



Welcome to
Calside Primary School



December 2025

Information at a Glance

School Address

Calside Road, Calside, Dumfries, DG1 4HB

Telephone: 01387 263 594

Email address:

Gw08officecalside@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson: Tia McCrae

Parent Council email:

calsideparentcouncil@outlook.com

Head Teacher Louisa Gamble

School Roll 185

Nursery Roll 42

Denomination Status Non-denominational

Status of Gaelic Not currently taught

School Staff:

Teaching Staff

Head Teacher Mrs Louisa Gamble

Principal Teacher ELC to P2 Mrs Gail Brown

Principal Teacher P3 to P7 Mr Garth McIlorum

Principal Teacher of Support for Learning

Mrs Mollie Galligan

Nursery Manager Miss Louise Tinman

Nursery Nurse Miss Carol Potts
Miss Michelle Henderson
Miss Natalie Mundell

Early Years Assistants Mrs Nida Kulbiene
Mrs Lauren Gibson

P1 Miss Louise Kennedy

P1 and P2 Mrs Rachael Black

P3 Mr Scott Templeton

P4 Mrs Rebecca Kearney

Mrs Nicola McKie

P5 Miss Kaitlyn Thomson

If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000.

P6 Mr Garth McIlorum

Mrs Danielle Sharpe

P7 Mrs Gail Brown

Learning Centre

LC1 Mrs Sarah Armstrong

Mrs Mollie Galligan

LC2 Miss Hannah Graham

Permanent Supply Mrs Courtney Kirkpatrick

Miss Eve Leonard

Maternity leave 2025-2026

Mrs Lisa Hooper (class teacher)

Miss Eilidh MacRae (Early Years Principal Teacher)

Mrs Lisa McIlorum (PT Support for Learning)

PE Specialist Mrs Victoria Irvine-McLean

Support for Learning Teacher

Mrs Michele McDonald

Learning Assistants

Mrs Kelly Irvine Miss Carol Kirkpatrick

Miss Karen Carruthers Mrs Ashley Hyslop

Mrs Christine Findlater Mrs Emily Geddes

Mrs Gill McCormick Mrs Hai Doan

Mrs Jayne Waugh Mrs Michelle Bissett

Mrs Rachael Thomson Mrs Susan Ritchie

Mrs Carol Williams Miss Holly McConnell

Miss Anjay Johnstone

Auxiliary Staff

Facilities assistant and Playground Supervisor

Mr Scott Coupland

Clerical assistants Mrs Deborah Copeland

Mrs Rebecca MacDonald

Crossing patrol Mr John Summerville

Catering Staff

Mrs Michelle Stevenson Mrs Yvonne McDonald

Miss Theresa Wray Miss Lesley Crosbie

The School Day

The school gates are opened at 8.45am

Primary School

9am School starts

10.30am to 10.50am Morning break

12.35pm to 1.15pm P1 to P3 Lunch break

12.20pm to 1pm P4 to P7 Lunch break

3pm End of day

Please note playground is unsupervised before 9am

School term dates can be found at:

www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/schools-learning/schools/school-term-holiday-dates

Communicating with home

Information is shared in several ways:

- Weekly maildrop sent on a Friday via school bags
- School and class weekly email updates
- Texts, telephone calls, emails, letters
- School website
- Class Dojo
- School and class newsletters shared via email
- Celebrations of learning
- Learner conferences
- Annual progress reports

If a parent has any aspect of their child's learning that they wish to discuss, they should contact the school office via email or telephone message, so that the appropriate member of staff can help.

Parents are asked to ensure that school has up-to-date contact details so we can contact parents promptly should there be any issues such as a child becoming ill.

Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

The staff and children of Calside Primary School extend a warm welcome to all parents, friends and visitors to our school. We want our school to be a happy, caring and stimulating place for everyone, and welcome your assistance and co-operation in achieving this.

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life, playing a vital role through all stages of education.

Parents who take on a supportive role in their child's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour.

The active involvement of parents can help promote a learning community in which young people can engage positively with adults and peers and develop their talents and abilities to the full.

I look forward to meeting and working with you to ensure that your child's primary education is both happy and rewarding.

Yours sincerely,

Louisa Gamble
Head Teacher

For more links and detailed information about how we support parents and work with our schools, please see our [Authority Handbook](#). This also includes a page for financial support for Children and Families.

School Aims, Values and Ethos

In all that they do we want our young people to be the best that they can be.

School Aims:

- For all members of the school community to value a high standard of achievement in all aspects of school life;
- To provide a happy and caring environment which fosters intellectual and social development and allows all learners to develop their own personalities and opinions;
- To provide a framework in which positive behaviour and self-discipline are practised by all;
- To provide a challenging, stimulating and balanced curriculum, which caters for individual needs;
- For links between home and school to be supportive and effective.

