



# **Ballachulish Primary School and ELC**

## **Handbook 2023/24**

**Acting Cluster Head Teacher: Mr Malcolm McGregor**

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**Email: [ballachulish.primary@highland.gov.uk](mailto:ballachulish.primary@highland.gov.uk)**

**READY SAFE RESPECTFUL**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome, Ballachulish Primary is a small village school with a happy, working atmosphere. I trust that your child will enjoy their time with us, and I look forward to working with you in your child's development. You, as parents, are invited to play an active role in your child's education and in the life of the school.

The information in this brochure is correct at December 2022. Whilst the information in this handbook is considered to be correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information.

I hope that the items in the enclosed handbook answer any questions you may have about this school and give you an idea as to how our school is run. If you have any unanswered questions or would like more information about any item, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



**Malcolm McGregor**  
**Acting Cluster Head Teacher**  
**Ballachulish Primary School and Duror Primary School**  
**Cluster Head Teacher**  
**Glencoe Primary School and St Bride's Primary School**



## BALLACHULISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

### School Address, Staffing and Organisation

**Address:** Ballachulish Village  
Ballachulish  
Lochaber  
PH49 4HP

**Telephone:** 01855 811 359

**School Website:** <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/hi/stbridesglencoe/>

<b>Staff:</b>	Cluster Head Teacher Cluster PT Class Teacher P4-7 Class Teacher P1-3 Clerical Assistant Strings Tutor PSA -Pupil Support Assist. Catering Assistant ELC Practitioner	Mr Malcolm McGregor Miss Katie Russell (base at Ballachulish PS) Miss Jennifer Taylor/Miss Holly Graves (Tues) Miss Katie Russell/Miss Heather McGoran (Thurs/Fri) Mrs Maria Boyle Ms Claire Hamilton Mrs Corina MacInnes and Mrs Mhairi Houghton Mrs Jenna Ferguson Mrs Sheena Denholm Mrs Tamara McColm Mrs Kim Paterson
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**Present Roll:** Primary School 29 ELC 22

<b>School Day:</b>	<u><b>Class</b></u>	<u><b>Morning</b></u>	<u><b>Afternoon</b></u>
	ELC	9am start	3pm finish
	P1- P3	9am - 12.30pm	1.15pm - 2.30pm
	P4-P7	9am - 12.30pm	1.15pm - 3.15pm

Morning Interval 10.30 - 10.45am. Afternoon Interval 2-2.15pm

### Background Information - Ballachulish Primary School

This school has been in existence since the late 1800s and was previously known as Ballachulish Public School and part of Argyll. Ballachulish has a well recorded industrial heritage with the local slate mine. The main industry and employment is tourism, crofting and aquaculture.

The current school has three main classrooms and an external classroom. The capacity school roll is 60 pupils. The ELC (nursery) has a separate playroom, garden and entrance. The children across the ELC and school have access to a large gym hall which doubles as our dining hall and assembly hall.

A Curriculum for Excellence is delivered in the school from Early Level through to Level 3. The children attending the school are mainly from Ballachulish Village and surrounding areas of Kentallen and Glenahulish.

## School Improvement

- This year, because of the pandemic, all schools in Highland are focusing on certain key priorities as followings:
  1. Health and well-being
  2. Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment
  3. Attainment in session 2020/21 (focusing on identifying new or widened gaps caused by the Covid-19 situation)

The **2022/23 School Improvement Plan** and **2021/22 Standards and Quality Report** is available from the school on request and can be accessed through the school website or using the links below.

[Highland Council SIP Template 2022.23.docx](#)

[Highland Council SQ Template for 21.22 Ballachulish, Glencoe, Duror and St Brides\(002\) v2.docx](#)

We will continue focusing on **Parental Engagement**, building on the work achieved through lockdowns and disruption and **Learning through Play**. We will continue to focus on improved data analysis and improved data collection. This will influence understanding the next steps for learning and any support that is required to ensure every child thrives.

