

Hill of Fearn Primary School Brochure 2023-2024



'Pupils who are healthy,
happy and hardworking'

Head Teacher: Mrs Gemma Jack

Tel : 01862 832257

Hill of Fearn Primary School,

Rhynie Road,

Ross- Shire

1V20 1SU.

Email: hilloffearn.primary@highland.gov.uk

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Mrs. Jack's Welcome

I would like to wish you a warm welcome to Hill of Fearn Primary School. I hope you will find this handbook useful and informative. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or queries. My email address is

gemma.jack@highland.gov.uk

The purpose of sharing this with you is to:

- Communicate the ethos of the school and provide a warm welcome for parents to the school.
- Help parents choose a school.
- Prepare their child for school.
- Act as a reference tool whilst their child is at the school.

Hill of Fearn Primary School is a small, family-orientated two-teacher school in the village of Hill of Fearn. The school is part of a cluster arrangement with Tarbat Old Primary School which is 7 miles away. The majority of our children are from the catchment area. The roll of the school at present (Nov 2022) is 47, organised into three classes: a Nursery, P1-3 and P4-7. Hill of Fearn is a non-denominational school. We believe that Hill of Fearn Primary School provides children with essential skills for life, learning and work.

But don't just take my word for it! Here are some quotes from our present pupils:

'I like it here because everyone is friendly the teachers are very nice and understanding. All the work we get is always very fun.'

'I like how we get to do a wide range of subjects'

Hill of Fearn Nursery

Information

Our Vision: Learning to Play,
Playing to Learn.

The staff that work in Hill of Fearn and management team.

The team are dedicated to work together to provide the best care for the children and the families that chose to come to Hill of Fearn. Your child will be assigned a key worker and will be your first port of call with anything regarding your child's care and learning. However, all members of staff will be available if you need anything.

Head Teacher

Mrs Gemma Jack

Principal Teacher

Mrs Ann Allan

Early Years Practitioners

Mrs Kaeleigh-Anne Henderson

Miss Becky Lowe

Nursery Support Worker

Mrs Denise MacCaskill

Hill of Fearn Nursery Aims.

- To provide a safe, homely and nurturing environment where children love to come and families feel happy and included.
- To provide quality team work to ensure practice is underpinned by key guidance such as Health and Social Care Standards, SSSC Codes of Conduct, Getting it Right for Every Child, Realising the Ambition and Curriculum for Excellence.
- To ensure every child is 'Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included'.
- Staff use self-evaluation documents from Care Inspectorate, Quality Framework for Early Learning and Childcare 2022 and How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare (HGIOELC) to continuously evaluate practice and make improvements.
- Ensure children are learning early level experiences in line with the Curriculum for Excellence through a fun and engaging way

Opening times

Hill of Fearn offer the fully funded 1140 hours. The nursery is open 9am until 3pm Monday to Friday, term time. Parents/carers can decide how they use their hours and the nursery are completely flexible with what they choose.



In the Nursery



Staff use a 'planning in the moment' approach which meets the care and learning expectations through child-led play. This ensures the children learn effectively and successfully in a quality environment. Children learn best when they are engaged in play that they are interested in. Staff are experienced, qualified and skilled in this area and confidently provide best quality practice. Staff observe and interact with the children to build on their learning.

The nursery offers a free-flow play environment both indoors and outdoors so children have the choice and space to play freely where they would like to. Staff and children also make use of the wider community and often go for walks round the village and play at the village green and football pitch.

In nursery, children help to prepare snack, set the table and they are independently put their things away after they are done. Staff promote independence at all times.

Staff provide many opportunities for parent and family engagement as this is extremely important for the children's development and learning.

Security

The main entrance door to the nursery foyer is locked. The inner foyer door has a snib lock which is up high out of the children's reach. The garden has high walls and metal fencing all around. There are two metal high gates which are locked with combination padlock.

All staff to child ratios are adhered to at all times. When out with the nursery and nursery garden, children wear hi-vis safety jackets. A register is taken and the school informed where they are going.

Absence

If your child will be absent please inform the nursery as soon as you can on 01862 832120.