Our Values are:

- Creativity
- Enjoyment
- Friendship
- Kindness
- Positivity
- Resilience
- Respect
- Responsibility

School Ethos:

In our safe and caring environment, everyone is valued and supported to realise their potential. We promote good behaviour, self-discipline and respect for others. Through high quality learning and teaching experiences which cater for all learning needs and styles, we develop positive attitudes towards our learning and recognise achievements. We encourage independence, creativity and ambition, in order to equip our learners with the skills and attitudes required to prosper in society and through life.

Our motto is:

**Together
Everyone
Achieves
More**



Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can 'Ask us to Look Again'. Visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk to find out how you can do this. At this point an Officer will contact you, discuss the issue and direct your enquiry as appropriate.

If you remain dissatisfied, the Education and Learning Directorate operate within the complaints handling procedures for Dumfries and Galloway Council. Information on this can be found at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

How the School Works

Class Organisation

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

Primary School Class Organisation

Within education our clear purpose is to bring about

success for all our young people through raising levels of achievement, attainment, and participation.

For more information on school class organisation please visit [Class Organisation Leaflet](#)

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

For more information please see the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Everyone has a right to feel happy and secure in school. We promote a caring atmosphere in which to work and play. Our children are supervised throughout the day and there is always an adult available should children want to discuss any concerns.

Our school rules are:

- We will respect everyone and everything in our school community, including ourselves.
- We will be ready to learn and do our best.
- We will enjoy school and have fun, but remember everyone else too.

Through our House System, children can win points for their house by working well, and following the rules. Merits are awarded to pupils who have shown particular achievement or effort.

We celebrate learning successes as well as Wider Achievements, and welcome parents sharing any activities out with school so we can celebrate these with the children.

This system has proven very successful in promoting positive behaviour, but behaviour issues will still crop up from time to time. Should behavioural difficulties arise, parents will be informed and possible courses

of action will be explored together. In such cases, the full support of parents is expected to ensure the child conforms to the behaviour norms in school. In the rare and serious event when all else fails, Authority Policy regarding exclusion will be followed.

For more information please see of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attendance at school. For more information on School Uniform, Dress Code, and School Clothing Grants visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Wearing school uniform fosters a sense of belonging and pride in our school. We strongly encourage the wearing of school uniform and we are grateful for the ongoing support of parents with this. Please be aware that we do not offer a click and collect service and all orders should be delivery to home please.

Our uniform consists of;

- Grey or black trousers/shorts/skirt
- Pale blue polo shirt with school logo
- Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo

Embroidered items can be ordered online at <https://shopkeepeasy.com/5940923>

Pupils should also have;

- Appropriate indoor shoes
- An old shirt for Art
- Outdoor clothing appropriate to the daily weather

P.E. Kit;

- Shorts/Leggings, T-shirt, sweatshirt
- Suitable trainers
- No football kit

Financial Support for Children and Families

Grants and Bursaries

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website

Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

For further information and an application please visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy – details of which can be found at costofliving.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/cost-living-support Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

For more information on financial support please visit the Authority Handbook (pages 8,9,10 and 11)

School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Confirmation of when this will be rolled out to Primary 6 and Primary 7 from the Scottish Government has yet to be confirmed.

In Nursery, eligible children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of this funded offer, the child will be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day.

Online pre-ordering of school meals is currently being rolled out to all secondary schools, information will be supplied by your school.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £361 and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a Special Diet Request Forms to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full. For more information contact www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk or the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

Parents/Carers - Please register your child with the catering team as soon as you are aware of any allergens or intolerance to food.

Scottish Child Payment and Bridging Payments

The Scottish Government's Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family and, as of 14 November 2022, applications are now open for all children under the age of 16. The weekly value of this award will also increase to £25 as of this point.

School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Free Travel for 5 - 22 year olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland. You can apply for free travel online from today at freebus.scot (This cannot be done through your school)

For more information on Active Travel which is about making journeys in physically active ways like walking, wheeling and cycling, we encourage parents and pupils to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot all or some of the journey to and from school, where it is safe to do so. Please click on this link:

www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit

[Education Authority Handbook](#)

Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

Dumfries and Galloway Council have developed a dedicated [resource hub](#) for parents and carers, where you will find support and guidance in relation to supporting your child's regular attendance at school. Resources can be found at:

blogs.glowscotland.org.uk

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful, no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately, it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress

at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

CfE also includes Languages, Expressive arts, Religious and moral education, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. The responsibility for the curriculum offer in your school sits with the Headteacher.

