

*Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis
An Slag Buidhe
Inbhir Nis
IV2 6BA*



*Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir
Nis
Slackbuie
Inverness
IV2 6BA*

A Phàrant Chòir

Fàilte oirbh gu Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis! We welcome your child to Highland Council's first dedicated, purpose-built Gaelic school and hope that he/she will be happy and enjoy his/her time with us.

In Gaelic medium education we aim to give your child access to a rich and thriving culture and also to develop your child's cognitive abilities and provide another window on the world through second language learning. One of the prime purposes of education is to make our young people aware of the values on which Scottish society is based. Young people therefore need to learn about and develop these values. The curriculum is an important means through which this personal development should be encouraged. Each pupil has a different personality, some are naturally outgoing, some shy, some are leaders, others followers and different children progress at different rates. Therefore, we aim to see children as individuals and strive towards providing a range of activities at which they can succeed. This is done through focusing classroom practice on the child and around the four capacities of A Curriculum for Excellence, so that we aim to develop successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The following pages only give a brief outline of what we seek to achieve. However, we encourage you to contact us at the earliest, through the school office (Telephone: 01463 725 980), if you wish to visit the school, receive any further details or to discuss any concerns which you may have about your child's education. Alternatively, you can visit our website at bunsgoilghaidhliginbhirnis.wordpress.com/ where our school information is updated on a regular basis.

We aim to work in partnership with you, so that your child may reach his/her fullest potential at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.

Le deagh dhùrachd/ Yours sincerely

Ms Annika Jansson
Ceannard san Eadar-ama/ Acting Head Teacher

CLÀR-INNSE/ Contents

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Leirsinn/ Our vision, values and aims *Cunntas Barantais/ Mission Statement*

Ann an coimhearsnachd Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, tha sinn a' cur meas air a h-uile neach le bhith mothachail air am feuman fa leth a thaobh na Gàidhlig, ann an àrainneachd thaiceil. Tha sinn modhail, cothromach agus deònach èisteachd, agus a' cur air adhart feallsanachd far a bheil luach air a h-uile neach.

In the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis community, we treat everyone with respect by being sensitive to individual Gaelic language needs in a positive and welcoming environment. We are polite, fair and willing to listen, encouraging an ethos where each stakeholder is valued

The aims of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis are to:

- Develop a caring, secure and stimulating school community where everyone is **valued**
- Create a climate of **Gaelic language, culture and identity**
- Celebrate **achievement** and personal success
- Equip our children to become **healthy, happy and life long learners**
- Provide high quality **teaching and learning** experiences that promote active learning
- **Engage actively** with the Local and Gaelic communities

Date of last review of aims: August 2010. Review date: August 2012

Aims developed by, and shared with, staff, pupils and parents

AN SGOIL/ The School

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, part of the Council's PPP schools building programme, was completed in May 2007 and opened for pupils in August 2007. An additional two classrooms were completed in August 2010. The building, with nine classrooms and associated communal space has been designed for a maximum roll of 200 pupils, with the nursery area accommodating 30 children at each session. The school hall with its theatre style seating and adjoining recording studio is multi-purpose and is available for community use. The car park and drop-off point has been designed to ensure the safe free flow of traffic. A specific feature of the school is a Community room which can be accessed by parents in the course of the school day, in order to facilitate their own learning. The building was officially opened on 11th January 2008 by The Right Honourable Alex Salmond MP MSP, First Minister of Scotland.

The roll in the current session (January 2012) is 155 children in Classes 1 to 7, accommodated at present in six of the nine available classrooms with a further 70 three and four year old children registered for sgoil-àraich provision. The increased demand for pre-school provision, coupled with wrap-around childcare, has resulted in the allocation of one of the existing classrooms to provide an additional morning nursery session from February 2008.

BRACAIST/CLUB AN DÈIDH NA SGOILE/ Breakfast /After School Care

The school is part of the Highland Council's wrap-around childcare scheme, with parents being able to use this facility weekdays from 8.05 am until 5.45 pm.

Breakfast Club is available from Monday ~ Friday 8.05 am ~ 9.15 am.

Out of School Care is available from after school to 5.45 pm.

Please note these provisions are run in term time only.

