

Standards and Quality Report

2021/22



Bun-sgoil Àth-Tharracail - Acharacle Primary
HIGHLAND COUNCIL | ACHARACLE, PH36 4JU

This report is provided to families and partners to identify our achievements this session. The next steps in our improvement journey are also outlined.

Throughout the year we continuously evaluate what we do and how it makes a difference to our learners. We want to know what is working well for our school community and what needs further improvement.

Our children and young people are actively consulted and involved in this process. We also give staff, parents/carers, and other partners the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities in order to shape our improvement journey.

When we develop our improvement projects we use key questions at planned review times throughout the session in order to know how well we progressing towards achieving these positive outcomes and changes.

Our School

Acharacle Primary School is situated in a most peaceful and scenic setting, with beautiful views of hills, woodlands and Loch Shiel. The school is situated about a quarter of a mile from the main road and serves a wide area, with children travelling considerable distances, from Glenborrodale in the south west and from Roshven and Glenuig to the northeast. Our sustainable building opened in 2009 providing us with fantastic facilities.

We currently have 3 classes. 1 class is taught through the medium of English and 2 through the medium of Gaelic. In Session 21/22, we also had a Gaelic Medium nursery offering 1140 hours of provision.

Tha Bun-Sgoil Àth-Tharracail air a suidheachadh ann an àite sìtheil le seallaidhean àlainn do chnuic, choilltean agus Loch Seile. Tha an sgoil mu chairteal de mhìle bhon rathad mhòr agus tha i a' frithealadh na sgìrean a tha timcheall oirre bho Ghleannborrodal mun iar-dheas gu ruige Rosbheinn agus Gleann Uige mun ear-thuath. Tha sinn uabhasach toilichte gu bheil sinn air gluasad dhan togalach seasmhach seo agus gu bheil sinn a cleachdadh na goireasan miorbhaileach a tha ann.

We had £7045 in Pupil Equity Funding allocation. This was spent on additional PSA support and funding for wider achievement. All identified pupils showed progress in their targeted areas and full participation.

Our school was due to be inspected by Education Scotland in March 2020, but this was postponed due to lockdown.

Alongside significant Covid absence issues, we had ongoing staffing shortages in our GM classes with no applicants for advertised pots. We ensured continuous provision for our pupils through a range of creative solutions.

Our School Vision, Values and Aims

Motivated Pupils Enabled Staff Involved Parents
Perseverance Endeavour Enjoyment Confidence Kindness

Our aims:

- Acharacle will be a safe school where we can grow and learn because we feel wanted, encouraged and excited about learning.
- We have a say in the school – our opinions are listened to.
- Learners will be confident and ask lots of questions.

Perseverance Endeavour Enjoyment Confidence Kindness

- Learners will manage their feelings, be fit and get on well with every kind of person. This will help them enjoy life and reach their goals.
- Parents/carers and staff will work closely together to help children learn.
- We will work well with local groups because we can learn so much from our community.
- We will all value differences in people in our community and our world and show respect for each other.
- Everybody will succeed in their learning and will CELEBRATE achievement.
- We will respect the buildings and belongings of our school and community and take care of our changing world.
- We will keep learning and keep getting better so our learning/school is the best it can be.

Pupil Voice: what is working well in our school?

Our children and young people identified the following strengths for our school this session:

- We get feedback and we know how to improve
- It is a nurturing environment and relationships between staff and pupils are good
- We represent the school in different sports, P7 SHANARRI ambassadors, Buddies, Leading skills club, singing for lunch club, tree planting
- We feel cared about and listened to
- Joining school as new pupils everyone was friendly and welcoming
- No one makes fun of people who need extra help to learn
- All the activities we do as a school are great and staff put in extra effort to make sure they happen e.g., residential trips
- Everyone helps each other in class

Pupil Voice: what changes would you like to see made?

Our children and young people identified the following changes they would like to see and the difference these changes could make:

- Make skills club a more regular feature
- We don't know enough about rights
- Get back to more Gaelic learners and French lessons (1+2)
- Make sure everyone knows about litter and food waste
- Better communication between the classes

Our Improvement Journey Headlines Session 2021/22

These projects are linked to the vision and priorities for Scottish Education based on delivering excellence and equity. Parent/Carer information is available [here](#).