Glencoe Primary School and St Bride's Primary School were visited by Education Scotland in May 2022. This was an invitation from the schools to view the response to Covid, recovery and next steps for improvement. Feedback on the quality of learning and teaching is detailed in the following visit note.

[visit note](#)

Duror Primary School was visited by Education Scotland in February 2022, below is the findings letter from inspectors.

[durorpsvl080222.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

## School Aims

In Ballachulish Primary School we ensure that all children develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they need to thrive in life, learning and work. They will be able to demonstrate the four capacities (*successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens*) through the four contexts for learning (*curriculum areas and subjects, interdisciplinary learning, ethos and life of the school and opportunities for personal achievement*) and in a curriculum which reflects the seven principles of design (*breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, challenge and enjoyment, coherence and relevance*).

This curriculum will:

- Allow pupils to contribute to the ethos and life of the school community
- Provide opportunities for personal achievement and supports all learners in developing skills for learning, life and work.
- Have a continuous focus on literacy, numeracy and health well-being with all staff having a responsibility to develop, reinforce and extend learning in these areas.
- Provide opportunities for mixed-stage learning that is interest-based coherent and relevant.
- Place the emphasis of our curriculum on breadth, challenge and depth and on the entitlements of learners rather than subject based content.
- Provide a broad general education including all the experiences and outcomes.
- Provide progression through the experiences and outcomes that is consistent with their learning needs and prior achievement.
- Raise standards by developing an interest and enthusiasm for learning.
- Develop an interdisciplinary approach to learning through topic and thematic work.
- Provide multiple experiences through a range of learning opportunities, out of doors, through play, in small groups, through art, music and sport, by watching, listening and doing.
- Recognise both local and global dimensions of citizenship. We make links with local and global communities to facilitate and develop the four capacities of a Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring the children are given opportunities to develop informed and diverse attitudes.
- Provide opportunities for personal achievement and support all learners in developing skills for learning, life and work.

## Parent Council

There is a supportive Parent Council. Some of their annual fundraising events include a Beetle Drive, a Christmas Market, a Sponsored Walk, the Summer Barbecue, and curry night. Their fundraising goes towards the school's transport costs for swimming, skiing, school trips and resources for the school.

We really value and welcome parents' involvement in our school and are keen to work with you to help us give your child the best education we can provide. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 is seen as a key step in improving parents' involvement in their own child's education and in the wider work of the school. All evidence shows that when parents, carers and other family members are actively involved in supporting their child's education, children's achievement and general experience of school are better.

As a parent of a child in attendance at school, you will be automatically a member of the Parent Forum.

As a member of the Parent Forum:

- You can ask the school for advice and information on your child's education and how you can support this.
- You will have the opportunity to come along to meetings and to feed in your ideas in other ways.
- You can also help choose the Parent Council for your child's school – this is a group of parents who represent the views of parents in the school.

The type of things a Parent Council could get involved in includes:

- Supporting the work of the school
- Gathering and representing parents' views to the Head teacher, education authority and HMIE
- Promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils, providers of nursery education and the local community
- Fundraising
- Organising events
- Being involved in the appointment of senior staff

**Ballachulish Parent Council Chair: Mrs Aileen Hornby**  
**ballachulish.primary@highlandpc.co.uk**

## Outdoor Learning and Outdoor Classroom

Opportunities for outdoor learning are made good use of, e.g. school garden area, poly-tunnel, planted tubs. All pupils are involved in organising and maintaining the school playgrounds and garden. Parent and community volunteers, National Trust for Scotland and Lochaber Rangers help out with the school garden. Celebration of "Seed to Plate" – Vegetable Taster Day (Open to Parents and wider community).

We have a purpose-built poly-tunnel for growing our own flowers, fruit and vegetables

The school achieved its 4th Green Flag status in 2019.

## Community Involvement

The children take part in entertaining the community at social events, carol singing around the village at Christmas time. The community is welcomed to events, presentations and shows in school.

