



**Craighalbert Centre**  
Enabling Children to Achieve

# Trustees Quarterly Report

## August 2024

Our Values



**KIND**



**INSPIRATIONAL**



**CHILD-CENTERED**



**COLLABORATIVE**



**AMBITIOUS**

## Chair's Statement



Welcome to our August 2024 Trustee report. We have had another successful term with lots of exciting activities including our much-anticipated pupils' award ceremony.

As we look forward to the start of a new school year as we continue to strive to promote and support the development of children in Scotland with complex communication, learning, health and care needs to achieve their full potential while they experience the highest level of wellbeing possible.

### News Flash!

We are overjoyed to celebrate a milestone in our school's history—with the graduation of our very first senior phase pupil. This remarkable student, who has been with us for over 12 years, has now embarked on the next chapter of her journey. While we will certainly miss her and her family, we are immensely proud of her achievements and wish her the very best for the future. Rest assured, we will stay in touch and continue to support her in every way we can.

### Term 4

The children finished for summer break on Tuesday 25th June, with Wednesday 26th June an in-service day for all staff. Throughout the summer break a small cohort of the team were working at various times, ensuring continuity in planning, scheduled contractor visits and to maintain communication with parents.

Following the summer break, staff returned on Thursday 25th July and the children returned for our Summer Weeks Programme on Friday 26th July. The Summer Weeks Programme ran until Wednesday 7th August with the children reverting to more structured learning on Monday 12th August.

## Staffing/Staff Development

### New Starts & Recruitment



June Hart joined us as a Lunchtime Support Assistant on 28th May 2024.



Vicki Watson joined us as a Teacher on 17th June 2024. Vicki will be working in the nursery class.

## School Roll and Children

The school roll remains at 17 children. 16 children are full time and 1 is part time.

## Parent Council

The Parent Council have established formal meeting dates for the upcoming year, with each meeting focussing on pre-determined themes. The first meeting focused on communication, resulting in the establishment of a standardised communication format and the development of a home learning page on our website <https://www.craighalbert.org.uk/homelearning>.

Our new termly newsletter has been well received and, as a result of parental request, we have added a "signposting" page to the newsletter.

A new Deputy Chair has been appointed to the Parent Council, adding stability and strength to the group.

The Parent Council were involved in our school trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, which was a great success, they also attended our end of year achievement award ceremony, held on 21st June 2024.

From Term 1 six parents will be piloting our digital home-school communication trial. Full rollout is planned for December 2024, pending evaluation.



## Activities

Last term, our theme was **Seaside Explorers**, which guided a variety of engaging and educational activities for our pupils. They were 'dipping their toes' into a variety of activities. Not only were they exploring textures with their feet, but they also used them to create wonderful pieces of artwork, such as Sandy Footprints and Coral Reefs. The children were fascinated by the theme, eagerly learning and researching sea creatures and their habitats. They particularly enjoyed the sensory aspects of the theme, using spray bottles to mimic whale spouts and bubbles to start sensory sessions. Additionally, we had a group Music and Art session led by Nordoff & Robbins. We made an art attack collaboration to tie in with our Topic of Under the Sea, where everyone rolled over the bubble artwork to hear and feel the bubbles popping.



**Seaside Explorer  
Activities**



We have been developing our **Motor Activity Training Programme** which focuses on developing motor skills, body awareness, and enjoyment of movement. This programme will enhance physical abilities and promote an active lifestyle. Our Occupational Therapists, with the help of John, our Facilities Officer, have created an adapted bowling ramp and lap passing ramp. These tools will enable inclusive participation in the Motor Activity Training Programme, allowing pupils to demonstrate their motor abilities.



**Using our adapted ramps to participate in Motor Activity Training Programme**

Despite the unpredictable weather, we embraced **outdoor learning** whenever possible. Class 4 made the most of one of the sunny days by taking their entire classroom outside, while our new pergola provided shelter for lessons during less favourable weather and our nursery brought the beach indoors for a fun-filled beach party, aligning with our Seaside Explorers theme. Outdoor Activities also included watering plants, art, music literacy and wellbeing sessions.



**Outdoor Learning Activities**



13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May, was **Health week** and we had a variety of activities that focused on health and wellbeing. Highlights included a dance session, a group music and art collaboration, sensory pampering, yoga, and healthy cooking sessions. These activities promoted physical health and emotional well-being.

On 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June, we visited **Blair Drummond Safari Park**. The children explored different animal textures, practiced communication using PODD books, and engaged with the wider environment, building confidence and generalising their learning. Both days were great fun and the children particularly enjoyed the monkeys climbing onboard our coach.



**Blair Drummond Safari Park**



On 21<sup>st</sup> June, we celebrated the achievements of all our children with our **achievement awards ceremony** attended by family and friends. Everyone received personalised awards to celebrate their achievements.



**Achievement Award Ceremony**

We had two **graduations** this year; one of our pupils graduated from primary to secondary, he has done so well and we know he is ready for this next stage and one of our pupils graduated from School and will be moving on to adult services, we wish her all the best and look forward to hearing about all the exciting things she goes on to do.