Snack and Lunch

All snack and lunches are provided by the nursery and school catering which is fully funded. However, if your child does not like what is on the lunch menu please provide a packed lunch and staff can encourage them to try the school lunch option.

Typical Nursery Experiences

- Water, sand, mud cooked/uncooked foods, playdough, shaving foam, gloop, and other messy and sensory play.
- Literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas indoors and outdoors.
- Playdough making, baking and snack preparation.
- Playing in the playground, park and gym hall, gardening and outdoor activities
- Stories, songs and drama.
- Construction using real natural resources such as bricks, wood, wheels, tyres, pipes, and guttering.
- Junk modelling, paint, glue, cutting and lots of other art resources.
- Jig-saws, puzzles and tabletop games.
- Role play indoors and outdoors.



Skills that your child will learn and develop during nursery experience

- Physical and emotional health.
- Independence.
- Organisational skills.
- Listening, talking and mark making.
- Working as part of a team—compromising and sharing.
- Creativity, imagination and exploration.
- Confidence and a can do attitude.
- Science skills—testing, measuring, weighing, understanding and evaluating.
- Body autonomy, self-esteem and emotional regulation.
- Relationships with teachers and peers.
- Having fun, feeling safe, happy, content, accepted and involved.
- ICT skills.

What will be expected from the parent/carer when enrolling

Parents/carers are encouraged to enrol online during enrolment time at the beginning of the calendar year. However, this can be done at any point. During this process you will be asked to provide consent for children to have their photographs taken and displayed or used in nursery related things and to take part in excursions among other information. Once you enrol and come for a visit, you will be asked to fill in some paperwork which involves giving consent of intimate care (nappy changing and toilet training), toothbrushing and Seesaw access. There will also be documents to fill in that provide a holistic view of your child and their individual needs, likes and requirements.

Toilet training

Highland Council authority has an equal opportunity policy and children cannot be refused admission to pre-school if they are not toilet trained. Staff will work with the child and family to support this if there is a need.

Child Protection

Staff, parents and carers have a duty of care to safeguard the children and protect them from abuse and neglect. The Highland Council has laid down procedures on schools and staff, any incidents which may give rise to suspicion that a pupil has been subjected to abuse in any of its forms might involve information being passed to other agencies without immediate reference to the child's parent/carer.

Nursery staff contact with parents/carers and families

Staff will see parents/carers every morning and every afternoon. Staff ask that the drop offs are a positive and happy encounter in the nursery foyer and at collection parent/carers are welcomed into the setting to avoid stress on the child (if the child is unsettled this can be worked differently to meet the needs of the child).

Staff offer regular 'Stay, Play and Learn' sessions where there will be a focus on usually numeracy, literacy or health and well-being. Parents/carers will come in (with or without siblings and family members) to see the child's work, setting, care and learning.

Staff will provide opportunities for a formal one to one meeting (optional) to discuss anything further. Please note that anything sensitive needing attention, staff will accommodate this at any given time by offering a private and confidential space to speak.

The Head Teacher, Mrs Jack, dedicates her time between Hill of Fearn and Tarbat Old Primary schools. Days on which she is at each school will come at the beginning of the school year but she is only a phone call away.

Snack time.

Part of the nursery routine is to allow children to participate in snack preparation to develop their knife, problem solving and other life skills.

Children are monitored during handwashing to ensure they establish a good hygiene routine.

The first two terms staff and children have a sit down snack where staff model good eating and table manners. The final two terms staff operate a rolling snack.

Rolling snack

This allows children to come whenever they want for their snack which reduces the interruption to their play. Research tells us that when children have long amounts of uninterrupted engaging play they will learn and develop more effectively.

After developing good hygiene and table skills in the first two terms, the children will be able to learn the skills of getting their own snack and tidying up when they are done.

What is on the menu?

Every snack is in line with The Highland Council's Healthy Eating policy and Choking Prevention guidance. Water and milk are offered at every snack and lunch. Personalised water bottles are free to access all day.

Snack usually consists of

- Variety of fruit
- Crackers, oatcakes with cheese
- Choice of cereals
- Bagels, bread, rolls and wraps
- Yogurt
- Fruit and/or vegetable salad and dip



https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/9/school_menus

Skills for life.

