



Johnstone High School

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2025

This report will inform you of the school's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2025-2026. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Pauline Bradley

Head Teacher

OUR SCHOOL

Johnstone High School is a six-year non-denominational school in the Johnstone area of Renfrewshire. The school's main catchment area covers Johnstone and the surrounding areas of Howwood, Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch. The school has seven associated primary schools. The catchment areas are a mix of local authority, traditional and new housing in both urban and rural environments. Many pupils are bussed to school from the furthest villages. There is an active parent council that has been in place for nine sessions.

In session 2024/25 our school role was 876 however at the September 2025 census has dropped to 867. The percentage of pupils claiming free school meals is 17%, and 22% of our pupils are entitled to footwear and clothing grants. 41% of our pupils live in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) most deprived postcode areas. 5% of our pupils are care-experienced. 48% of our pupils have an additional support need. 2% have English as an additional language.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

We are a school community where everyone feels safe, valued and supported to achieve to their maximum potential. We deliver high quality learning experiences within a responsive and engaging curriculum that fully prepares our young people for the next stage in their lives. We are an ambitious school that has high expectations of learners, parents, partners and staff.

Johnstone High School values:

Respect

Determination

Kindness

Johnstone High School aims:

1. Pupils to have a high-quality learning and teaching experience
2. Pupils to gain skills for life and work
3. Pupils to feel safe in school
4. Pupils to leave school with a range of qualifications
5. Pupils to grow in confidence

SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CURRICULAR

- S3 girls were involved in a 'Girls in Automation' event, participating in a number of activities including the roles of designers, developers and testers, developing knowledge of careers in technologies.
- The Transition Programme for primary learners has been enhanced, and supports learners from primary 6 through to S1 in developing relationships, skills and curricular knowledge as they progress to Johnstone High School.
- We have introduced a host of level 5 and 6 Skills for Work and National Progression Awards, including: Creative Industries; Design, Engineer, Construct; The Royal Conservatoire Leadership Award; NPA Drawing and Creative Thinking; Bikeability: King's Trust and Employability awards.
- Partnership working has been enhanced, with new partners being added to a strong suit to support learners. This included Young Carers, Real Love Rocks, Community Safety team and the police.
- We have developed our elective courses for senior phase to include British Sign Language and
- S4 learners participated in a language enrichment visit to the Goethe Institut exploring the importance of language learning in the modern workforce.
- S1 Learners engaged in the British Council's Great French Language Challenge, promoting European Languages day, 2024.
- In our Art department, 13 of our pupils from the BGE and Senior Phase had their work selected to be displayed in the Paisley 'Inspired' exhibition
- S3 and S4 learners engaged in a competition in the Art department to design new House Logos; winners have now been selected and these logos will be visible around the school.
- A number of BGE learners enjoyed a visit to Edinburgh Book Festival, listening to readings from shortlisted authors nominated for the Young Adult Book Prize.
- 34 learners from BGE were published in a writing anthology as a result of a Young Writer's competition.
- S1 learners attended an author input at the Paisley Book Festival, and a further number of S1 learners attended an event delivered by Maximised Comics, enhancing their love of literature.
- Our Young Enterprise Team, Food for Thought, made it to the Scottish National Finals of Young Enterprise, winning a number of awards, including biggest Social Impact and The People's Choice award.
- An S5 pupil won the Project Runway design competition in collaboration with Glasgow Kelvin College and Paisley Museum. Her garment will be used as a centre piece of the opening of the museum later this year.
- We developed a partnership between home economics and a local nursery to collaborate and support children develop their skills and creativity in baking.

SPORTING

271 pupils represented the school through football, cross country, road races, badminton, athletics, netball, volleyball and dance.

Races

- 4 Individual Golds at The Renfrewshire Cross-Country

- 1 Individual Silver at The Renfrewshire Cross-Country
- S1 Girls Team Winners at The Renfrewshire Cross-Country
- 2 Individual Golds at The Renfrewshire Road Race
- 2 Individual Silver at The Renfrewshire Road Race
- 2 Individual Bronze at The Renfrewshire Road Race
- S1 Girls Team Winners at The Renfrewshire Road Race
- S3 Girls Team Winners at The Renfrewshire Road Race
- 40 pupils represented JHS at Renfrewshire Athletics
- 19 Individual Medallists at Renfrewshire Athletics – 8 Golds, 9 Silvers and 2 Bronze
- Senior Winners of The Renfrewshire Secondary Badminton Quaich
- Juniors Runners Up at The Renfrewshire Secondary Badminton Quaich
- Seniors Boys Football Team won the League section and made the semi-finals of the League Play Offs
- The U15s Girls Football Team won the league and made the quarter-finals of the League Cup
- First JHS Senior Girls Football Team reached the last 32 of the Scottish Cup, made the semi-finals of the League Cup and came third in the league
- S1 Pupil Runner Up in The Novice Championships Welsh Cup – Muaythai
- S2 Pupil qualified for Scottish National Swimming meet
- S1 pupil medallist in Regional Muay Thai Competition
- S1 pupil “Dancer of the Day winner” at Renfrewshire Dance Meet
- 3 senior pupils created and coached a routine for our Renfrewshire Dance Meet competitors
- S5 Pupil Made the Selection for British Scholarship in Modern Dance
- S4 Pupil captained The Girls Scottish Schools U15's Football Team and represented The Scottish National Team.
- S5 Pupil was the Winner of The British Junior Ballet Championships and the Winner of The British Junior Tap Dance Championships
- S5 Pupils was the Winner of The Scottish Rugby Bowl