**Graduation Celebrations**



Starting on 26<sup>th</sup> July, the children began their participation in a two-week **summer programme**, featuring therapy and play activities. This programme aims to provide opportunity for annual therapeutic assessment to support planning and a smooth transition back to our school routine, which resumed on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

From April to June **Soundplay Project** delivered weekly sessions every Monday, offering interactive installations using technology and sound. Using Switch controls or hands, the children could express how they feel and have independent control over the speed, volume and tones of the interactive displays. There was a family day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June providing an opportunity to our pupils and their families to enjoy a fun session together.



**Soundplay Project Family Day**



On 16<sup>th</sup> July, the **UNCRC** was incorporated into Scottish law. Our CEO, Bob Fraser has written a blog that provides an overview of the new law and shares his initial thoughts on this historic development, exploring its opportunities, limitations, and potential challenges. You can read it at [www.craighalbert.org.uk/post/uncrc](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk/post/uncrc).

We have launched a campaign to actively promote discussions about the impact of the incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish law and we will continue to promote relevant topics over the next year. More information is available on our website at [www.craighalbert.org.uk/uncrc](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk/uncrc).

We are proud to have received our second **LEAF Award**, a programme advocating outdoor learning and hands-on experiences. This year's theme was Forest and Water, integrating with our eco-topic of water. Activities included tree rubbings, weather projects, and creating musical instruments to imitate weather sounds, enhancing engagement with the natural environment.



**Working towards our LEAF Award**

We continue to provide a variety of experiences to the children through our external partners including music therapy and Yoga.



**Communication and Literacy** continues to be part of everyday learning for the children. This includes the use of Eyegaze, PODD and switches to communicate with others and we have seen continued development in literacy skills. Amelia from the Speech and Language Therapy team has initiated literacy baseline assessments to identify each student's strengths and areas for support in reading and writing. This personalised approach ensures effective literacy instruction.



**Literacy and Communication in action**



Issue 2 of the **Craighalbert Courier**, is now available to view on our website [www.craighalbert.org.uk/schoolnewsletter](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk/schoolnewsletter) this is a termly newsletter providing an overview of the children's achievements over the term, showcasing what they have been doing and what is planned for the upcoming term.

Our physiotherapy team has been engaging with national experts to enhance skills in the Goldsmith Assessment of Body Symmetry using the AMI (Anatomical Measuring Instrument). This precise assessment aids in effective **postural management**, ensuring optimal engagement in all activities.

## **Educational Progress**

Below is a comprehensive overview of our educational achievements, developments, and strategic initiatives for the academic year 2023-2024. It encompasses key areas including attendance metrics, professional development programs, school improvement plan progress, curriculum enhancements, and student achievements.

Highlights include:

1. Improved attendance rates
2. Extensive staff training and development
3. Significant progress on our School Improvement Plan priorities
4. Successful implementation of new literacy programs
5. Enhanced transition processes for school leavers
6. Expansion of our SQA qualifications offerings

The following sections detail our accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, and future focus areas, demonstrating our commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive education tailored to our students' unique needs.

### Attendance

- 2023-2024 school year: 5% improvement in attendance, averaging 88%
- Attendance considered very good given complex health care needs
- Some absences due to planned and unplanned hospitalisations, and short breaks

## Professional Learning

- Comprehensive staff training programme implemented
- Mandatory training: First aid, child protection, health and safety, medication administration, infection prevention, epilepsy management, and nutrition
- Specialised training: Rights Respecting Schools, literacy and communication programmes, assessment techniques, assistive technology, Curriculum for Excellence, Milestone and The Continuum of Engagement and various therapeutic approaches

## School Improvement Plan Progress

### Priority 1: Assessment, Tracking, and Monitoring

- Initial analysis revealed staff knowledge gaps
- Implemented year-long learning initiative on engagement and milestone development
- Enhanced understanding of children's learning styles through peer-led moderation sessions
- Assessment and tracking protocols have been successfully implemented. Further development, next year, is required in data analysis and strategic planning for individual learner progression.

### Priority 2: Emergent Literacy Programme

- Implemented staff training sessions led by Speech and Language Therapy
- Launched 'Wear your Words' initiative
- Embedded shared reading, writing, and alphabet instruction into daily curriculum
- Began pupil literacy assessments

### Priority 3: Supported Transition Process for School Leavers

- Secured approval to deliver Adult Learning and Transition Award
- Identified need for continued improvement in transition planning

### Priority 4: Senior Curriculum Development

- All Senior Phase students participated in an off-site residential activity programme



- This engagement facilitated the attainment of the National 1 Residential Award for each participant
- Positive feedback from parents and staff



### Focus for School Development 2024-2025

- Empower learners to reach full potential despite disabilities
- Develop inclusive physical education programme
- Embed Comprehensive Literacy Instruction across curriculum

### Implementation Strategy

- Staff assigned to focused groups for collaborative development work
- Scheduled progress reporting throughout the year