The children attending the out of school club will be in together with the wrap-around care children in the large bright nursery room where they will experience a range of activities suitable to their age and interests. Further information is contained in a separate leaflet available on request from the school.

LUCHD-OBRACH /Staff (2011-2012)

Ms Annika Jansson	Ceannard san Eadar-ama
Mrs Lena Walker	Iar-cheannard san Eadar-ama
Ms M MacKenzie	Tidsear Clas 1
Mrs M Thomson	Tidsear Clas 1/2
Mrs Mrs K MacVicar	Tidsear Clas 2/3
Mr E Kelly	Tidsearan Clas 3
Mrs L Smith	Tidsearan Clas 4
Mrs J MacIver Boag	Tidsearan Clas 5/6
Mrs M Sadler	Tidsearan Clas 6/7
Mrs N Meredith	Tidsear Taic-ionnsachaidh/ <i>Learning Support Teacher</i>
Mrs M Davidson	Taic-ionnsachaidh./ <i>Learning Support Assistant</i>
Mrs A MacLaren	Neach-taic teagaisg/ <i>Classroom Assistant</i>
Mrs MA MacLeod	Neach-taic teagaisg/ <i>Classroom Assistant</i>
Mrs M Davidson	Bàn-chleireach/school secretary
Mrs P MacDonald	Bàn-chleireach/school secretary

Sgoil-àraich/cùram cloinne/Nursery/child-care:-

Ms A M MacDonald	Neach-obrach/ <i>Nursery Assistant</i>
Miss S MacAskill	Neach-obrach / <i>Nursery Assistant</i>
Mrs R Bain	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>
Mrs T MacKintosh	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>
Mrs N Fraser	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>
Mrs F MacKenzie	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>
Miss F Smith	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>
Mrs F Gleeson	Neach-taic/ <i>Nursery Auxiliary</i>

Luchd-tadhail/ Visiting tutors

Mr R Lusher	Neach-ciuil/ <i>Strings tutor</i>
Ms L Hay	Pìobaire/ <i>Piping Tutor</i>

Cidsin/ School Kitchen

Mrs F MacKenzie	Còcaire/ <i>Cook</i>
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Morrisons Facilities

Mr K Lyall	Dorsair/ <i>Facilities Management Assistant</i>
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COMHAIRLE NAN SGOILEARAN/*Pupil Involvement*

Our Pupil Council is an ideal opportunity for pupils to be involved in the way our school is run and gives pupils the opportunity to develop skills such as confidence, communication and negotiation. Our Council benefits the whole school. It provides the opportunity for pupils to communicate their feelings to teachers and staff as well as influence decisions that are made.

In addition to having an active Pupil Council, the other systems which include pupil involvement are Pupil monitors, Peer Mediators, Buddies, as well as the school's Eco-committee. Pupils believe that these systems have given them a voice and more responsibility. Achievements are recognised via the awarding of certificates and working towards Gold Card status. A house system is also in operation within the school which encourages team working, with a trophy (donated by the Highland Council's Gaelic Committee to commemorate the opening of the school) presented to the winning team at the end of each school session. This helps the pupils to support and to promote the school rules. The Gaelic Society have donated a Quaich to encourage pupils to use the language in social situations in class and this cup is presented to individual pupils at weekly assemblies.

COMHAIRLE NAM PÀRANT / *Parent Council*

The following are the parent members of Pàrantan BSGI 2011-12:-

Mrs M MacDonald - Chairperson
Mrs F MacKenzie - Secretary
Mrs F MacKinnon - Treasurer
Mrs J Sutherland
Mrs F MacKinnon
Mrs F MacKenzie
Ms C MacNeill

LATHA NA SGOILE / THE SCHOOL DAY

Pupils	School Opens	Morning Interval	Lunch Interval	School Closes
Primary 1-3	9.15 am	11.00 - 11.15 am	12.30-1.30pm	3 pm
Primary 4-7	9.15 am	11.00 - 11.15 am	1 pm -1.45 pm	3.15pm

Parents should note that the Authority does not provide separate transport to take account of later start/earlier closure for infants.

