

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



Standards and Quality Report Tarbat Old Primary School
The Highland Council
Education, Culture and Sport Service
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Area



Session 2011 / 2012

Our school vision and values

Our Vision: Working together in a happy environment to be the best we can be.

At Tarbat Old Primary School we aim to:

- Provide a happy, caring environment where the views and contributions of all stakeholders are valued and acted upon and where all feel welcome
- Provide a challenging and stimulating education in line with Curriculum for Excellence through which all pupils are challenged and given appropriate support
- Recognise and celebrate a wide range of achievements in school and in the wider community to raise children's self esteem and confidence
- Encourage all children to work to the best of their ability and to realise their full potential in all areas of the curriculum
- Work in partnership with parents, the community and other agencies to maximise achievement and attainment for all
- Use a variety of current learning and teaching strategies to take account of the learning styles, talents and needs of every child
- Ensure appropriate continuing professional development and training for all teaching and non teaching staff for the benefit of pupils
- Establish high standards of behaviour and attendance and foster a sense of pride in selves, our school and community by promoting self respect, tolerance for others and equal opportunities

Date of last review of aims: May 2010

Aims and vision developed by Pupil Council, Parent Council and staff and shared with parents and pupils

Our Key Strengths

We are committed to improving our school and consistently evaluate our practice to identify steps for improvement.

Staff work well together within the school and the cluster to take forward improvements.

Most primary pupils are confident and enthusiastic about their learning and work well together.

All nursery pupils are motivated and enthusiastic about their learning.

Pupils' attainment in reading and maths is very good.

Opportunities to develop literacy skills are planned in all subjects giving pupils a real understanding of how and when they can use these skills in their future life and work.

All pupils are well supported to make progress in their learning.

Our Priorities For Improvement

Complete work being carried out to develop and implement new learning, teaching and assessment policy.

Further develop how we assess pupils' learning including: - ensuring that we always share the purpose of learning with pupils as well as how to achieve success; personal learning planning; how we track each individual's attainment to ensure they are all making progress; implementing standardised tests in literacy and numeracy to support our own assessments of pupils' progress.

Provide more opportunities for pupils to learn numeracy skills in other areas of learning e.g. in their topic work.

Improving writing.

Develop opportunities for pupils to have choices in how , what , when and where they learn.

Develop opportunities for pupils to become Global Citizens e.g. develop links with pupils in Africa.

Develop opportunities for pupils to learn out of the classroom.

Share standards of pupils' work in literacy and numeracy across the ASG

Further improve the information we provide on each child as they move from nursery into P1 and from P7 into secondary

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

What we do well:

- We are committed to improving our school.
- We look closely at how we can improve learning for all pupils.
- We work closely with other professionals to help us meet the needs of individual children.
- Staff training focuses on our planned improvements and supports the school in moving forward.
- Staff have very good opportunities to lead areas of improvement in the school e.g. Principal Teacher is leading our project to ensure our pupils develop as global citizens.
- The views of staff, parents and pupils are gathered and are used to plan improvements.
- We clearly identify strengths and areas for improvement and act on these, thus resulting in positive change.

What we need to work on:

- Work with schools within the Tain ASG to share pupils' work in literacy and numeracy so as to reach agreement of common standards across the ASG.
- Further involve pupils in evaluating their learning experience and our teaching.
- Enable nursery staff to participate in visits to other nurseries to share practice.

Improvements in performance

What we do well:

- We have maintained very good attainment in reading and maths.
- We have improved attainment in writing.
- The nursery staff plan very well to meet the needs of individuals.
- We use learning intentions and success criteria to support pupils in truly understanding their learning and therefore to take more responsibility for their learning

What we need to work on:

- Continue to work to raise attainment in writing particularly for boys.
- Further develop opportunities for developing numeracy skills in other areas of the curriculum e.g. weighing in cookery.
- Ensure we always share the purpose of learning with pupils as well as how to achieve success.

Learners' experiences

What we do well:

- Most primary pupils are motivated to learn and are keen to participate in a range of activities.
- All children within the nursery are motivated to learn.
- Pupils are given quality opportunities to be truly involved and active in lessons.
- Pupils are developing the ability to discuss what they are good at and how they can improve.
- We recognise and celebrate the achievements of pupils.
- All pupils are involved in activities which help them to be good citizens of the school and the community.

What we need to work on:

- Continue to improve practice in giving feedback to pupils on their learning that then helps them to improve
- Complete work being carried out on developing new learning, teaching and assessment policy.

Meeting learning needs

What we do well:

- We closely track pupil's progress and learning in maths and more recently have introduced a system to track progress in writing.
- The head teacher and staff hold and record discussions of attainment. Action is identified and taken as and when appropriate.
- We follow the appropriate procedures to meet the needs of individual pupils.
- We use our support staff and other agencies well to meet the needs of individual pupils and groups.

What we need to work on:

- Develop a system to track each pupil's progress in reading
- Involve parents in evaluating learning and setting next steps for their child's learning within the Personal Learning Planning process.

The curriculum

What we do well:

- Staff are working with increasing confidence with the new Scottish curriculum - Curriculum for Excellence
- Our new planning format encourages teachers to make links in learning across the curriculum e.g. linking what children learn in literacy, art, science and geography within a Rainforest topic.
- Curricular policies provide opportunities for staff to be fully aware of what is expected in planning and implementing learning in all classes.
- Pupils and parents are involved in planning topics through the use of mind maps.
- We develop literacy skills effectively in many curriculum areas e.g. developing recording skills through gathering information to send to Muck Primary School
- Most pupils enjoy learning activities and tasks
- Nursery staff make good use of the local area for learning.

What we need to work on:

- Further improve the information we provide on each child as they move from nursery into P1 and from P7 into secondary.
- Continue to implement the new curriculum - Curriculum for Excellence
- Provide more opportunities for pupils to develop as global citizens e.g. through the Connecting Classrooms Project where our pupils will learn about pupils in Malawi and Rwanda.
- Develop opportunities for our primary pupils to learn out of the classroom.