

Children who will be five on or before 28 February 2027 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1 starting August 2026. Enrolment will take place in the week commencing 26 January 2026.

Which children are automatically admitted to primary school?

Only children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 March 2026 and the last day of February 2027 will automatically be admitted to Primary 1 in August 2026.

What is deferred entry?

If your child's birthday falls between 19 August 2026 and the end of February 2027 (e.g., still 4 years old on the school start date in August 2026) you are entitled to defer entry to primary school. If you believe your child is not ready for school, you should discuss this with your child's Early Learning and Childcare setting. Further information is available in the 'Guidance on being educated out-with the peer group including deferred and early entry to school' available online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol>

When do I enrol my child for school?

If your child is due to start school in August 2026, they should be enrolled at their catchment area primary school. Please complete the online form at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol>.

Local newspaper advertisements issued in January each year provide full details on how to enrol your child.

Which is my catchment school?

Each school has a defined geographical catchment area (except for denominational and some Gaelic Medium schools) and normally your child will attend your local catchment area primary school. School catchment maps are available online, you can search for your nearest schools at https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/678/school_catchment_maps

Can I request a school other than my catchment school?

You may make a placing request for your child to attend a school other than your catchment school. Information on placing requests can be found on the website ... https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2.

It is important, however, that your child is registered at their catchment area school in advance of making a placing request application.

Please note too that if a placing request is granted, transport is the responsibility of parents.



What are the arrangements for starting school?

Primary 1 pupils should attend the full infant day from the start of the school session in August 2026.

Head Teachers will ensure that local arrangements are communicated to parents at the earliest opportunity.

How can I get Additional Support for my child?

Parents who feel that their child may require additional support for learning are advised to contact staff at their child's school in the first instance. Further information can be obtained from the Highland Council's Additional Support Needs webpage:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools -](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/)

[additional support needs/](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/) or from the voluntary organisation **Thriving Families** (Tel: 07514 120288) or website <https://www.thrivingfamilies.org.uk/>

Is School Transport available?

A full statement of the school transport policy is available at

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/12/school_transport or can be requested by emailing: school.transport@highland.gov.uk

If your child will be eligible for free school transport, you should complete the transport section of the online enrolment application at www.highland.gov.uk/enrol.

What School Meals are provided?

The Catering Service offers nutritionally balanced, well-presented food in an environment that is safe, well ordered and sensitive to the needs of pupils in order that they may enjoy the lunchtime social experience. All food and drinks served meet the requirements of The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007. The Catering Service works closely with schools to help emphasise the importance of healthy lifestyles and diet.

Detailed information on the school meals service and nutritional policy can be found at the following links...

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/180/school food nutrition and health policy](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/180/school_food_nutrition_and_health_policy) (update pending)

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals

Special Diets for School Meals for Early Learning, Primary and Secondary Pupils

If your child requires a special diet for school meals, please follow this link to our website

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/specialdiet> . Parents/carers can click on the 'request a special diet for a pupil' box and can progress without an account. If necessary, please provide a packed lunch for your child until your request has been approved by the Special Diets Team, who will contact you directly in due course. Requests normally take 2 weeks to process but may be longer at busier periods. **Please be aware that submitting your request at least 2 months before your child starts in school will result in a quicker response.**

Once submitted the form will go to the special diet team to be approved. The information is then communicated to the catering, Early Years and education staff where appropriate as well as the relevant special diet menu distributed if needed.

If online access is an issue parents/carers can call 01463 644141 to complete the form over the phone

Free School Meals and Assistance with School Clothing

Please make sure your family is not losing out. All pupils in primary 1 to 5 automatically receive Free School Meals but application forms for Assistance with School Clothing can be obtained from any school or Highland Council Service Point, or downloaded from [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools - grants and benefits/10/free school meals and assistance with clothing](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing)

Applications for the next session (2026/27) opens on 1 July 2026.

What is the Parent Council?

All parents are automatically members of their school's Parent Forum – the whole parent body. The Parent Forum can then decide on a smaller group of parents to represent them to the school and to the Education and Learning Service. The Parent Council is also involved in many other activities such as social events, fund-raising, etc.

You can find out more information about the responsibilities and activities of the Parent Council from the Head Teacher. In addition, further information about Parent Councils across the Highlands can be found at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/16/parent_councils.

Review of Information Contained in this Document

This document contains the 'basic information' as required by the Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. We have made every effort to ensure information is accurate, but changes may occur at any time which would affect the accuracy of the detail. The information is reviewed annually, and this document refers to the school year 2026/2027.

AREA EDUCATION AND LEARNING OFFICES

North Area Education and Learning Office

Oifis Foghlaim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre a Tuath

Drummuie

Golspie

Sutherland KW10 6TA

✉: CL.NorthAdmin@highland.gov.uk

Mid Area Education and Learning Office

Oifis Foghlaim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre Meadhain

County Buildings

Dingwall IV15 9QN

✉: cl.adminmid@highland.gov.uk

South Area Education and Learning Office

Oifis Foghlaim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre a Deas

Glenurquhart Road

Inverness IV3 5NX

✉: carelearningadmin@highland.gov.uk

West Area Education and Learning Office

Oifis Foghlaim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre an Iar

Fingal Centre

Viewfield Road

Skye IV51 9ES

✉: CLLochaberAdmin@highland.gov.uk

Bilingualism and Gaelic Medium Education

Dà-chànanas agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

Gaelic Medium Education is acknowledged through practice and research as a way of ensuring that children learn to speak Gaelic and reap the benefits of being bilingual from an early age. It is available to children from both Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking homes. Enrolment to Gaelic Medium Education can take place at Primary 1 stage and in some circumstances at Primary 2, or thereafter, between Gaelic medium primary schools/departments. The Highland Council is a leading Local Authority and amongst the largest providers of Gaelic Medium Education nationally. Gaelic Medium Education represents one of the best means of reversing the decline of Gaelic in the Highlands, especially if it is supported by opportunities for young people to use Gaelic in the home and community. The Council is committed to continuing to develop Gaelic Medium Education in pre-school and primary schools, as well as expanding Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector. The benefits of Gaelic Medium Education and bilingualism are highlighted in the video, 'Fàs Foghlaim', www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic

Gaelic Medium Education is provided in 20 primary schools across the Council area (detailed below). We also continue to develop Gaelic Learning through English Medium Education, through the provision of a Primary Language Learning programme. Gaelic Medium subject teaching and Gaelic language courses, for both fluent speakers and/or learners are offered in a total of 20 secondary schools. The Gaelic Medium Education map on our website (www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education) provides information regarding all provision across the Highlands. In addition, we also provide support for parents and other learners in communities through a coordinated system of adult tuition, including a progressive tuition plan.

If you would like further information on Gaelic, contact your Area Education and Learning Office or e-mail: gaelic@highland.gov.uk

Acharacle Primary School
Broadford Primary School
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh
Bun-Sgoil Shlèite
Craighill Primary School

Dingwall Primary School
Dunvegan Primary School
Gairloch Primary School
Glenurquhart Primary School
Kilmuir Primary School
Lochcarron Primary School
Mallaig Primary School

Millbank Primary School
Mount Pleasant Primary School
Newtonmore Primary School
Plockton Primary School
Staffin Primary School
Ullapool Primary School

