to play in and to learn about the natural world.

A catchment area intake of 31 P1 pupils resulted in an additional teacher being employed within the class. This arrangement proved very successful with both Mrs Redmond and Mrs Fletcher being instrumental in ensuring its success. A child left at Christmas which enabled Mrs Fletcher to return to her Learning Support role, with Mrs Redmond remaining in P1. We appreciate the hard work of our acting Learning Support Teacher, Val Ness, during the first two terms.

The unfortunate long term illness of Janette McDowell, our nursery nurse, has resulted in the very successful appointment of Linda Prentice to our nursery team for this session.

We are very fortunate in having a staff fully committed to their own professional development and this year has seen a large number of courses being accessed by both teaching and non teaching staff. This commitment ensures that staff are kept fully up to date with new initiatives and have in-depth

knowledge of areas such as SEN and learning and teaching. Mandy Allsopp is currently undertaking study for her Chartered Teacher qualification and the school is benefiting greatly from her action research work. In addition to this she has helped support the piloting of the Let's Think Through Science and CASE Science programmes in P4 and P7 respectively and has ensured the successful inclusion of the Let's Think programme in the early years.

During the year, we have been fortunate to benefit from the input of West Lothian's Curriculum Support Team staff in science and technology and they have worked directly with pupils in class or liaised with teaching staff in a consultancy capacity.

Once again this session we have been fortunate to have a probationer with us and her enthusiasm and hard work have been of benefit to both the pupils in her class and the school as a whole.

We have supported Moray House and West Lothian College this session by welcoming student teachers and nursery nurses respectively into school. Not only do these students receive very high quality placements but we benefit from the fresh ideas which they bring with them.

We continue to build on the high quality resources provided for the children by careful management of the school's budget. Our main priorities for spending this year have been in line with the Improvement Plan priorities of Technology, Religious and Moral Education, French, ICT, Health Education and Science.

#### **Management, Leadership and Quality Assurance**

Staff are fully involved with the management team in determining the improvement plan priorities and work together to ensure that the targets identified are achieved. We consider that the curriculum at Linlithgow Bridge is clearly focused on achieving the school aims and takes into account national advice and local guidelines.

Staff have made full use of the quality indicators in 'How Good is our School' and 'The Child at the Centre' for self-evaluation and the results of this self-evaluation have influenced the improvement plan for session 2005/2006.

Irene Allison has shared a class this session with our probationer and has acted as mentor and curriculum adviser to her. By planning in this way and sharing some of her 0.7 time out of class with Bridgend Primary School, Irene has been able to teach ICT as part of the reduced class contact time for teachers and develop our ICT programme to ensure progression and continuity for the children. We value her expertise and the commitment she has to developing our ICT programme.

With a school roll of 228 plus 60 nursery pupils, the support given to the Head Teacher by the Principal Teacher, Hazel Clarke, continues to be excellent and her commitment to the management of the school has been invaluable.

There is a strong collegiate emphasis within the school where joint staff decision-making is a priority. Promoted staff give advice and are always available to support teachers, classroom assistants and administrative staff. Many staff are part of working groups and willingly undertake additional responsibilities for curriculum development.

#### ***Other achievements***

In November, a very successful outdoor educational visit to Dalguise was arranged for pupils in P6 and P7. The children were accompanied by Hazel Clarke, Jillian Couston, Caroline Rowatt, Mandy Allsopp, Mary Manson and Jackie Reid. Children were presented with a number of challenges which helped them develop many new skills as well as increasing their self esteem through a feeling of real achievement.

We were delighted to learn that Adam Stark had been awarded a prize in the Young Writer of the Year competition. This was a great achievement for Adam as there were over 10,000 entries from primary schools in West Lothian.

Our programme of after school clubs continues lead by staff and parents on a voluntary basis. Pupils in middle and upper school take advantage of football (Mr MacKenzie), netball (Mrs Allsopp and Mrs

Redmond), badminton (Mrs Reid and Mrs Manson), running (Mrs Allsopp and Miss Couston), Young Inventors (Mrs Fletcher) and homework (Mrs Clarke). Pupils P4 can attend an art club organised by Miss Rowatt and Miss Jones. Mandy Allsopp runs a Basic Moves class for P2 pupils. Jo Hutton, our Active Schools Co-ordinator, organised a cycling club for P3 pupils in term 4. Four of our staff, Isobel Watson, Irene Allison, Mary Manson and Jackie Reid coach Club Golf for P5 pupils. La Jolie Ronde continued to offer French lessons to younger pupils throughout the year and took part in our annual French week assembly.