CLÀRADH/Enrolment

Infants join the school in August each year, but enrolment usually takes place in January/February on a date notified by local press advertisement to parents of prospective pupils who are resident within the school area.

In May/June, all children who have enrolled at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir will be given opportunities to be part of a typical morning/afternoon in Primary One. Parents of new entrants will be invited to the school where they will meet with relevant staff, see the school and share a talk about our school/class organisation.

Parents and New Entrants to nursery will also be invited to meet the staff and have an informal play session in prior to beginning the nursery.

Homework is given out in each class and is to be completed by the end of the week. A variety of tasks are set for the pupils. An after school homework club to support children in Gaelic is in operation.

There are also a range of extra curricular activities available including Athletics, Cross Country, Football, Shinty, Highland Dancing and Singing.

General

Children who gain most from their education are those whose parents support their efforts along the way. By doing this they encourage the correct attitude to school and work together with the teacher for the benefit of each child. Statistics inform us that 87% of a child's education is influenced by the home.

A CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Putting Curriculum for Excellence into practice is not a once-and-for-all task but a continuing process.

The Curriculum proposes that expectations for learning within the curriculum areas should be gathered under these headings:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Technologies

Curricular areas, interdisciplinary studies, the life of the school and community, and opportunities for personal achievement will all develop pupils' capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Our curriculum will be dynamic, take account of innovation and be flexible enough to meet the needs of all learners.

Our curriculum will have a clear rationale based on shared values. It will be designed to promote challenge, enjoyment, breadth and depth, progression, relevance, coherence, personalisation and choice in learning for all pupils. Our curriculum will take account of local circumstances and of local and national advice. It will leave scope for teams and individual teachers to introduce well-considered innovations to meet the needs of all learners.

We will be developing and reviewing our curriculum on a regular basis, involving all staff in the process and taking account of the views of our learners and parents.. We will plan carefully, and in consultation with stakeholders, in making curriculum innovations, adaptations to meet the needs of learners, and opportunities for choice and, where appropriate, for specialisation.

Cànan / Languages and Literacy

Language is the key to children's learning. It is through language children learn many of their skills and acquire much of their knowledge. Therefore, from Nursery to P7, great emphasis is placed on the four main components of language - the skills of listening, talking reading, and writing. Children learn to understand and to speak Gaelic through being spoken to in Gaelic and through language activities such as singing, games, role-play and listening to stories. This is called the immersion period. Once they have achieved a good understanding of Gaelic, pupils begin to learn to read and to write in Gaelic.

The school follows the Highland Council programme for French in the upper stages.

Matamataics/Mathematics and Numeracy

Mathematics includes specific aspects of numeracy which will be developed both in mathematics and through activities in other areas of the curriculum. Whenever possible maths work is contextualised and designed to meet the needs of pupils. Interactive mental maths, practical activity, investigation, games and problem solving and enquiry should be key features of maths taught in all classes.

Saidheans/Sciences

The most important goal for science education is to stimulate, nurture and sustain the curiosity, wonder and questioning of children and young people.

Young children have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity and are active and eager learners endeavouring to make sense of the world. They develop ideas through play, investigation, first-hand experience and discussion. As they grow older children ask searching questions based on their everyday observations and experiences of living things, the environment and the materials, objects and devices they interact with. Young people are fascinated by new discoveries and technologies and become increasingly aware of, and passionate about, the impact of science on their own health and wellbeing, the health of society and of the environment.

Eòlas Àrainneachd/ Social Studies

It is important for children and young people to understand the place where they live and the heritage of their family and community. Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances, and how their environment has been shaped. They learn about human achievements and to make sense of changes in society, conflicts and environmental issues. With greater understanding comes the opportunity to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship.

Health and wellbeing can be encouraged through the whole school's approach to health promotion - physical activity and nutrition. We have health-promoting school's infrastructure in place and are providing an enhanced framework of support in working through the accreditation process within the 2nd edition of the toolkit which focuses on impact, self-evaluation and a community approach.

Technologies

This curriculum area includes creative, practical and work-related experiences and outcomes in craft, design, engineering, graphics, food, textile, and information technologies.