INCLUSION

- As part of the promise work a number of young people took part in a Columba 1400 Young People’s Leadership Academy (YPLA), developing their skills and teamworking abilities.
- Four S5 Learners attended the Mentors in Violence Prevention Youth Assembly and were trained in leading the MVP programme as mentors in Johnstone High School.
- A number of our S3 learners spearheaded a campaign to recognise menstrual hygiene day, raising awareness of period poverty and supporting better healthcare for women and girls.
- We recorded over 3000 sign-ins to our Magic Breakfast initiative, with many additional learners enjoying a grab-and-go service, embedding this provision within our school community.
- We had a 78% pass rate for our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh pupils this session with one learner completing their volunteering to gain their full award at the start of the 2025 session.
- Our first Silver Duke of Edinburgh cohort went on expedition this year with a 88% pass rate of those who took part.
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FUNDRAISING/ CHARITY

- The Eco- Committee continues to thrive with many initiatives around recycling, school litter picking, and workshops on sustainability training.
- We embraced a number of charity events over the session, raising awareness and supporting named charities including:
 - Children In Need
 - Breast Cancer UK wear pink day
 - Wear purple day linked with LGBT Youth Scotland
 - Remembrance Day
 - Holocaust Memorial Day

CREATIVE

- Learners participated in the Scottish Schools Pipe band Championships and came 3rd place with the senior band.
- An S4 pupil was invited to pipe at the Columba 1400 25th Anniversary Dinner in the presence of their Patron, HRH The Princess Royal.
- Sky Arts filmed another documentary featuring some of our young people 'Bagpipes: A Celebration'.
- The school hosted two major concerts:
 - Christmas Concert raised £2,900 for Beatson Cancer Charity and school projects.
 - Summer Concert raised £900 towards our Paris trip.
- The Pipe Band and Freestyle groups performed at the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust open-air festival.
- The authority pipe band also had a trip to New York and participated in the Tartan Day Parade. A significant number of performers from JHS participated in this trip.
- A learner was invited to pipe at the Columba 1400 25th Anniversary Dinner in the presence of their Patron, HRH The Princess Royal.
- An S6 learner was awarded the C. Byars Art prize for Outstanding Student, having achieved an A band 1 in Advanced Higher Art in 6th year as well as achieving qualifications in Higher Photography, Creative Thinking and NPA Drawing, all in the same year.

POST SCHOOL

- The number of young people in positive destinations when they leave Johnstone High School remains high at 99.5% demonstrating the success of staff working with young people. This includes SDS, DYW coordinator, Step Link to College and the Pastoral Team.

SCHOOL AWARDS

- We achieved the Gold Reading Schools award, a real achievement for the English department in partnership with the school library, and the whole community.
- We achieved the We Promise Award for our commitment to creating an inclusive environment in relation to supporting care experienced learners.

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR SCHOOL?

Maximising Improvement for Learners:

We have an excellent rate of positive leaver destinations, with 98% of learners being supported into a positive pathway beyond school.

- We continue to build on our positive pathways through our focus on Career Education and Skills for Life, Learning and Work.

We continue on our Attainment journey to support our young people.

- In S4 Numeracy, we outperform our Virtual Comparator (VC) school at SCQF 5 Numeracy, and are just behind the VC at SCQF 4
- In S4 literacy, we are just behind our Virtual Comparator (VC) at both SCQF 4 and SCQF 5.
- In S4, 75% of our learners attain at least 5 Level 4 qualifications and 44% of our learners attain at least 5 Level 5 qualifications.
- In S5, 60% of our learners attain at least 1 Level 6 award, 38% of our learners attain at least 3 level 6 awards and 14% of our learners attain at least 5 level 6 awards.
- In S6, 26% of our learners achieve at least 1 level 7 award.

We have clear next steps to improve attainment for all learners, and to ensure that we are aspirational for all.

Improving Learning, Teaching and Assessment:

- We have a robust and well-rounded series of Career-Long Professional Learning activities for teaching and support staff within the school. This programme is designed for staff by staff, and has been highly evaluated in having an impact on classroom practice.
- We have leadership opportunities in place both across Renfrewshire and within Johnstone High School. Last session, we had five project lead leadership roles, we had staff on the aspiring middle leader programme, and have had staff complete the aspiring senior leader programme, upskilling staff as practitioners and leaders.
- We have a thorough and detailed programme of quality assurance and self-evaluation. We have completed closer looks at departments, undertaken extensive learner evaluations of course content and delivery, and used our formal lesson observation schedule to inform our next steps for learning and teaching.
- Our Learning and Teaching project lead supports our probationer and early year teachers in specific and targeted learning to enhance their classroom practice and implementation of effective strategy.