Many fundraising events are organised by the Parent Forum and are exceptionally well supported by parents and community members.

We have volunteers from the community who come in to work on expressive arts skills and health and wellbeing activities with the pupils. (Yoga/Fun Science/Kinlochlovin'/Creative Minds)

## Assembly

Assemblies held to support and enhance social and school values, with input from our rota of school Ministers to support Faith. Assemblies are every Friday from 9.15. Parents are welcome to join the children at assembly.

Special Church services are held at Christmas, Easter and at the end of session to which parents, family, friends and members of the wider community are invited. At the Summer Service we mark the Primary 7 pupils moving on to High School with a small gift.

## School Meals

School lunches are cooked on the premises and served from a well-appointed kitchen. A termly menu is distributed to parents and displayed in school. If a child has special dietary needs, please inform the school. These lunches provide excellent value and if parents have financial difficulty they may find their children are eligible to receive free meals. They should not hesitate to ask the Head Teacher. Primary 1-5 receive a free school meal. Current lunch price is £2.30. Pupils are encouraged to pay lunch money for the week on Mondays. Please ensure that your child does not have a breakable thermos flask, glass bottle/jars, and hot liquids. Packed lunches and drinks can be stored in a larger refrigerator situated in the dining area.

## Ballachulish is a nut free school

## Health Promoting School

As a health promoting school we encourage pupils, staff and parents to think about healthier lifestyles. Healthy living is a regular topic in classes. We have a School Travel Plan which promotes safe and healthy routes to school. Staff take part in health promotion activities. We value all the activities that make up a healthy and happy community. Children are encouraged to drink water – water bottles are allowed in class. Pupils have access to fresh water taps to fill and re-fill drinking bottles. We do not encourage fizzy or energy styled drinks.

## School Uniforms

School Uniform consists of a light blue sweatshirt with smart black trousers or black skirts. Hats, sweatshirts, fleeces and T-shirts, bearing the school logo, are available from Andrew Hyde [Andrew Hyde School Uniform \(ahyde.co.uk\)](http://ahyde.co.uk).

Recycled sweatshirts and clothes are available from the school. Pupils are encouraged to wear their reflective apparel especially when dark. Children are expected to wear suitable clothing for Physical Education, i.e. T-shirts, shorts, gym shoes. An apron is useful for art and craftwork. It is advisable to have your child's name on his/her belongings.

## **School Plan & Fire Exits**

Evacuation muster point situated to the northside of the playground. We have planned evacuations every term. Mr McGregor is the Fire Marshall for the school. School Plans are situated in every classroom with exit points highlighted.

## **Enrolling and Transferring into Primary 1**

Each year in June, children who will be enrolling into Primary 1 the following August, are invited to the school to meet their teacher and new friends. Miss Russell visits the feeder Nurseries and Nursery/P1 activities are arranged during the session. We encourage parents to visit the infant class to familiarise with infant classrooms, school, resources and activities.

## **School placing requests – parental choice**

Each school serves its own particular catchment area. Pupils whose homes are located in that area will have priority in being allocated a place in the school. However, parents have the right to specify the school in which they wish to place their child. Application must be made to the Area Education Manager, **Mhairi MacDonald**. Placing request forms can be obtained from [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol\\_your\\_child\\_for\\_school](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school)

Transportation to and from school, for placing request pupils, is a parental responsibility.

Parents of children with additional support needs, (including those that have Coordinated Support Plans) can make placing requests to any school in Scotland including schools outside of the local authority area they live in. All appeals about placing requests to special schools will be referred to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.

## **Associated Secondary School**

Pupils from Ballachulish Primary transfer to Kinlochleven High School at the end of Primary 7. In the February of their last year in Primary, transfer forms are sent for parents to sign and also a prospectus for Kinlochleven High School. Regular Associated School Group meetings are held during each session to ensure a smooth P7/S1 transition. Several P7 transition activities are planned prior to the High School transfer week in June.

