

"Working together to inspire learning and achievement in Highland Communities"



Standards and Quality Report: Altnaharra Primary School
The Highland Council
Education, Culture and Sport Service
Northern Area

Session 2011/2012

Our school vision and values

At Altnaharra Primary, we respect each other and value everyone's contribution and individual qualities. Everybody is included within our school and we welcome and value working alongside the wider community. Our aim is to move forward in a positive way, striving to do the best we can and encouraging innovation and enthusiasm in our learners along the way.

Our clear vision and values encompass our aims which are to:

- *To have a safe place to learn, where we follow the Golden Rules.*
- *To think well of others, in the school and in our community.*
- *To look after our environment by recycling, keeping our environment tidy, composting, saving energy and thinking of ways to care for our world.*
- *To include parents or cares in all school activities both in and outside school.*
- *To meet with other schools and to interact with them for both social and educational activities.*
- *To care for all pupils in our school, no matter what their gender, ability or race.*
- *To offer a well rounded curriculum where the pupils can learn how to use skills and develop knowledge.*

Our Key Strengths

- Our ability to focus effectively on each individual pupil
- Pupils continue to achieve or exceed appropriate levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Our commitment to continue to deliver and develop high quality learning and social experiences for all our pupils within contexts which are challenging, enjoyable and enterprising.
- We provide a stimulating environment for all our pupils and promote an ethos of achievement by celebrating success both individually and collectively across the school.
- Our commitment to offering our pupils opportunities to become more aware of what it means to be healthy and live an active life.
- Our continued commitment to the protection of our environment through our Eco Schools topic leading to our Silver status.

Our Priorities For Improvement

Altnaharra Primary

- Continue to develop EAL learning and teaching approaches to meet more effectively the needs of individual learners and to raise attainment.
- Continue to use self-evaluation as a tool for continued school improvement, involving all stakeholders in the process
- Continue to develop aspects of the curriculum (including ICT – GLOW) to widen children's learning experiences and to allow them to take responsibility for their own learning, especially in inclement weather
- Develop assessment strategies across the school through the use of:
 - a) Personal Learning Planning
 - b) Self-evaluation
 - c) Assessment is for learning strategies
 - d) Introduction of Highland Region's standardised tests.

Farr High Associated School Group

- Developing effective transition both socially and academically, between Primary and Secondary cross-curricular activities.
- Sharing standards in assessment

The Core Areas of our Practice

This report summarises the strengths of our school and what needs to improve. We gather this information throughout the year in a variety of ways so we can make sure our report is as accurate as possible. We reflect on the progress we have made with our improvement priorities. We take time to compare what we do with national examples of best practice. We visit each others' classes to share standards in learning and teaching. We look at children and young people's work to see how they are progressing. We make use of a range of data and information including attainment results. We gather the views of children, parents, staff and members of the local community. We use all of this information to arrive at our view of the quality of education we provide.

Improvements through self-evaluation

Our key strengths:

- Staff who are committed to improving our school through self and peer evaluations and activities.
- Sharing good practice in teaching and learning both within our cluster group and wider area.
- Our positive learning environment which promotes working effectively together and individually to evaluate and improve the opportunities we offer our pupils.
- Our staff and pupil involvement in helping design our new curriculum plan.

What we need to work on:

- Continue to involve children in evaluating their own learning and teaching and to discuss appropriately with children performing similar tasks in similar schools using Webcam.
- We need to ensure that staff continue to have more opportunities to undertake effective sharing of good practice both within the school and out with.
- Ensure that pupils are taking more responsibility for self-assessing their own work.
- Continue to adopt rigorous self-evaluation procedures which clearly describe how our actions should impact on our whole school improvement.

Improvements in performance

Our key strengths are:

- Our pupils continue to achieve good attainment in literacy and numeracy with most exceeding expectations.
- We offer many opportunities for wider achievement tending to specialise in individual sports, music, art and drama. Frequently travelling to neighbouring schools to enhance this aspect of the curriculum.
- We celebrate pupil achievements and successes both within and out with the school.
- We focus on and plan effectively transition activities for all transition stages.
- We plan good quality active learning opportunities linked across the subjects. Active learning is well embedded in our work
- Our School improvement Plan is used effectively to direct and drive improvement within the school

What we need to work on:

- To continue to develop systems to share standards and moderate work across our ASG.
- Continue to improve our performance in writing through carefully structured lessons. We need to ensure that writing in context does not mean aspects are omitted.
- Increase the strategies we use to deliver mental maths skills throughout the stages.
- Ensure that pupils are taking more responsibility for their own learning, setting Individual targets for improvement.
- Actively promote the involvement of all parents in their own child's education.
- Develop a more detailed tracking system to ensure that the individual pupil's progress is recorded. Care needs to be taken that aspects are not omitted and that there is shared high expectations of attainment and achievement between staff, pupils and parents.
- Pupil Profiling needs to be developed across the ASG.

Learners' experiences

Our key strengths are:

- Staff are committed to ensuring they deliver high quality learning experiences in an inclusive and safe environment for all pupils.
- All our pupils are motivated, attentive, confident and willing participants in their own learning.
- Our pupils experience a curriculum with a wide variety of active learning opportunities which are imaginative, creative, stimulating and challenging. To achieve this may involve travelling to a larger centre.
- We work closely with our ASG groups to carefully plan exciting and stimulating projects to help facilitate smooth transitions
- We work hard at planning activities which utilise our outdoor learning environment and create social events to which we invite and respond to invitations from neighbouring schools.

What we need to work on:

- Continue to develop cooperative learning throughout the school.
- Continue to develop activities which will develop skills for learning, skills for life, Skills for socialisation and skills for work.
- Encourage our pupils to have more personalisation and choice in their learning and be more aware of their individual learning needs.
- Continue to identify ways in which we can take our learning outdoors, make more use of the natural resources which surround our school and introduce the children to life elsewhere in Sutherland and in Inverness.

Meeting learning needs

Our key strengths are:

- Our tasks and resources are suitably differentiated to meet learning needs
- All pupils needs are well met

What we need to work on:

- Continue to involve pupils in reviewing their own progress and identifying next steps.
- Ensure individual achievement and success is carefully assessed and tracked.
- Develop more ways for pupils to be involved in the peer assessment of their work.

The curriculum

Our key strengths are

- We have individual learning programmes in Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing to ensure that our pupils are covering the appropriate experiences and outcomes within the Curriculum for Excellence, most of these are embedded through cross-curricular work.
- We work closely with colleagues to plan effectively for all key transition stages: Nursery to P1 and P7 to S1. Staff at all stages plan active learning opportunities across our curriculum.
- Our nursery curriculum is based on learning through play, which reflects the pupils' needs and interests.
- Our curriculum is suitably differentiated to meet the individual needs of all pupils.

What we need to work on:

- Continue to ensure that all pupils have more opportunities to learn in social contexts with others
- Parents to be offered opportunities to be involved in designing how our new curriculum should look and take an active role in its implementation.
- Use GLOW and Webcam to enhance our work in all curricular areas.