Health and Wellbeing of the Johnstone High School Community:

- We have embedded our Relationships Policy and have upskilled staff on ensuring this policy is at the heart of our ethos of support.
- We have worked closely with all stakeholders to develop and change the school vision, values and aims, and have reduced our values to three key words: respect, determination and kindness. All stakeholders engaged fully with this redesign and these values now underpin all that we do.
- We have the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Award underpinning all interaction and our restorative approach to supporting all learners. All staff are trained in nurturing approaches, and are committed to getting it right for all learners using this approach.
- We have implemented more effective standardised communication approaches to ensure that all adults are informed about learner vulnerabilities or barriers, and how to support our young people.

PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

JHS Spending 2024/25

Inclusion Teacher: Targeted small group and one to one intervention from primary trained Inclusion teacher, either in classes or through the Inclusion Base. High level pastoral care for CE pupils through Inclusion. Provision of bespoke timetables and curricula, where required. Provision of additional family liaison by Inclusion teacher. CLPL for staff on strategies to better include all young people in lessons e.g. visual timetables and supports.

Evaluation:

- As we have this support within the school, we can provide an individualised package for a number of young people who might otherwise disengage entirely and not attend. As mentioned above, our attendance is typically higher than the Renfrewshire average.
- Children have better outcomes when they are supported to remain in their local school. The support offered to the most vulnerable young people by our Inclusion Teacher means that we can keep more young people within Johnstone High School, and work proactively on attendance and attainment.
- The Inclusion Teacher has also driven forward our school improvement priority of developing inclusive classrooms. As a result, there is a noticeable change in culture and ethos, for example, she has supported all departments with visual aids for learning and these are evident in every classroom. She is now leading our Renfrewshire Inclusive Classroom Environments (RICE) work, in conjunction with the EPS team. This will support the learning and attainment of all learners, including her targeted caseload.
- attendance rates for CE young people compared with previous year.
- Of targeted learners, almost all pupils identify feeling happy, safe and included in school as a result of this input.
- Almost all S1 targeted learners have increased attendance and engagement in learning.
- Most learners in S2 have improved on base line measures in literacy and numeracy and describe

Key Worker- Inclusion

Targeted support of groups of learners through our tracking and monitoring, identifying learners impacted by the poverty related attainment gap or other specific barriers to learning such as being care experienced or having identified additional support needs.

Evaluation:

KEY STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

- Relationships are a key strength of Johnstone High School. All staff, almost all parents and almost all learners recognise the excellent relationships within the school, and describe the support given to learners from all adults within the school. There is a genuine warmth and a nurturing ethos within the school.
- We are an inclusive school where all learners are valued and celebrated. This is evidenced in our increasingly diverse curricular offering, in our support for learners with barriers to learning, in our widening achievement programme, and in our We Promise award. We value all learners within the school and ensure that everyone feels part of our community.
- Our curricular offering is diverse and varied, providing opportunities for accreditation in many different subject areas. As an SCQF Gold award school, we offer courses and awards from level 3 to level 7, and pupil voice is at the centre of our curricular structure.
- Our extra-curricular activities and wider achievement are of the highest standard, as shown by our sporting and creative achievements, as well as our whole school awards. Our young people thrive in many different and diverse ways, and we have clubs, activities, trips and residential experiences to support an array of interests.
- Our school puts learners' rights at the heart of the curriculum and of our community, and our young people feel valued and included both in the school and beyond.
- Pupil leadership and participation is a key strength. Learners have opportunities from S1 through to S6 to lead aspects of their own learning, and of school life. We have formal leadership positions in prefects and the captaincy team, in the pupil council and young leaders of learning. We also have frequent informal leadership opportunities for learners to engage in pupil participation activities to enhance school policies and processes.

OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2025-26

We have made **good** progress during session 2024-25 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

- Improve attainment. We have targets set for all measures across both Broad General Education and Senior Phase.
- Enhance our approaches to literacy and numeracy across the curriculum and develop a consistent approach to delivery, tracking and monitoring in the Broad General Education and into the Senior Phase.
- Improve our approaches to Learning and Teaching through embedding our J High Charter in all lessons across the curriculum and developing a new JHS Learning Cycle
- Embed rights education across the curriculum, further our journey as a Rights Respecting School and ensure that rights and needs are at the centre of our planning for all learners.
- Enhance our commitment to care experienced learners through the Keep The Promise award, ensuring that all care experienced learners
- Improve attendance at school, particularly for targeted groups of learners who are at risk of not attaining or achieving their full potential.

Full details of the school’s improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan which can be accessed on our website or by contacting the school office.

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HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we use feedback to help us make improvements to the school. You can do this by speaking to staff, participating in Parent Council meetings, responding to questionnaires/surveys and by completing evaluations at school events.