As part of our commitment to promoting the health and wellbeing of our pupils, our programme of sporting activities within school is progressing well with pupils in P4 and P5 going skiing at Hillend and swimming at Linlithgow Academy. Our football, netball and badminton teams have participated in a number of tournaments and festivals and we have been very proud of the sporting manner in which they have conducted themselves. Our cross country teams took part in the annual Linlithgow Peel event. P7 pupils took part in a hockey Festival at Linlithgow Academy. They also participated in Sportshall Athletics events at Linlithgow Sports Centre and in the annual rugby festival organised for cluster schools. Our Active School Week saw visits from specialist coaches in dance, basketball, cricket, multisport and football and a cricket coach has worked with P6/5 pupils over a number of weeks. West Lothian's swimming team which included Zoe Paterson and Douglas Birse came a commendable 2nd in the Inter District Swimming Gala in Musselburgh. P6 pupils participated in a four day skiing course organised by Beecraigs staff, culminating in a visit to Glenshee and P5 children took part in a role play in the environment course at Beecraigs.

In order to promote the performing arts within school, various events were organised for the children including a visit to a puppet show by P2, and a pantomime visit at Christmas. A number of performers were invited to school to perform for the children including Suleman Chebe's Drum Workshop, the Feis Rois Music project, Sambalistic Samba band, a French Theatre company who performed Le Pirate et La Perle, TAG Theatre with their production of King Lear and Jammin's Christmas party which was sponsored by Kirkliston Pharmacy. Pupils in P4 and P5 visited the Edinburgh International Children's Festival to see a performance of Zouff. Ros Smythe came to school to lead very successful drama workshops for pupils from the nursery to P7 and it is hoped to repeat this next session. P6 attended a story telling session at Linlithgow Palace. Pupils in P6/5 and P4 took part in storytelling and poetry projects respectively organised through West Lothian's Arts Unit.

Many out of school curriculum visits were organised for classes throughout the year in addition to visits from ZooLab, FoodLab, ScienceLab, and The Science Sleuth.

A Book Week was held in February, when a number of authors came to school to work with the children. A very successful fortnightly Book Swap for early years pupils has been organised by two parents, Joyce Williamson and Elaine Carey. In January every pupil in school took part in our annual Scots Poetry competition and the efforts of every child were to be commended.

Our High Street Guide programme has had a very successful start with tours being offered to a number of schools throughout West Lothian. A successful application for a BT award for enterprise lead to £2000 being available to develop this further and high quality fliers were produced which have been sent to all schools. We also arranged for more costumes to be made for our guides and we purchased high quality sound equipment for them to use when conducting the tours which would allow them to be heard above the High Street traffic.

We participated in this year's Tesco Computers for School and Sainsbury's Active Kids schemes and thanks to the generosity of parents and friends we have collected 12,000 and 20,000 vouchers respectively. We have yet to decide what to buy with the vouchers but the vast amounts mean that we can purchase some substantial equipment.

P7 pupils participated in the 'Send my friend to school' project and our MSP, Mary Mulligan, joined them in school to make a 'buddy' which will be presented to participants at the G8 Summit, highlighting the importance of the right of every child to an education. This followed on from last session's successful 'Invite your MSP to school' day.

### ***Future Priorities***

We are now about to enter year two of our Succeeding Together initiative and our main focus for improvement is developing children's independent and collaborative problem solving skills through science. We will audit our resources for the teaching of science and expand them as required and we will consider the assessment of science with particular emphasis on formative assessment.

The expansion of our ICT programme will continue with the purchase of additional interactive whiteboards and their use will form part of the Senior Management Team's monitoring programme.

As part of our Religious and Moral Education programme of study, we will evaluate the way in which we assess children's progress and devise appropriate assessment formats.

Our very successful Enterprise Education programme will be built upon under the leadership of Hazel Clarke and new and innovative ways of allowing children to experience enterprise activities will be developed.

Having been awarded our Green Flag this session, it is vitally important that we maintain the momentum of this work throughout the school and under the leadership of Caroline Rowatt and Kirsty Jones it will continue to be a major focus.

The use of our early years extended play area will be monitored next session to ensure we continue to give children high quality experiences which will support their learning.

All Linlithgow cluster schools will work to develop the Scottish Executive's Healthy School initiative next session and whilst we have many examples of good practice throughout the school, we will ensure we are meeting all of the Executive's targets.

Whilst all of the above are priorities for next session, staff are committed to continuing to plan programmes of study in all areas of the curriculum for our children which maintain the high standards found by HMIE during our school inspection.