

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



Standards and Quality Report Wick North School
The Highland Council
Education, Culture and Sport Service
CAITHNESS Area



Session 2010/2011

Our school vision and values

The aims of Wick North School are to :

- Create a happy and stimulating environment in which the children can learn
- Encourage the children to develop considerate attitudes and respect for others
- Stimulate the individual's physical, emotional, moral, social, and intellectual growth
- Encourage the confidence and self worth of the individual child
- Foster open communication between children, staff and parents
- Encourage children to become active and responsible citizens by taking more responsibility for their own learning
- Ensure curricular continuity and liaison with associated secondary school with particular reference to the Curriculum for Excellence and to encourage other professional and social links between the two sectors

Our Key Strengths

- High levels of classroom discipline.
- Positive and friendly atmosphere and polite and welcoming children.
- Active Parent Council and wider parent community eg very supportive of fundraising efforts.
- Very good accommodation, facilities and environment for learning.
- Staff who have high expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour.
- Learners' awareness of their achievements and areas for improvement.
- Very positive ethos where pupils are encouraged to achieve in a broad range of activities.
- Close working relationships with parents and strong parental support for school developments.
- Strong links between nursery and school
- Effective transition to High School

Our Priorities For Improvement

- To develop approaches to self-evaluation by reviewing annually the timetable for evaluating and planning the work of the school and by ensuring regular opportunities for sharing practice.
- To improve performance in literacy and numeracy by using our knowledge of the CfE experiences and outcomes to support and challenge pupils at all stages and by further developing sharing standards systems, tracking, profiling and reporting to parents.
- To develop approaches to learning and teaching and assessment across the school through embedding the authority's Learning, Teaching and Assessment policy.
- To better meet pupils' needs by implementing a new behaviour policy and by ensuring appropriate differentiation of all learning activities.
- To develop the curriculum through provision of appropriate programmes in numeracy, literacy and health and well-being and by embedding opportunities for pupils to link their learning e.g. within various key topics which will incorporate activities in literacy, numeracy, social studies and art etc.

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 have consulted pupils on their learning in numeracy and mathematics and their feedback has allowed us to make improvements.
- Teachers have reflected on their approaches to their teaching of maths and numeracy and have made adjustments to their teaching as a result.
- Teachers regularly discuss informally their practice with colleagues and more formally have visited other schools to share teaching approaches and resources

What we need to work on:

- To set an annual timetable at the start of the school year for an ongoing review of the work of the school
- Establishing formal learning partnerships and opportunities for sharing standards at all levels
- Having regular meetings to discuss the work of the school and the impact of developments on learners progress
- Involving all staff in evaluating the work of the school and identifying key areas for development

Improvements in performance

What we do well:

- We use interactive technology and active approaches very effectively in numeracy and mathematics.
- Through Pupil Council, Eco Committee and Junior Road Safety Officers Group learners have the opportunity to contribute to school developments.
- We have encouraged greater involvement of parent volunteers in the work of the school.
- We have achieved the Eco Schools Bronze award in line with Highland Council expectations.
- There has been close liaison between the Parent Council, the head teacher and teaching staff which has resulted in parents supporting school developments

What we need to work on:

- To further develop our numeracy and mathematics learning programmes to clearly show appropriate progression of key skills.
- To take a closer look at languages, reading, and writing and develop a framework for learning and progress.
- To develop a system where we can track each pupil's progress in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being, including the use of standardised testing.
- To pupils' work with colleagues and to keep a record of pupils' learning and achievement.

Learners' experiences

What we do well:

- Learners work effectively in groups and take a responsible attitude to their learning
- Learners have a voice in the school's decision making processes through their participation in various groups and Eco activities where their views are taken into account.
- Learners throughout the school are experiencing more active learning opportunities eg Whizz Maths and computer activities
- Learners are developing a greater sense of environmental awareness and are taking increasing responsibility for

the Eco improvements within their school community as well as the wider local area.

What we need to work on:

- To devise and then implement revised systems for planning learning which ensure learners have access to a broad curriculum.
- To ensure that all members of staff understand the importance of sharing learning intentions and success criteria including support staff and then implement these strategies in their own practice.
- To develop a wider range of learner activities for literacy and English.
- To ensure that all learners increase their environmental awareness and responsibility through their work in sustainable development education

Meeting learning needs

What we do well:

- Staff take advantage of teacher training sessions which are provided within North Primary.
- Staff know learners and their families well and form very supportive relationships with them
- We provide opportunities for learners to take part in enterprise opportunities eg fundraising activities

What we need to work on:

- Review and update the policy for promoting positive behaviour and meeting the needs of all learners.
- Ensure planning takes account of the range of needs and ability levels in each composite class and to identify where challenge is provided for more able learners.
- Establish and plan for pupil participation in school assemblies on a regular basis.

The curriculum

What we do well:

- There is close liaison between members of staff at times of transition e.g. from nursery into P1 and when pupils move from one stage to another
- We have developed our planning, practice and knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence numeracy experiences and outcomes this past year. We have invested in a range of resources to support this.
- We provide a broad curriculum using a wide range of quality resources in school.

What we need to work on:

- Establish partners in learning from the wider community and making greater use of people and the resources out-with the school.
- Update our methods of tracking pupils' attainment and achievement across the curriculum.
- Within our new planning system, include opportunities for pupils to link and use their learning e.g. within various key topics which will incorporate activities in literacy, numeracy, social studies and art etc.
- Review current resources and approaches to languages, reading and writing and to identify where we may need to provide additional resources and develop our teaching.
- Develop programme of learning activities in health and well-being to ensure all pupils make appropriate progress from early to second level.