All staff make use of ICT to enrich teaching and support and motivate learning. The new school is equipped with all the latest technology and information technology is used to deliver the curriculum, with classrooms all having the use of interactive whiteboards, wireless kit and "airliner tablets" which all aid collaborative learning and whole-class lessons.

Ealain/ Expressive Arts

The expressive arts include experiences and outcomes in art and design, drama, dance and music. A child's physical development is as important as his/her mental development and through our PE and Sports we provide opportunities to encourage good co-ordination, teamwork, sportsmanship and a sense of wellbeing and health. Pupils receive opportunities to take part in music initiatives and take advantage of chanter/pipes and stringed instrument instruction. Brass and strings instruction is offered after an aptitude test. The Fèis Rois music group works with our Primary 5 pupils on traditional Scottish songs and culture and Codaly lessons are given to P4 pupils.

Foghlam Creideamh / Religious and Moral Education

Religious and Moral Education includes learning about Christianity and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values. It also includes aspects of philosophical enquiry. Children will experience religious and moral education through the perspective of the school's faith community.

The curriculum for RME is aimed at developing an understanding and respect for faiths, as this is an inter-denominational school. Our programme is supported by visits from Gaelic speaking clergy. A weekly assembly is held for all pupils. Appropriate moral values and a sense of individual and collective responsibility is encouraged and developed. Activities in this area help pupils to appreciate values such as honesty, fairness, respect for others and to develop a personal code of behaviour. Parents may request exemption from RME for their children.

CROSS - CUTTING THEMES AND INTER - DISCIPLINARY STUDIES

In aiming to provide a dynamic and engaging curriculum staff have been incorporating cross -cutting themes whenever possible and appropriate. Examples of these are health and well being, enterprise, sustainability, citizenship and culture and heritage.

We are Health Promoting School and have achieved our first green flag as an Eco School.

The school's new approaches to interdisciplinary working will have a clear focus on health and well being and education for sustainability. As part of our commitment to health and well being, all classes will participate in a minimum of two hours of physical activity each week.

Our curriculum should enable all learners to benefit from their education, supporting them in different ways to reach their potential. We aim to provide a range of experiences that promote active learning by making learners think. It must enable all of our pupils to build up a strong foundation of knowledge and promote a commitment to considered judgment and ethical action.

Our aspiration is for all of our children to develop their capabilities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES
MEASADH, CLÀRADH AGUS PÀIRTEACHADH

Assessment is the means of collecting information which allows teachers, pupils and parents to form a fairly accurate picture of what a child is actually achieving in relation to expectations of achievement. Conclusions for next step teaching will be drawn from this comparison. Teachers assess progress in a number of ways. These include watching pupils work, discussing their work with them, engaging them in dialogue regarding their Personal Learning Plans as well as setting special tasks.

Reports on pupils' progress are an important part of communication between home and school. Formal parent contacts are as follows:

Term 1:	Meet the teacher open afternoon.
Term 2 and 3:	Formal 1-1 parent/teacher meeting.
Term 4:	Open afternoon End of session formal report.

This report will describe your child's general progress and the next steps in learning.

The formal parents' meetings allow parents to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. In addition parents are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school to discuss any matter which is causing them concern.

If your child is experiencing learning difficulties it is important that he/she gets help as early as possible. In most cases your child will receive help from the school's support staff. However in certain cases the school may ask your permission for the involvement and independent assessment of your child by the educational psychologist. Parents are included in the target setting and review process.

During a formal assessment, a full description will be given of your child's educational needs. You have a right to be involved in the assessment at all stages. If, after assessment the authority believes your child has considerable needs, the authority will draw up a document called a "Co-ordinated Support Plan " for your child. This sets out the help your child should have.

DÁIMH RI PÁRANTAN / PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

The school values parental co-operation and support, and we shall strive to continue strengthening relationships with parents by involving them as fully as possible in school life. We welcome contact with parents and as well as the "traditional" parents' meeting, meetings are also held to explain what and how children learn at school. Parents may ask for an appointment to consult with teachers or promoted staff. Please try to make an appointment in advance (Tel: 725980). Workshops are organised for parents with children on areas such as Numeracy, Literacy, Nursery and Early years.