Improvement Project 1:

Primary focus: School and ELC improvement

Year of Project: 2

Purpose:

Our purpose for this project was to address the impact on pupils learning and on the health and wellbeing of all due to the COVID pandemic. Specifically, these were:

- 1) Health and wellbeing post-Covid-19
- 2) Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment (including new opportunities with digital learning revealed by the Covid-19 situation/remote learning)
- 3) Attainment in session 21/22 (focusing on identifying new or widened gaps caused by the Covid-19 situation)

Progress and impact:

Health and Wellbeing:

- Ongoing Health and Wellbeing screening throughout the year to monitor pupils and act on any issues raised ensured pupils were in the right place to learn. Almost all pupils scored very highly.

Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment:

- After initial use of Recovery curriculum, staff were able to return to our curricular progressions but with a primary focus on Literacy and Numeracy. This allowed a quick return to our curricular framework.
- Continued use of play and outdoor learning opportunities to enhance learning allowed for breadth of learning.
- Ability to welcome parents back into the school in the last term allowed us to start rebuilding face to face relationships, although parents highlighted that they were grateful for the variety of online opportunities provided. This will be built on again in 22/23.
- Continued focus on GME language progression from N3 ensured total immersion in the early years. Observations from staff show a high level of language acquisition for the new P1 group.
- Although GM staff shortages proved a challenge, we ensured continuous provision in Gaelic in the infant class through supply cover, online teaching sessions and use of 2 additional GM PSAs. This allowed all pupils to meet or exceed expected targets.
- Although a member of staff left our EM class, Mrs MacGregor increased her hours to ensure no disruption until the post was advertised. This ensured continuity of learning and progress was maintained.

Attainment in session 21/22:

- Attainment data shows almost all pupils meeting or exceeding expected standards
- Wider achievement opportunities were able to restart allowing the broader curriculum that we are so proud of
- Our partnership working was able to be reintroduced and this will continue into next session providing a range of experiences for our pupils

Next steps:

- Raising attainment for all remains our primary focus. Staff will identify priorities within their own classes and use the Teaching Sprints approach to ensure continuous improvement
- Reintroduction of all our parental engagement activities

- We continue to have vacancies in our GM staff team so our ongoing creative approaches to tackle this will continue
- Continued opportunities to develop wider Gaelic for our Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner pupils from N3-P7
- We will revisit Rights Respecting Schools in both nurseries and primary classes
- Continue to reinstate partnership working – nurseries and primary classes
- Return to increased transition activities for P7 in preparation for High School

Improvement Project 2:

Primary focus: Teacher and practitioner professionalism

Year of Project: 2

Purpose:

Continue to develop a shared understanding across the school of the standards and expectations of what is required to achieve a level of Curriculum for Excellence.

Progress and impact:

- We continued to use online solutions to ensure ASG and wider GM Lochaber moderation was able to be ongoing throughout the session. This ensured our achievement of a level data was an accurate reflection of pupil attainment.
- Nursery planning was transferred to Jamboards allowing more efficient recording and pupil interaction and ability to easily share with parents for feedback
- Wider nursery staff group did not take place although staff between Acharacle and Kilchoan shared ideas and resources. This will be further extended in 22/23
- Continued use of assessment strategy and use of data ensured timely interventions and support for pupils as required leading to progress for all pupils
- Staff made use of Benchmarks and Moderation Cycle to ensure informed professional judgement
- Online learning Journals continue to provide an excellent method of tracking progress and ensuring continuous parental engagement. Lack of staffing understandably prevented these being completed as regularly as in previous sessions. We did however further develop pupil engagement

Next steps:

- Work to reintroduce ASG Nursery staff moderation group
- Continue to strive for regular and high quality learning journal observations as staffing levels allow
- As an ASG we have joined the Highland wide Moderation and Assessment project for Session 22-23 which will ensure a wider staff group in both EM and GM

Evaluation of Progress

We believe we have made the following progress this session:

Quality Indicator

School self-evaluation

Leadership of Change **1.3** Very good

2.3 Very good
Learning, teaching and assessment

3.1 Very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion

3.2 Very good
Raising attainment and achievement

Our children and young people believe we have made the following progress this session:

Theme 1 Very good
Our relationships

Theme 2 Very good
Our learning and teaching

Theme 3 Very good
Our school and community

Theme 4 Very good
Our health and wellbeing

Theme 5 Very good
Our successes and achievements

Our overall evaluation of our School's capacity for continuous improvement is:

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

We continue to have staff shortages but feel that we can overcome these barriers and continue to improve

Planning Ahead

Full details of the school's 2022/23 improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan, which can be accessed on our website <https://ardnamurchan.wixsite.com/acharacle-primary> or by contacting the school office.