



Welcome to
Rephad Primary School



December 2025

Information at a Glance

School Address

Rephad Primary School, Ladies Walk, Stranraer,
DG9 8BW

Phone: 01776 704 195

Email address:

gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson: Mrs Jenny Gregg

Parent Council email:

rephadparentcouncil@outlook.com

Head Teacher

Mr John Smith

School Roll

205

Nursery Roll

37

Denomination Status

Non-denominational

Status of Gaelic

Not currently taught

School Staff:

Teaching Staff

Head Teacher

Mr Paul Samuel

Depute Head Teachers

Ms Moira McEwan (0.8)
Mrs Alison Gratton (0.2)

Class Teachers:

Mrs Morag Irons
Mrs Rachel Fitton
Mrs Naomi Miller
Miss Rhona Baillie
Miss Karen McLean
Mrs Kimberly Whyte
Miss J McKane

Mrs Alison Gratton
Mrs Amie Harvey
Mrs Laura Mitchell
Miss Kirsty Teasdale
Mrs Lorna Hamilton
Miss B MacRae

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

Additional Support for Learning Teacher

Miss Katrina Walker

Learning Assistants

Mrs Karon Cooke
Mrs Ellen Johnstone
Ms Shelley Jenkins

Learning Centre:

Principal Teacher

Miss Emma Harvey

Class Teacher

Miss B McCrae (0.4)

Learning Assistants

Mrs Allison Slavin
Mrs Tracy Rankin
Mrs Vivien Rice
Miss Allie Johnstone

Miss Holly Livingston
Mrs Vikki Chang
Mrs Emma Morrison

Auxiliary Staff

Janitor

Mr John Arnott.

Clerical staff

Mrs Fiona Morrisson
Mrs Fiona Harvey

The School Day

Children are requested to arrive on the playground from 8:45am onwards.

Primary School

9am

Start of the school day

10:30am to 10:45am

Morning Break

12:30pm to 1:15pm

Lunch

3pm

End of the school day

School term dates can be found at:

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

Communicating with home

The Parent Portal app is the primary means of sharing information.

Text messages are only used for urgent information as there is a cost involved.

Parents can contact us through the office email address.

Our school blog is

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/rephadconnects/classes/>

Further information about our Parent Council, pupil committees and events at school as well as handbooks can also be found there.



Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

We welcome you and your child to Rephad Primary School, Learning Centre and Nursery, housed in 2 buildings on the Rephad Campus.

We strive to provide a warm, welcoming environment that has the best interests of your child at its heart, as we know children learn best when they are happy, positive, and resilient.

Staff work together to ensure consistency throughout all stages of our school community. We believe in nurturing both pupils and staff, celebrating the achievements of all, in and out of school.

Rephad is a kind, caring and encouraging school. Staff support each other in keeping these qualities at the forefront of our practice so your child grows and develops successfully working with you through this process.

We look forward to working with you and your child through their primary education journey.

Yours sincerely

M Baird,
Acting 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

Rephad School aspires to:

Develop Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors to Society and Responsible Citizens.

We will endeavour to promote effective learning and the highest possible attainment, participation and achievement for all.

Inclusion and equity of opportunity for all are central aspects of our core values. We believe Children's Rights are important and we promote those rights regularly in our practice.

To do this we work in partnership with:

- Young People
- Their Parents/Carers
- Our Communities
- Our Staff
- Other agencies

Our Vision:

At Rephad Primary School and Nursery we aspire to develop every child to "be the best they can be" by providing high quality learning and teaching throughout a broad and relevant curriculum. We believe the development of the whole child to be vital.

Our Values:

We are respectful and inclusive. We promote resilience, hard-work and creativity. We have an aspirational learning environment.

Our Aims:

- Develop all learners' potential to the full by assisting them to overcome barriers, develop resilience and have high aspirations
- Ensure all children are included and celebrated and staff are proactive in supporting and differentiating for children as required.
- Fully engage learners, parents, staff and other appropriate agencies in the learning process from nursery through transition to secondary school
- To promote forums for children, staff and parents to share their views and to move the school forward
- Equip all learners with the skills required to take a full and active place in society
- Develop creative, interactive and meaningful experiences for children
- Recruit, retain and develop well-qualified and committed staff.

We will seek every opportunity to celebrate and foster excellence so that children and young people:

- Are healthy, confident, well-motivated, well-adjusted and resilient
- Are healthy, literate and numerate –
- Fully understand their place and play their parts as citizens of a modern democratic society
- Experience equity and able to seize opportunities regardless of background, circumstances, disadvantage or adversity
- Have the skills and aptitudes to work flexibly and to embrace change throughout their future lives.
- Provide a safe, fit for purpose, caring learning environment that is well maintained and enhances learning & achievement

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](#)

We currently have 8 classes.