We appreciate the support given by our Parent Council, plus the input by our parent helpers who assist us with extra curricular activities, school trips and practical activities during the school day.

Possibly the most important thing a parent can do is take an active interest in their child's progress at school by encouraging hard work and by stressing that what is learned at school is useful and relevant. Termly Overview Grids will be issued to parents at the beginning of each term. The grids will outline what is to be taught during the term in all areas of the curriculum.

On the whole, homework will consist of re-enforcing work which has already been done in school.

FRITHEALADH / ATTENDANCE

Children are expected to be on time for school and if they are persistently late this will be recorded. Attendance at school is a legal requirement. If attendance is unsatisfactory we will contact the parents. If it does not improve, and we feel it should, then we can refer the case to the Area Education Office and ultimately to the reporter to the children's panel.

So that both school and parents are aware at all times of the whereabouts of the children, parents must inform the school office by 10am each day when a child is to be off school.

Parents must put all requests for leave of absence, such as for holidays during term time, to the Head Teacher in writing, giving full information of the exact date, time and reason for absence.

TINNEAS TRON LATHA/Illness during the school day

If pupils feel ill in school, or are hurt at breaktime, we will contact the parents immediately. If a pupil appears to require urgent medical treatment and we fail to contact the parent on emergency number we will take the pupil to Raigmore Hospital Casualty Dept. Someone from school will accompany the child and the office will continue attempting to contact the parents. It is, therefore, very important that parents keep the school informed of their emergency contact details.

A'BROSACHADH MODH MATH / PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

All children are encouraged to behave responsibly, to treat adults and other children with respect and to take a pride in themselves and their school surroundings.

Problems are talked through with pupils, and children are helped to:

- Listen to each other
- Explain how their action has affected others and made others feel bad
- Accept responsibility for the action they took
- Recognise that if they had done something differently, the outcome may have been different
- Next time, take a different action that will help the situation.

Children are rewarded for good behaviour with a variety of awards including House Points, stamps and stickers, certificates and Yellow cards/Gold cards. Special achievements are celebrated at Assemblies where certificates and Gold Cards are awarded and House Points are shared with the whole school weekly on the plasma screen in the foyer. If a child is having difficulty managing behaviour or following the School Rules, the school has a policy on promoting positive behaviour designed to support the child. It is important that the parents are kept informed of how their child is doing in school.

POILEASaidh AIR BURRAIDHEACHD / ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is "any deliberate, repeated behaviour which uses power to frighten, hurt or cause unhappiness in others".

If bullying is reported, the bully needs to know clearly that the behaviour is unacceptable. As well as showing displeasure, the adults involved (parents and staff)

should work with the bully discussing alternative ways of behaving. All incidents of bullying are recorded in an Incident Log. Parents should inform the school immediately if they become aware of any incidents that they think may be of a bullying nature. Children are encouraged to inform and discuss any worries or problems relating to this with the class teacher, or an adult that they trust, as soon as possible.

AODACH SGOILE/School Uniform

We strongly promote the wearing of school uniform and welcome the support for our dress code by parents. Many different suggestions were put forward through the consultation with children and parents and taking recognition of this, the colours dark green and purple were chosen. Children submitted various designs and a stylised thistle was chosen as the school logo. The proverb "an t-ionnsachadh òg an t-ionnsachadh bòidheach" (young learning is lovely (effective) learning) has been adopted as the school's motto. Items which make up the uniform are listed below.

Sweatshirts, polo shirts, fleeces, reversible jackets and hats, all with the school logo, may be ordered at the school office.

Girls

Black/Grey skirt/trousers
Purple Polo shirt
Green sweatshirt
Green fleece
Purple/Green Reversible jacket

Boys

Black/Grey trousers
Purple polo shirt
Green sweatshirt
Green fleece
Purple/Green Reversible jacket

All uniforms can be ordered from and collected at the school. Details of prices and sizes are available on the school uniform order form which can be obtained from the school office. In order to protect the building, all children should be provided with a pair of indoor shoes (such as plimsoles or trainers) which should remain in school. It is recommended that younger children are provided with velcro fastening or slip-on shoes, to avoid the difficulty of tying shoelaces.