The Head Teacher, Mr Joe Hanaway, can be contacted on: 01855 832 042.

## **Transport**

If your child is aged 5-7 years and lives two miles or more from school, he / she is entitled to transport to school. At 8 years, three miles is the distance to qualify for transport.



## Adverse Weather

### TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL DURING ADVERSE WEATHER

It is the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Council encourages full attendance at school but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important. Parents and pupils are often concerned that important examinations may be missed, but this should not override good judgement. Schools normally make alternative arrangements for missed examinations.

#### The school updates its procedures for adverse weather closure annually, therefore

- **parents** should advise schools of an alternative address, as close as possible to the school, which may be used by their children in emergencies
- **the school** will advise parents of normal local arrangements for school transport and any special arrangements in the event of adverse weather

**the school** will establish a system of communication with parents and local transport operators and ensure that parents are fully informed of any revised arrangements. A telephone service is offered to provide parents with up-to-date information. Parents may call **0800 564 2272** to access your schools' information. Please note, you will need the unique pin number.

#### Ballachulish Primary School pin number 04 1490

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4653/telephone\\_pins\\_for\\_checking\\_if\\_a\\_school\\_is\\_closed](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4653/telephone_pins_for_checking_if_a_school_is_closed)

#### The Highland Council Website, Facebook and Twitter

- The Council's **website** <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> will be updated with information for individual schools
- The Council's **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil> will show updated posts on the latest news of school closures and weather related problems
- The Council's **Twitter** page at <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil> will list Tweets of the latest news of school closures and weather related problems

When weather conditions are poor, local radio stations issue news and weather bulletins on traffic conditions and school closures. Transmissions may not cover all households and may be subject to re-scheduling but should be helpful. Parents are advised to remain "tuned in" to ongoing road weather, or school information updates.

#### Broadcast times

*BBC Radio Highland*

**6.30 am**  
**12.30 pm**

**7.30 am**  
**4.30 pm**

**8.30 am**  
**5.30 pm**

In extreme conditions, Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions (usually on the hour), to carry emergency bulletins.

*Nevis Radio* will carry bulletins at roughly ten minute intervals between 7.00 am and 8.00 am

### **For pupils using school transport**

- Parents should note that the final decision on whether it is safe to operate rests with the driver of the school transport vehicle. There may be occasions on which a school is open but some routes, or parts of routes, are unable to operate
- Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick-up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal “pick-up” time
- Morning journeys may be delayed by an hour if road conditions are unsafe at the normal journey time but have improved within the hour. Before pupils return to a pick up point parents should check the schools telephone information line for updated messages from their schools Head teacher. Please note that for some routes the transport operator may contact the parent directly
- Drivers are advised not to drop off children where there is a risk that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. This may involve children being taken to an alternative place of safety, agreed in consultation with the school
- Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at “drop-off” points, they should contact the school as early as possible

**Please note: when weather conditions are poor, parents should ensure that children are met at the “drop-off” point, especially where public service transport is used.**

## **After School Clubs**

The Active Schools Co-ordinators organise various activities throughout the year. Information is shared across social media and school-bag drops. Teachers regularly lead events after school such as Lego Clubs and Gardening Clubs.

## **Computer**

All children from Primary 1 upwards are encouraged to make use of ICT and digital technology. Highland Council are rolling out Chromebooks for every child, allowing ICT to permeate the curriculum. Classrooms are equipped with Interactive Smartboards. Computing science is taught through code.org, Scratch coding and Barefoot Computing.

## Homework

A flexible homework programme is set, covering a range of topics. P1-3 are set reading, phonics/spelling tasks and P4-7 are given homework tasks and projects to encourage collaboration. As a general rule homework tasks for P1-3 should last no more than 20 minutes and older children up to 30-40 minutes. Homework should not be a cause for anxiety or used for catch-up. Homework is to enhance classroom learning.

There are termly family learning projects.

Our Home Learning Rationale is below.