The school offers a broad curriculum within the Curriculum for Excellence framework promoting an active approach where children are fully engaged with their learning. Health and Well-being is the foundation of a pupil's readiness to learn. All curricular areas contribute to personal and social development: fostering co-operation, independence and self-confidence.

Our Health and Well-being programme covers physical, social, mental and emotional health such as hygiene, exercise and healthy eating. Units on issues such as bullying and the misuse of drugs provide children with the experiences to help them to make informed choices in their lives. We also teach units on Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood as per national guidance.

The Wider Curriculum: We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year led by staff, Active Schools and our P6 & P7 Play Leaders. Activities that have been offered recently include: Arts and Crafts, Gymnastics, Family Board games and Football.

In Calside Primary, we prepare our learners to be full citizens in society through many opportunities for the learners to participate in the life of the school. These include: Rights, ECO, Health, School Grounds, Inclusion and Pupil Council as part of our Pupil

Parliament groups. P7's are elected House Captains at the beginning of each year.

We further enrich learning experiences through excursions related to learning. Recent trips have included The Cocoabean Company, Queen of the South Arena, Ice Bowl and Dumfries Museum. We look for visitors and organisations within and out with the authority to come into school to engage pupils with current learning such as Glasgow Science Centre. Upper school pupils also develop their resilience during a residential experience: details of this trip are shared with parents at the time.

Parental Involvement and Engagement

Parent/Carers and the Parent Council

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The parent council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in our school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible

For more information or support for how you can become involved in or to run your Parent Council please visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk for more information on parental involvement.

More information and support for Parents/ Parent Councils is available at <https://connect.scot/>

Parentclub Scotland <https://www.parentclub.scot/> provides support information and guidance to expectant parents, baby, toddler, Child, Pre-teen and Parents and Carers.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPFs) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free Downloads for parents/carers: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/>

Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> information about the Curriculum and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss



your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, formal reports or for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.

Helping Your Child and Family Learning

Parental support is very important and we ask that you help with learning in the following ways:

- Take a general interest in your child's homework.
- Ensure that children do not become over-anxious or spend too much time on the homework task.
- Let us know if concerns have arisen so that these can be addressed by the teacher.
- Provide an environment which is suited to your child for the completion of homework.
- Where appropriate, assist your child with references/information for topic work.
- Encourage care, accuracy and tidiness in any set written homework without actually completing the task for your child.
- Encourage children to watch suitable information/news programmes which may be relevant to their schooling.
- Encourage the use of computer programmes other than games which could help support your child's learning.

Homework Tasks: The homework programme for the term will be advised through the termly class newsletter. If you require additional Literacy or Numeracy homework, please discuss this with your child's teacher. The class teacher will advise how the homework should be submitted, as this depends on the age and stage of the class.

Support for All

Support for Learners

All children receive support at school and nursery to help them learn. 'Additional support for learning' is how we describe any support that is extra or different to the help that most children receive. Most of this additional support is provided by teachers in mainstream classes, focussed on learning and support to be fully involved in school life. For the majority of children and young people this will be delivered in a mainstream classroom supported by their classroom teacher for a few this will mean some additional support alongside the classroom teacher, and for a very few this will be part-time or full-time provision in a school with a learning centre or an inclusion base.

More information is available at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk and on page 21 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well.

Further information can be found at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing [Near Me](#).

School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Key improvements we are currently targeting include:

- Use our 'Key Expectations for Excellence in Learning and Teaching' document.
- Refine our Learning and Teaching policy with support from parents and pupils.



- Continue to develop our learning on Meta-Skills and embed across the curriculum.
- Create and refine our Play Pedagogy policy.
- Work together to track our learner's progress and achievement.
- Achieve our Gold Rights-Respecting Schools Award
- Continue to develop opportunities to involve and engage with parents and carers.
- Ensure our school continues to be inclusive by working with a range of partners.

The full School Improvement Plan is available on the school website, and a summary to parents is sent through the school maildrop twice a year.

Health and Safety

Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels unwell or have hurt themselves during the school day they must report this to an adult in the school. If we feel that they would be better at home we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g. cuts, bruises, are dealt with by the school staff. Serious accidents are few, but should one occur your child will be immediately taken either to your doctor or to hospital, if necessary, and you or your emergency contact will be notified. We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e. your own home and work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. **Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.**

Health Care (inc First Aid)

Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the nursery/school environment, for most children this will be for short periods of time only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements. Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

For more information see our [Authority Handbook](#)

Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Headteachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk

Data Protection

Visit www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk for information on how the Council uses personal data.

ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)