AODACH CLEASACHD/Gym Kit

The following wear is compulsory for gym: -

- Girls - Gym shorts, purple polo or t- shirt, gym shoes
- Boys - Gym shorts, purple polo or t- shirt, gym shoes
- Shoes - Light gym shoes (which should be left in school and used as indoor shoes)

On health and safety grounds, the wearing of earrings or any piercings for PE is forbidden. Tracksuits are not part of the school uniform. Appropriate gym shoes could be left in school during term-time and also used as indoor footwear (see above).

RUDAN LUACHMHOR/ VALUABLES

Pupils are responsible at all times for their own valuables, including jewellery. Staff cannot ensure safekeeping especially at PE. Money should never be left in bags or pockets where they are left unattended. Please note that the use of mobile phones is not permitted within the school environment. Parents wishing children to have access to a mobile phone after school should be aware that mobile phones must be handed in to the class teacher at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the school day.

DÌNNEIREAN SGOILE/School Meals

School lunch costs £1.75 per day and payment for the week (or month/term) will be collected in advance by canteen staff on the first day of each week. The application form for Free Meals & Clothing grant for the forthcoming academic year is available on-line or from the school office.

BOCSAICHEAN BIDHE/UISGE/Lunch-boxes/Chilled Water

In order that certain standards of health, hygiene and safety are maintained, the following recommendations have been issued by the Authority:

1. All food must be carried in a semi-rigid container with a secure lid, e.g. Tupperware, ice-cream container or similar. Containers and lids should be clearly marked with the name of the pupil.
2. Glass bottles or containers are not permitted under the Health & Safety Regulations.
3. Vacuum flasks containing hot liquid are not permitted because of the danger of scalding.
4. Aerated drinks in cans or bottles are not permissible because of the obvious dangers these present.
5. **Packed meals must be consumed in the dining area.**

Chilled drinking water is available at the school and all children should bring their own water bottle which can be filled daily. Canteen staff will wash the bottles weekly on a Friday but children can also take their water bottles home each evening in order to get them washed if preferred.

Although Inverness Royal Academy is the recommended secondary school for Gaelic medium pupils, you, as parents, are at liberty to opt for the Secondary School of your choice, with certain conditions. Official letters regarding transfer arrangements are sent to each family in January.

Local Secondary Schools:

School	Rector	Telephone
Inverness Royal Academy	Mr A Mckinlay	01463 222884
Charleston Academy	Mr C O'Neill	01463 234324
Culloden Academy	Mr S Dowds	01463 790851
Inverness High	Mr R Cunningham	01463 233586
Millburn Academy	Mrs D Thornton	01463 233573

Arrangements for Transfer:

1. A transfer record is sent to the receiving Secondary School.
2. A Liaison meeting is held between the Primary and Secondary teachers.
3. The S1 Guidance Teachers visit Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis
4. The pupils themselves are invited to visit the relevant Secondary School.
5. Children with learning difficulties are seen in advance by the Secondary Support for Learning teachers.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS / AS DEIDH NA SGOILE

COMATAIDH RIANACHD/ Management Committee

The Hall, Community Room and various classrooms are available for let outside school hours and the school has become a focus for groups from the Inverness Gaelic community. A management committee which looks at the school's community aspects, including letting of premises meets regularly and is serviced at present by Dolina Grant, ECS Community Learning and Development Officer who is based at the school. It is hoped to extend the input from Community Learning and Leisure to further develop community aspect of the school in accordance with the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

**MIOSACHAN NA BLIADHNA 2011-2012/
SCHOOL CALENDAR SESSIONS 2011-2012**

The following table lists the term dates for year 2011-2012

Open	Close
Monday 15 August 2011 (Staff Only)	
Tuesday 16 August 2011 (Pupils)	
Monday 24 October 2011 (Staff Only)	Friday 7 October 2011
Tuesday 25 October 2011 (Pupils)	Thursday 22 December 2011
Monday 9 January 2012	Friday 30 March 2012
Tuesday 17 April 2012	Friday 29 June 2012

Notes:

1. Holidays are Good Friday (6 April 2012), Easter Monday (9 April 2012), May Day - Monday (7 May 2012).
2. 2 Days Casual Holiday - Monday 13 February and Tuesday 14 February 2012.
3. The School calendar for year 2011/2012 can be downloaded as a pdf file from the Current Documents section on the right.