[Home Learning](#)

## Assessment and Reporting

Assessment of work is continuous, which helps to identify next steps for learning. Parents have an opportunity to see and discuss their child's work at the Parents' Meetings, which are held throughout the session as Learning Conversations. All pupils are encouraged to set their own targets in Numeracy, Literacy, Health and Wellbeing.

## Learning Support

All children need support. Some children require more help than others. We follow The Highland Practice Model staged approach to assessing, identifying and supporting additional support needs. In this model every child has a 'Named Person' who is responsible for making sure that the child or young person has the right help to support his/her development and well-being.

### **The Named Person for Ballachulish Primary is Malcolm McGregor**

Sometimes a Child's Plan may be put in place to help organise, monitor and regularly review your child's progress. If you have a concern about your child in primary school, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or the Named Person.

If you wish to find out more about The Highland Practice Model or the Child's Plan you can access more information at:

[Support for Learners Website](#)

There are also Information sheets available at: [www.chipplus.org.uk](http://www.chipplus.org.uk) click on Education.

Organisations specified by Scottish Ministers which provide advice, further information and support to parents of children and young people with ASN are identified under The Additional Support for Learning (Sources of Information) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 as:

- Children in Scotland: Working for Children and Their Families, trading as "Enquire – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning", a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration
- Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC033576; and
- Scottish Child Law Centre, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC012741."

Children have special educational needs when they face difficulties in learning. When we identify a child whom we think is having difficulties, the parents are approached for their permission to have the child assessed by the Educational Psychologist. His/her report specifies what he sees as the problem and suggests ways in which the child can be helped. The Educational Psychologist also discusses the report with the parents.

A Learning Support teacher may be allocated to the school. Sometimes they work with individual children who may be needing short term help in a specific area or she advises teachers on suitable programmes of work for some children or works with the teacher in class. The Learning Support teacher has access to Learning Support Resource base. The children with whom the Learning Support teacher works do not necessarily have problems that require assessment by the Psychologist. Some pupils may require an Individual Education Programme (IEP) which details small steps to be achieved. The IEP is discussed with Parents at regular meetings. Our aim is that all children progress in all areas at a speed with which they can cope and be successful.

## **Health Care / Illness at School**

There is an annual visit by the school dentist who examines P1 and P7 pupils. Parents are advised by the Dentist if their child requires treatment. It is then the parent's decision as to whether the treatment will be carried out by the school dentist or if the child will visit his / her own dentist.

If a child becomes ill while at school, the parent will be contacted in the first instance. If the parent cannot be contacted, then the emergency contact will be informed.

If your child suffers from any illness, details should be given to the school. Information will remain confidential.

It is expected that parents or carers will inform the Head Teacher of any relevant information relating to the need to administer medication to their child(ren). If a child requires medication administered at school a medical protocol must be drawn up by a doctor and agreed with parents and school.

Health Visitors and School Nurse regularly support the school and our children.

## **Head Lice**

Head lice are a common problem, which can affect the whole community, adults and children alike. It is most common amongst children, and it is important to detect and treat as promptly as possible.

The only effective way to detect head lice is to carry out wet combing, and ideally this should be done weekly. You will have received a leaflet and detection comb when your child started nursery – if you need another comb, please ask your local pharmacist for advice on purchasing a suitable one.

A leaflet published by Health Scotland is available at:

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/19855-HeadLiceEnglish.pdf>

## **Drugs Misuse Incidents Policy into Practice**

In line with Highland Council's recommendation, the school endorses the Scottish Executive Guidelines for the Management of Incidents of Drugs and Misuse in Schools.

This National document is further enhanced by the Highland Council Health Education Policy and Drugs Education Guidelines, which are also endorsed by the school.

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with these documents and that these guidelines are fully implemented. The following points ensure that the guidance contained in these documents is translated into practice in School.