P1, P2, P3, P4, P4/5, P5/6, P6 and P7

Our nursery has an open concept free flow with safe outdoor access. Our two-year-olds are blended with our N4 and N5 pupils.

Our Learning Centre consists of 2 class bases and promotes a flexible use as children require.

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

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Good school discipline depends on a positive and respectful relationship between staff, pupils and parent/carers with everyone promoting consistent expectations. The school aims to develop an ethos where children can acknowledge self-discipline in all situations and circumstances and take responsibility for their actions.

We listen to children and take action as needed involving parent/carers as appropriate. The school has a Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy that is in line with authority and Scottish government guidelines, and we consistently refer to our school expectations and Golden Rules.

For school age children, we use the Skills for Life programme to teach children how to cope and develop resilience in all situations in their lives. In the nursery, staff support children in all interactions to

develop the ability to play successfully with peers and build independence; all reflecting Rights Respecting School goals.

We recognise children's achievements in class and at home, through assemblies and with displays. We feel it is very important to recognise all successes a child has and make connections to a wide variety of skills.

A positive mind set is encouraged, and teachers use a range of techniques to support children in understanding their targets within both class lessons and their personal development. Engaged children are also more positive in class, which contributes to a positive learning environment for all.

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

The wearing of uniform is strongly encouraged. It is important that clothes are clearly marked or have name tags. The wearing of tracksuits, jeans or hoodies* is not part of the school dress code.

White or Royal Blue polo shirt, Grey or black school trousers, "school" shorts or skirts. Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan. School summer dress (blue & white gingham)

The Rephad Logo can be embroidered by local companies.

*Primary 7 may wear their Leavers Hoodie.

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.

Our curriculum is focussed on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing (HWB). It is the basis of all experiences and highlighted to children so they can make effective connections between tasks to develop their understanding of key learning areas.

Each child is encouraged to achieve his/her potential at a pace best suited to his/her level of ability. The individual needs of the children are paramount and are catered for through a variety of different teaching and learning strategies complemented by use of available resources.

The school prides itself on being involved with the local community while broadening curriculum experiences. We reinforce our Eco message with links to Community Groups such as Incredible Edibles in town. We develop an understanding of needs in the community by participating in fundraising events on behalf of local causes. We learn about our history and our current local setting to understand and appreciate the place in which we live.

We use Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) opportunities to connect learning in science, social studies, technology, RME, modern languages, and the expressive arts. Our curriculum has a skills focus, giving children the opportunity to apply their learning to different contexts.

The development of skills in children is progressive from Nursery into Primary and we are inclusive in making links with Nursery and Learning Centre through cohesive planning and positive transition approaches.

We encourage the use of ICT to enhance the curriculum and to communicate with families; whilst promoting Internet Safety in school and at home.

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

We facilitate and encourage family experiences in both the nursery and primary school as a way of sharing the learning taking place at school.

We promote reading through PEEP and Bookbug sessions in the Early Years to reading books and reading for enjoyment at home to support literacy development and a love of reading

Families are involved in the life of the school by attending curriculum and cultural events and sharing information in progress meetings or reviews for children.

We encourage families to take part in our literacy and numeracy activities in both the primary and nursery and gather their views about engagement opportunities within the settings.

Our Parent Council are active and engaged and create opportunities for the whole parent forum to share questions, queries and to find out about the school. They organise and run events throughout the year to help raise funds for the school. These events have the added bonus of allowing staff and families to engage with each other and spend time together in less formal situations.

Parents are also key in supporting children to develop literacy or numeracy skills with one-to-one settings. Teaching staff provide home activities focussed on literacy and numeracy skills development. Parents can support children and reinforce learning through participation in, and encouragement with these activities.



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

Each year the school and nursery are responsible for creating a School Improvement Plan (SIP). We evaluate the aspects of the plan on an annual basis and a progress report is shared with families to inform of improvements made and planned next steps.

Our School Improvement Plan for the 2025-2026 session focusses on the following:



- To continue to use PEF funding to provide resources and take forward initiatives to raise attainment.
- For nursery staff continue to develop a framework for tracking children's progress and improve responsive planning linked to Es and Os through the use of floorbooks.
- To improve writing attainment in P5-7 through participation in the national CYPIC programme.
- To further develop reading skills and strategies throughout the school by reviewing and updating programmes to reflect best practice and training.
- Staff group to engage in reviewing pedagogical practices to ensure high quality Teaching and Learning experiences across the school community.

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](#)

