

Standards and Quality Report

2021/22



Macdiarmid Primary School

HIGHLAND COUNCIL | ISLE OF SKYE

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

Macdiarmid Primary is a rural school located 7 miles from Portree. We currently have a roll of twenty 25 pupils in our primary classes and four pupils in our Nursery.

There is a strong sense of positivity and school community at Macdiarmid. School events are well supported. The school has a committed and active Parent Council.

This year has seen some challenges with our staffing framework. The P4-7 class teacher is currently on maternity leave; cover for this post was patchy at first, with several short-term supply teachers. However, from February, the class has benefitted from the stability of one full-time teacher. The P1-3 class lost their full-time class teacher in February when she became Acting Head Teacher following the previous Head Teacher embarking on a career break and then retiring. The P1-3 class had 3 different teachers across the week from February-June.

In February, the Acting Head Teacher became head of a new tri-cluster: Macdiarmid, Knockbreck and Edinbane Primary Schools.

From January to April, the schools suffered from several outbreaks of Coronavirus, which had a huge impact on attendance and staffing.

Our ethos continues to promote equality and inclusion. We have successfully embedded Deaf awareness within the school with British Sign Language (BSL) being successfully implemented into the P1-3 and Nursery classes. We continue to strive to create a positive, happy, and welcoming school environment.

Our Cluster Vision, Values and Aims



Respect, Effort, Self-Belief, Positivity, Empathy, Creativity, Teamwork

Pupil Voice: what is working well in our school?

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

What is great about Macdiarmid? June 2022



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.

What can we make even better next year?



Macdiarmid June 2022

More books	more outdoor stuff	bigger goals for football
bright playground	more colour	more colour in the bathroms
teddies in little class	fun stuff to do at indoor playtime	plant flowers
grass in the playground	chalk for the playground	Sports equipment
paint the benches	swings	slide
more cushions in the library	equipment for the library	in the dumountble better heating

new stationery	assembly plays with the big class	more people
posters	more things like opera	more art materials
more subjects like science and baking	more basketball	more tech
if you win star of the week you get a cushion for the next week	plant strawberry again	another shelter from rain
improve the school garden	more lego	higher fences for football
more io frog books please	class pet	clay
board games	toy horses	more scipping ropes
painting our art work		

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: Improving Health and Wellbeing for all learners following school closures

Progress and impact:

- ✓ Pupils were trained in a range of programmes to promote wellbeing, resilience and readiness to learn.
- ✓ Weekly virtual assemblies fostered a sense of belonging, created a space to discuss health and wellbeing issues and allowed us to begin to develop vision, values and aims across the cluster.
- ✓ John Muir award topic promoted wellbeing and allowed us to explore our local area and link with local businesses.
- ✓ Whole school topics with a focus on mental health and wellbeing allowed learners to effectively engage in rich discussions and develop efficient coping strategies.
- ✓ Regular outdoor learning sessions improved health and wellbeing.
- ✓ Children's self-evaluations show that almost all pupils felt that their health and wellbeing has improved.

Next steps:

- Continue to develop health and wellbeing as a core area of the curriculum in line with standard school planning of learning and teaching.

Improvement Project 2:

Primary focus: Curriculum and assessment

Year of Project: 2

Purpose: *Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment following school closures*

Progress and impact:

- ✓ Recovery curriculum has been implemented in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing and data shows that the majority of our learners have made good progress towards their next CfE level.
- ✓ Interdisciplinary learning is in place and has increased pupil motivation and confidence and evidence that skills for life learning and work are being developed is clear in planning documents.
- ✓ All learners are benefitting from a structured, progressive framework for numeracy with teachers using the SHM maths scheme to plan quality learning and teaching.
- ✓ All pupils took part in assessments across core curricular areas to ascertain next steps in learning.
- ✓ SNSA assessments for P4 and P7 were carried out early to ensure the assessment data was useful in planning targeted next steps for learners.
- ✓ Flexible pathways are in place for learners to ensure support and challenge, and to meet individual needs.
- ✓ Reading resources have been increased.
- ✓ We have made good progress in this area, despite huge disruptions to staffing and attendance due to the pandemic.

Next steps:

- Continue to develop planning and assessment across numeracy.
- Standardise planning across the cluster for core curricular areas.
- Develop use of numeracy assessments across the cluster.
- Continue to develop learning conversations to allow pupils to have greater ownership over their learning.

Improvement Project 3:

Primary focus: Parent/carer involvement and engagement

Year of Project: 2

Purpose: *Increase parental engagement*

Progress and impact:

- ✓ *Quality Assessment Tasks have been used across the cluster to deliver quality learning and teaching and provide the basis for valuable learning conversations.*
- ✓ *Virtual Parents' evenings were held across the cluster with almost all parents attending.*
- ✓ *As restrictions eased, parents were finally invited into schools for an Open Afternoon to share their children's learning. Feedback confirmed that all parents found this valuable.*
- ✓ *Teachers use benchmarks in their continuums to track learner's progress and ensure full coverage of the core areas of the curriculum. Data shows that the majority of our learners are attaining the expected level for their age.*

- ✓ *Interdisciplinary learning has been used to track learning across the recovery curriculum and beyond.*
- ✓ *Chrome tabs were purchased to enable staff to develop digital profiling.*
- ✓ *Nursery classes made good use of social media groups to share learning with parents.*
- ✓ *Primary classes continue to use Class Dojo to keep parents informed about learning and updated on targets and next steps.*

Next steps:

- Further improve digital profiling by creating a whole-cluster focus on regular, relevant updates.
- Continue to invite parents into school and rebuild relationships following the removal of restrictions.

Evaluation of Progress

We believe we have made the following progress this session:

Quality Indicator	School self-evaluation
1.3 Leadership of Change	Good
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Good

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

Theme 1 Our relationships	Good
Theme 2 Our learning and teaching	Good
Theme 3 Our school and community	Good
Theme 4 Our health and wellbeing	Good
Theme 5	Good

Our successes and achievements

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

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

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 by contacting the school office. Regular updates will be shared in newsletters.