- Staff should immediately report all incidents of Drug Misuse or of suspected Drugs Misuse to the Head Teacher. Such incidents include:
- drug related litter on or near school premises;
- suspicion and allegations about in-school and out of school activities;
- pupils displaying symptoms of drug misuse;
- pupils/adults with drugs on school premises/trip/transport;
- pupils/adults taking drugs on school premises/trip/transport;
- pupils/adults, selling drugs on school premises/trip/transport.
- On receiving a report from a member of staff the Head Teacher will log this in the Drugs Incident File which is kept in the Head Teacher's office.
- The Head Teacher will ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the above guidelines and that staff concerned are kept informed as necessary of all actions taken.
- The Head Teacher will ensure that all necessary returns are completed and forwarded to the Area Education Manager as required.
- The Head Teacher will ensure that newly appointed staff are made aware of the arrangements for handling incidents of Drugs Misuse and that all staff are regularly updated on any changes to policy and guidelines.
- The Head Teacher will ensure that parents are made aware of the school's policy on handling incidents of Drugs Misuse.
- The Head Teacher will make arrangements for the policy and guidelines to be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and ideally annually in time with review of the Staff Development Handbook or when there are changes to either the National or Local Guidelines.
- The School Prospectus informs parents that all incidents of Drugs Misuse will be reported and dealt with in line with Highland Council Policy.

## **Links with Secondary School**

We have regular contact with Kinlochleven High School. An Area Cluster meeting is routinely held across the session. Members of staff from the High school visit and discuss the curriculum with P7 pupils. Parents of P7 pupils are invited to attend a Parents' Evening organised by Kinlochleven High School, and in the summer term P7 pupils spend a week at Kinlochleven following an S1 timetable.

Highland Highlife staff regularly visit and support pupils with sport and well being activities.

## Pupil Absences

Good attendance is vital if pupils are to achieve their potential. But if a pupil is absent from school, a parent or guardian should phone the school on the first day of absence, on the school number. Tel: **01855 811 373** by 9.30am.

When returning to school after an absence, the parent or guardian must give written reason for the time absent. Permission to leave during the school day: If a pupil needs to leave during the school day for an appointment etc., pupils need to bring with them a note from parent or guardian. Pupils must report to the school reception and 'sign out', if returning the same day, they must report again to the reception and sign in. When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made out-with school hours.

Schools are required to keep an attendance register by law. We have a responsibility for the care and welfare of all pupils during the school day, therefore, we need to know the whereabouts of absent pupils. When parents are considering whether or not to remove their children from school for a family holiday, they should be aware that such a decision:

- will result in a significant loss in classroom experience;
- will result in a pressure to 'catch up' on missed work by pupils;
- could result in pupils missing assessments with consequential impact on pupils and teachers;
- could result in the loss of curricular activities;
- will affect school attendance records and efforts to raise standards of attendance

Under the guidance issued at a national level, most family holidays will be coded as unauthorised absence; only in exceptional cases will the absence be recorded as authorised. In conclusion, we would ask parents to be aware of these considerations when making decisions on planning holidays during term time. Please click on the link below for current school term dates.

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school\\_term\\_dates](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates)

If parents decide to make holiday arrangements during school term, this should be confirmed in writing to the Head Teacher.

### **THREE DAY RULE FOR UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE OF PUPILS**

#### **DAY 1: First day of unexplained absence of pupil**

The school will endeavour to make contact by telephone or e-mail to parents, carers or emergency contacts informing them that the child is absent and requesting a reason for the absence. If no contact can be made with the parent/carers or emergency contacts on the first day of absence, this will be noted by the school. If the family is known to other agencies, because of possible concerns about his/her wellbeing, then contact will be made with these agencies.

#### **DAY 2: Second day of unexplained absence of pupil**

The school will make vigorous attempts to contact a carer or family member by telephone, text, e-mail or social media. If no contact can be made on the second day of absence, this will be noted by the school.