Regional Closures

- The first day back after summer - Monday 15 August 2011
- The first day back after October break - Monday 24 October 2011
- Three days following the February mid-term break - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 15, 16, and 17 February 2012

DROCH SHÌDE / Adverse Weather - Winter Weather Details

**BUN-SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG INBHÌR NIS
SEIRBHEIS FIOSRACHADH FÒN - TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE
STIÙIREADH DO PHÀRANTAN - GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

Schools now have a dial-in service if there is a risk of closure due to adverse weather. This allows parents to listen to a recorded message from the Head Teacher.

When severe weather warnings are received we will endeavour to keep the system updated. It is an enhancement to the present service and does not replace existing methods of giving out information, such as radio broadcasts, described in the schools Adverse Weather Guidelines.

There are other features of this services which may be available and are described below. (Note that this is an 0870 service and charges are slightly higher than normal.) However there is no queuing and an adverse weather call should last less than 1 minute.)

How to use the service

- Dial Highland Council's access number - 0870 054 6999
- Now enter your own school's pin number 04 3280
You have 2 attempts to enter the pin number and you will be disconnected after a second failed attempt. If this happens, check the number and redial. If you still have a problem check with your school.
- You will now hear the school's name. Ensure that this is correct before going on.
- You will now be taken to the MAIN MENU where you will be given 4 options:

Press 1 to hear you school's message about the adverse weather for example whether or not the school is to close or if transport arrangements have been affected.

Press 4 to enter the pin number for another school within the authority. Parents may have children who attend different schools. This option allows you to move from one school's messaging service to another without having to dial in again.

USING OTHER FEATURES

Press 2 to send the school a NON-URGENT message. We do not encourage parents to use this service. Do Not leave an urgent message as the school cannot guarantee to pick up the message soon enough for action. For urgent messages, speak to someone directly.

Press 3 to hear general information messages

The school may use this as an additional way of informing parents about school events, eg buses returning from trips. Parents may hear up to ten messages with the most recent played first.

For pupils using school transport

- Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and
- the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal "pick-up" time.
- Parents should note differences between **contract** vehicles and **public service** vehicles. Drivers of **contract** vehicles are advised not to drop off children where there is any doubt that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. Drivers of **public service** vehicles must travel their normal routes and cannot make special provision for the individual pupils.
- Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at "drop-off" points, they should contact the school as early as possible.

When weather conditions are poor, parents should arrange to have children met at the "drop-off" point, especially where public service transport is used.

The Education, Culture & Sport Service, also has a winter weather website, which parents can consult from home in order to access school closure information. There are links to the website on both the Highland Council and the Highland Virtual Learning Community Websites. You can access the winter weather website at the following web address:- www.winter.highlandschools.org.uk Please click on the relevant geographical area for local school closure information.

The winter weather website allows parents to access school closure information on the internet, thus reducing pressure on the very heavily used PIN number system. However Please note that the schools will continue to update the Pin number facility as well as the new website; please see over. Our aim is to provide clear, unambiguous information to parents with regard to school closure s during periods of adverse weather. I would therefore encourage you to use either the PIN number system or

the new winter weather website in this expanded winter weather information system. Please also remember that the local radio stations shown below will continue to provide regular winter weather updates with regard to school closures.

BBB Radio nan Gaidheal

6.55am - 7.00am 7.50pm - 8.00pm

12.55pm - 1.00pm 4.55pm - 5.00pm

Moray Firth Radio

Normally hourly news bulletins-and half-hourly summaries will carry local information on weather, roads and conditions affecting schools. In severe conditions normal programmes will be interrupted more frequently to carry emergency bulletins. **Please do not telephone local Radio for advice but listen to appropriate broadcasts.**

Wherever possible a decision on school closure will be made by 8.00am but please bear in mind that staff are also travelling in to work in order to make that decision.

Finally, please remember that it is ultimately the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Education Authority encourages full attendance at school, but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important. Parents should therefore continue to use good judgement in deciding whether it is safe to send a child to school.