### SQA Update:

- All Senior Phase students achieved four or more SQA National 1 awards
- Approval secured for two new progressive awards starting 2024-2025:
- Personal Achievement Award (bronze, silver, gold)
- Adult Learning and Transition Award (bronze, silver, gold)

We offer a bespoke curriculum designed to meet the diverse and complex needs of children with neurological, physical, and sensory conditions. Our approach is rooted in the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence but adapted and enhanced to ensure accessibility and relevance for all our pupils. Full details of our Curriculum and assessment process are now available to view on our website:

[www.craighalbert.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence](http://www.craighalbert.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence)

Our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report, outlining our goals, strategies, and commitment to high standards, are now available on our website:

<https://www.craighalbert.org.uk/schoolimprovementplan>

<https://www.craighalbert.org.uk/standards-quality-report>

These documents reflect our dedication to continuous improvement and alignment with the Curriculum for Excellence principles.

## Partnerships

### Renaissance Project at Stirling Castle

Our collaboration with Artlink Central led to an invitation to Stirling Castle to have a look at their new learning space they are creating. Called the Renaissance Project, which aims to build an environment that is accessible and inclusive for all children in the historic building. We have been invited to work with an artist and contribute to designing an environment where all children can learn about Scottish history in a fun and exciting way.

### Soundplay Project

We have partnered with Soundplay Project to use technology and sound to make accessible interactive installations. Sessions allowed pupils to use switches or hands to control the light display on the wall or the music that was playing. We also offered a family session on a Saturday for families to see their child interact and engage with the technology and for a joint fun experience.

### Nordoff and Robbins

In partnership with Nordoff and Robbins we continue to provide integrated music therapy and occupational therapy for children aged 0-3 years as part of our Early Intervention (Music Space) Programme.



**Music Space Sessions**



## Feedback

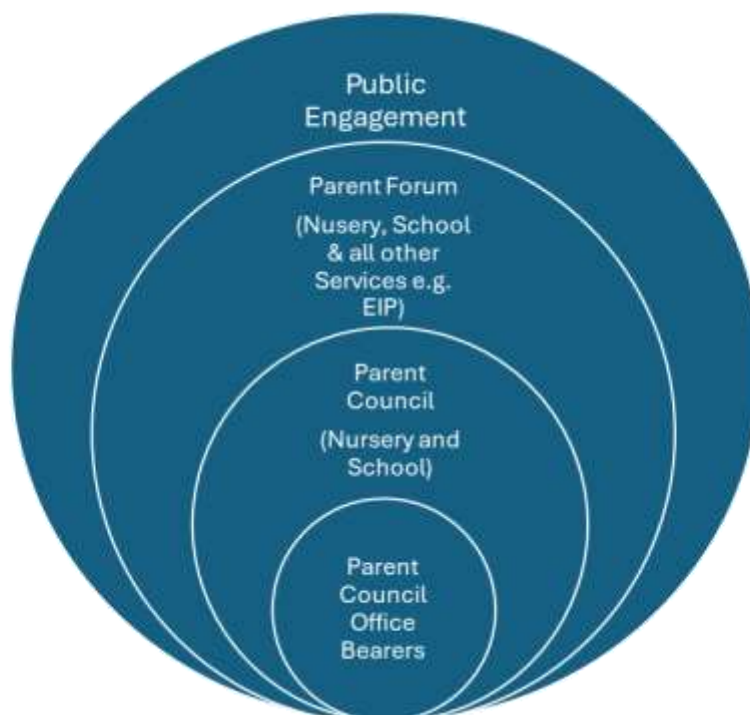
The Team continues to receive strong informal positive feedback from parents and partners.

## Parental Engagement Framework

We believe we should promote parental engagement in all aspects of our service provision, hence we set out to design a parental engagement framework that is inclusive and can support engagement in all aspects of our services. It is our view that this will enrich our service provision through feedback and active user involvement in development of services.

The Parent Council represents the views of the parents of children attending the nursery and school and advise the Centre Leadership Team and the Board on school matters and where appropriate, wider developments and programmes that the Centre offers. The Council, working with the broader Parent Forum (parents of all children engaged with the Centre), also has the opportunity to support and/or lead events, activities, fundraising and wider enrichment of the Centre's functions.

The Centre has also engaged beyond the Parent Forum with parents of children who may benefit from services the Centre offers, e.g. engagement with parents throughout Scotland in relation to developing our report on the provision of Early Learning and Childcare.



**Parental Engagement Framework**



## **Pupil Participation and Pupil Council**

We are delighted to have received our Bronze Rights Respecting School award and are working towards achieving our silver award. Staff have undertaken UNCRC training and we aim to establish a pupil council in term 1 this year, leading to the establishment of an ECO council and Motor Activity Training Programme council later in the year. Each of these councils will give the opportunity for pupils to share their thoughts and opinions and inform activities.

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly report and for your continued support.

*Lesley Anne Vannan*

Chair, The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments





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