#### **DAY 3: Third day of unexplained absence of pupil**

If no contact is established, secondary schools and schools with support staff, will arrange a home visit to check the situation. If the child is not found and no satisfactory explanation is given for absence, the police will be notified of the child's non-attendance. The police will treat this as a

missing persons alert. For small schools, the police may be involved to conduct visits where it is not possible for the school to do so.

**Where contact cannot be established in relation to an unexplained absence, schools may inform other relevant services, e.g. social work and/or police.**

## **Child Protection**

In terms of its child protection guidelines the document detailed in Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) for Highlands Children, the Authority imposes a duty on schools and all staff to report, by way of laid down referral procedures, any incidents which may give rise to a suspicion that a pupil has been subjected to abuse in any of its forms. This might involve information being passed to other agencies without immediate reference to a pupil's parents or guardians.

From time to time incidents can occur within the school setting which cause concern and could indicate that a pupil is suffering some form of abuse.

In terms of Highland Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Protection Guidelines, Education Service staff must report such incidents to Social Work Services, which can lead to a joint Social Work/Police investigation.

All agencies involved in Child Protection are obliged to make the welfare of children their paramount consideration and this will be the priority for Education Service staff.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Ballachulish is an equal opportunities school. We are opposed to all forms of prejudice and discrimination and attempt to provide equality and opportunity through our ethos and working practices. Access to all subjects will, therefore, be provided to all pupils without reference to the sex or disability of the pupil. The school believes that each pupil, regardless of his/her sex, or disability should have an equal opportunity to pursue his/her subject choices and subsequent career free from discrimination.

### **Developing Positive Relationships – Restorative Systems**

We use Restorative Strategies to support good behaviour and good decision-making. All staff are trained to use 1-2-3-Magic routines to restore relationships. We use the Ready, Safe Respectful message for all restorative incidents.

Repeated and persistent poor behaviour will result in the child's parent/carer being asked to attend a meeting to restore positive behaviour routines. When restorative measures prove unworkable further sanctions are available including exclusion.

We have a Zero Tolerance approach for physical and verbal violence, and threat from using racist, gender and sexist specific language. Any incidents will be recorded and police may be informed.

## Anti Bullying Policy

### Anti-Bullying Policy

Children should feel comfortable and accepted here and secure in the knowledge of their own self-worth. We aim to reinforce this through:

1. Establishing class rules
2. Direct discussion
3. Whole school assembly
4. Curricular activities

All incidents of bullying are recorded, monitored and actioned.

Please read our Building Positive Relationship Policy for more information about restorative and anti-bullying strategies.

Cluster Positive Relationship Policy:

[Building Positive Relationships.docx](#)

## School Rules

**When we are Ready Safe Respectful**

**We can successfully**

**WORK TOGETHER LEARN TOGETHER GROW TOGETHER**

## Parental Consent Safety /Data Protection

### Data Protection Act 1998

Information on pupils, parent and guardians is stored on a computer system and may be used for teaching, registration, assessment and other administrative duties. The information is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 and may only be disclosed with the codes of practice.

Information about pupils' education is collected through our statistical surveys in partnership between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities through the ScotXed Programme which aims to help schools and Local Authorities by supporting efficient collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Scottish Government then provides analysis of the data to support research, planning, management and monitoring of education services as well as to produce National Statistics Publications.

Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publically available by Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.

All our data collection is GDPR compliant.



## Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are permitted into school after consultation with the Head Teacher. Permission will be granted if access to a phone supports well-being. All other mobile devices are not permitted within school.

Hand held computer consoles and online devices are discouraged from the school as children have access to Chromebooks.

## Physical Intervention

The Highland Council has adopted the C.A.L.M (Crisis and Aggression Limitation and Management) principles of behaviour management. Two staff members have been trained in C.A.L.M. techniques.

C.A.L.M. practitioners should use physical intervention only under specific circumstances i.e.

- when a pupil is a danger to himself
- when a pupil is a danger to others
- when the pupil is causing/about to cause significant damage to equipment

This system ensures that all physical management of children is in line with Child Protection and Health & Safety guidelines. Most physical management of pupils involves guiding them, or offering the reassurance of holding a pupil's hand as s/he moves to another part of the school.