- Knife and safely skills
- Table manners
- Turn taking
- Independence
- Socialising
- Hygiene
- Introduction to new foods



Things from home

If your child has a comforter, they may bring it along to nursery. Nursery is exciting but it can also be daunting so we encourage the use of anything that allows your child to feel safe and secure whilst they are here.

Once your child is well established in the nursery, we encourage them not to bring toys as these can easily be lost and can create unnecessary conflict with peers. There are lots of toys to play with in nursery.

Time to Explore

During your child's time at nursery, they will participate in excursions such as to the forest, away to the beach, on the bus and end of year trips.

Correct staff to child ratios are adhered to and effective risk assessments in place.

Parent volunteers are welcomed as are ideas for trips away.



Clothing fit for purpose

During the summer, please provide sun cream, hat, long sleeved tops and leggings/light trousers if your child is sensitive to sun exposure.

In winter, please provide weather appropriate clothing (hats, gloves, scarves, thick jacket, waterproofs) and footwear.

Please ensure nursery have a spare change of clothes and wellies for all year round.

We also require indoors shoes to stay in nursery (fitted Velcro trainers are the best choice).

We will provide every child with a waterproof light red suit and hi-vis safety jacket.

Some more information on

'Planning in the Moment'.

It is impossible to know what children will have an interest in from minute to the next so how would we be able to plan for their future interests? We can't, therefore we have been using the 'planning in the moment' approach which was developed to capture the child's interest there and then and expand on the child's learning with Curriculum for Excellence in mind. Staff are specifically trained in 'planning in the moment' and can use this knowledge and their experience and all other training to use the approach effectively. It allows practitioners to be responsive to each child's individual needs, interests and ability.



How do we capture the teachable moments?

The practitioners (EYPs) know when to join the children's play (being careful not to enter their play when not invited, this may destroy the very learning and play at hand) and EYPs know when to just observe and record. When EYP's join the play this will be to challenge, support, follow the direction of the child and progress their learning forward.

A big variety of opportunities and experiences are always available and children will choose where they want to spend their time.

EYPs record this in a variety of ways. Each child has their own individual 'Snapshots of Learning' book where you will see evidence of this work.

There is also a floor book to show what they learn as a group. Children and families are encouraged to participate in these as working together is the very best way to support the child.

Do you have a say in your child's learning?

Yes!! We will ask what you would like your child to work on and we will cater for this in nursery. Such as sharing, table manners, putting their own shoes and jacket on, the list is endless of developmentally appropriate skills to work on.

We send out homework packs, Barney Bear and book bundles and this provides a clear line of communication between you and us and all are sent home with feedback sheets that you can tell us what went well and what you would like to do next.

We use see-saw to not only having direct communication with families, but it is also used for pictures and updates and sharing WOW moments from nursery and home.

The children love helping to print their pictures, tell their friends and teachers about them and stick them on the walls themselves.

Our ethos is, the nursery very much belongs to children, their families and the staff and bring a home from home vibe.

Illness.

If your child becomes unwell at nursery a phone call will be made to the parent. In their absence it will be the emergency contact that you have provided.

Please inform us if your number or address changes throughout the year.

If your child has been vomiting or has had diarrhoea, please adhere to the NHS guidance and do not return them until 48hours after their last bout.

Health

Is your child up to date with their vaccinations?

Children receiving out of home care such as nursery have more opportunities to come into contact with infections so it is especially important to make sure that your child is up to date with all their vaccinations that are due. This is to protect them and the other children in the setting. Please see your GP or health visitor for further advice.

Collection of your child

When you drop your child off in the morning please tell a member of staff who is collecting your child at the end of the day. If this changes please phone the nursery before collection.

You will sign your child in and out in the am and pm.

If you have a sibling collecting your child who is under the age of 16 this must be put in writing to the school, if not they will not be allowed to take the child.

Adverse weather

Should the school need to close earlier than normal, you, or the emergency contact will be contacted by telephone. There is a school information line that the Council have set up to hear information about the school during adverse weather. This is 0800 564 2272 PIN 042190

Major incidents

In the event of a major incident happening whilst your child is in nursery the whole school will be evacuated and will meet the Fearn Hotel.

From then, parents will be contacted to arrange the collection of your child.

Fire safety

In the event of a fire all staff and children are aware of the procedure as this is practised often.

Handy numbers and contacts

Hill of Fearn School—01862 832 257

Hill of Fearn Nursery—01862 832 120

Tarbat Old School - 01862 871 536

Mrs Jack —gemma.jack@highland.gov.uk

Mrs Henderson—kaeleigh-anne.henderson@highland.gov.uk

Miss Lowe—becky.lowe2@highland.gov.uk

Other information

Developmental overviews

EYPs track every child's development using 'developmental overviews'. This covers a broad range of areas to ensure they are covered and recorded which follows them through school.

These will come home with their 'Snapshots of Learning' books so you can participate in these.

Words up

EYPs use 'words up' key messages in daily practice to meet the needs of the children and to develop their speaking and understand. Below is the link for more information

<https://bumps2bairns.com/>

"I love brushing my teeth at nursery".



"I like Mrs Potato"

"I made a house for my mouse. I did myself".

"I did it"

"I am doing hard work, shapes"



"I want the Lego out"

"I love orange juice"

"I wash hands"

"Can I have a cuddle?"

"I want to make pizza"

"Can we paint?"

"I want the green tractor"



"I love toys"

"I love playing and hiding discs"

"I make pizza, noodles and sgetti in the kitchen"

"I love cuddles, teachers are good at them"



"They (teachers) make me feel good"

"I love making snack"

"I go on the slide and ride on toys"

"I like running"

"I choose lunch with the sticking picture"



KEY INFORMATION

Admission Arrangements

P1 enrolment will take place in January 2023.

Early learning and childcare enrolment will take place in February 2023.

Enrolment forms can be filled in online at

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school

Special arrangements are made for pre-school children to visit the school for three mornings during the term before their entry to school. The children will meet their prospective teacher and become familiar with their classroom. There will be an opportunity during one of these sessions for parents to meet with the head teacher to answer any questions you may have.

Older children enrolling in the school and those who join the school after the start of session are asked to contact the school to arrange a visit.

Placing Requests and Catchment Area

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. Applications must be made to Mr Derek Martin, Education & Learning Manager – Mid, Education & Learning, 84 High Street, Dingwall. Tel: (01349) 868603. placing request forms can be obtained from

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2

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

If pupils live out with the school catchment area and their parents wish them to attend Hill of Fearn Primary School, they can contact Mrs Jack to arrange a visit on 01862 832257

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.

Transport

Please note that transport is not a school responsibility and any queries should be addressed to the Transport Development Officer, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, or public.transport@highland.gov.uk

Pupil Absence

Good attendance is vital if pupils are to achieve their full 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 **01862 832257**. 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. Where at all possible, medical and dental appointments should be made out with school hours.

If pupils fall ill during the day, parents are contacted for them to collect their child, therefore it is essential that we have up to date day time contact numbers and emergency contact numbers for all pupils.

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 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. We have enclosed a link to the school term dates on the Highland Council website to aid parents in planning any holidays they may be considering

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.

School Information



Head Teacher
Principal Teacher
Class Teachers

Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Gemma Jack
Mrs Ann Allan
Ms Linda Fraser
Mrs Ann Allan
Mrs Ann Martin
Mrs Kaeleigh-Anne Henderson
Miss Becky Lowe

Support for Learning Teacher

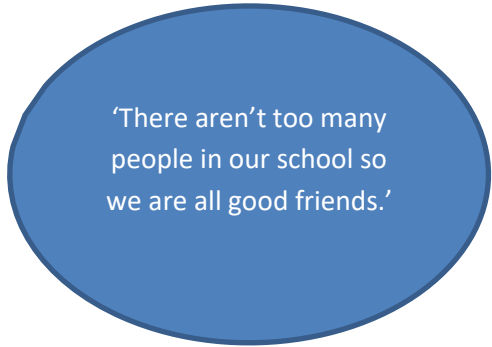
Mrs Joyce Armstrong (consultation only)