Although it is very rare, a pupil may have a major outburst and when there is the risk of injury to him/her or others, trained staff members have a duty to intervene. They are aware that the intervention should be at the lowest level possible and that an important factor in supporting the pupils throughout such a situation is a calm and reassuring attitude.

When such an incident occurs, the parents of the child involved will be informed by letter. A description of the intervention will be included. A member of the senior management team will be available if parents wish to discuss the incident further.

Parents are also encouraged to contact the school if they think that it is likely that an incident requiring significant intervention may arise in school in the future.

Should you wish any further information on the use of C.A.L.M techniques or if you wish to discuss their use, please contact the Head Teacher.

## **Emergency Planning – Major Incident Plan**

All pupils and staff are familiar with and practised in the Fire Drill procedure, which will be our main method of evacuation.

### Fire Drill

Once the alarm sounds, children will evacuate the building following the instructions, which are located next to each room door. All staff will be aware of persons with a disability or restricted movement and will ensure they exit the building via a clear route. Pupils and staff assemble in the field by the school gate where registration will take place and checked.

The Head Teacher will contact the Emergency Services first and then the Emergency Planning Officer in Inverness.

If the Head Teacher is absent on the day in question, phoning will be carried out by Miss Russell.

BALLACHULISH VILLAGE HALL is our dispersal point. The children are taken there and handed over to parents or emergency contacts if parents are unavailable. Staff will remain with pupils until they are collected.

Parents are asked NOT to visit the school but to head for the Ballachulish Village Hall, where the school will gather before home dispersal.

No child will be allowed to leave the Assembly point until the Head Teacher has been advised by the Police/Fire Officer that this is permissible. Parents can contact the Education Office for information about an incident. Tel: 01349 781410.

## School Calendar

Please access the links below for current school calendar and key dates

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/23017/highland\\_school\\_calendar\\_2022\\_to\\_2023](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/23017/highland_school_calendar_2022_to_2023)

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/24301/highland\\_school\\_calendar\\_2023\\_to\\_2024](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/24301/highland_school_calendar_2023_to_2024)

## List of Useful Email and Website Addresses:

Transport Development Officer  
Highland Council  
Glenurquhart Road  
INVERNESS  
IV3 5NX

OR

[public.transport@highland.gov.uk](mailto:public.transport@highland.gov.uk)

### **Placing Requests applications to:**

Area Education and Learning Manager (Mhairi MacDonald)  
The Fingal Centre  
Portree  
Skye

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/11/school\\_enrolment/2](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/11/school_enrolment/2)

### **Parents/Guardians/Carers as Partners**

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/>

### **Support for Learners Website**

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools\\_-\\_additional\\_support\\_needs/1/support\\_for\\_learners](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners)

### **Education Scotland Information**

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/>

### **Curriculum**

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/>

### **Highland Curriculum for Excellence Information**

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/17/school\\_curriculum](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/17/school_curriculum)

### **Support arrangements for pupils including pastoral support arrangements**

<http://forhighlandchildren.org/>

### **Support for Pupils – The Authority's Policy**

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools\\_additional\\_support\\_needs/1/support\\_for\\_learners/4](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners/4)

### **Children in Scotland**

Working for Children and their Families, trading as “Enquire – the Scottish Advice and information service for additional support for learning”, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC003527; <http://enquire.org.uk/>

### **Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance**

This is a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC033576; and Scottish Child Law Centre, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC01274.

### **Additional Support Needs**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/7/contents>

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11/co-ordinated\\_support\\_plan](http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11/co-ordinated_support_plan)

### **Form for applying Free School Meals & Clothing Grant**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/schools/schoolmeals/>

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools\\_grants\\_and\\_benefits/10/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_assistance\\_with\\_clothing](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing)

ParentZone - Parent advice, support, resources and support for Covid related concerns

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>