Clerical Assistant	Mrs Leesa Kilcollins
Pupil Support Assistant	Mrs Marion Wightman Mrs Margaret Milne
Facilities Management Assistant	Mr Alan Mohan
Visiting Teachers	Strings Instructor : Mrs Debbie Ross Physical Education: Ms Norma Swanson
School Chaplain	Rev Alasdair MacAulay, Rev Andrew MacLeod

The School Day

For this session, the following times apply:

9.00 am	Classes begin
10.45 -11.00am	Morning break
12.30-1.15pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	School ends for P1-3
3.00pm	School ends for P4-7



Term Dates and Holidays

You can view these at

. https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

Opportunities to be involved in activities, sports and outdoor activities

Throughout the year we take many opportunities to have visitors into the school to work with the children on a range of activities e.g. drama, dance, emergency first aid, rugby, music etc. All children have a variety of opportunities within these.

We have an active schools coordinator who helps to organise sporting events for the children both within the school and with other schools in the area. Some of these are to give tasters of sports and activities, others are competitive.

Each year we participate in the Rotary Quiz, Swimming Gala, Cross Country, Inver Fun Run and the County Sports amongst other events.

At times the school offers clubs but this depends on willing volunteers. If you are interested in helping to run a club please get in touch with the school.

Citizenship Groups

This year we have changed the format of our citizenship groups so that each child has a voice in key citizenship work. Every child will be encouraged to have a say and lead work in the following areas:

- Pupil Voice
- Eco Group
- Junior Road Safety Officers / School Nutrition Action Group/Gardening Group
- Digital Safety

If you would be interested in helping in any of these sessions then please contact the school.

School Meals

School meals are cooked at Hilton of Cadboll school and ferried up to us. It costs **£2.30** per meal (Nov 22) although currently **all P1-5 children are entitled to a free school meal.**



If at all possible lunches should be paid for each Monday for the coming week. Children then choose each day what they would like to eat. School meals are planned at Local Authority level taking due regard of Hungry for Success. A nutritionist has been involved to ensure balance and variety. Further information can be found by following the link below:

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

All children are encouraged to drink water only, and they can do this throughout the school day. They will also need to bring their own water bottle to school.

Free School Meals

Free school meals and assistance with school clothing can be claimed if you are receiving any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit (where the monthly earned income does not exceed £610).
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not in receipt of Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105 (as assessed by the HMRC)
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and an income below £7,500 (as assessed by the HMRC)
- If you are 16 to 18 yrs old and receive any of these benefits in your own right then you can claim for yourself
- If you are an asylum seeker receiving support
- Pension Credit Guarantee Credit

To apply, please download and print the application form from the following link and return it to the catering service.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing

Children in Nursery to Primary 5

Remember if a child is in Primary 1-5 they are automatically entitled to a free school meal, no application is necessary. However, applications for assistance with school clothing must still be made.

Nursery to Primary 5 Free School meals are a Scottish government funded initiative

- The meal is optional.
- Primary 1 to 5 children are only entitled to a school meal at lunchtime. Parents and carers need to provide pupils with money for any other service provision in school such as morning break or breakfast
- There is no application process involved.
- Parents and carers of primary 1 to 5 children still need to apply for clothing grants where applicable.
- Parents and carers of children in Primary 6 & 7 if entitled still need to apply for free school meals following the usual process.
- For medically confirmed special diets, applications need to be completed and returned to the head teacher.
- Primary 1 to 5 children who are in a school with no meal provision will be reimbursed for every day that the child has been in attendance at school. This is based on the economic daily rate.

Health Problems

Parents should ensure that we are made aware of any problems, allergies, etc. particular to your child. Any information will be treated in confidence.

Administration of Medicines

National Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Schools has been issued by the Scottish Government. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-children-young-people-healthcare-needs-schools/>

This guidance is based on a number of common principles that will be consistently applied when identifying, supporting and reviewing the healthcare needs of children and young people in Highland schools to enable them to make the most of their learning.

Under Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have a right to the highest attainable standard of health and to health care services that help them attain this. Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them. The arrangements for each

individual will therefore take account of the health professionals' advice, the pupil's views and, where appropriate, their parent's views.

NHS Highland, Highland Council and school staff will work collaboratively to ensure that pupils receive the service they need in the way most appropriate to their personal circumstances.

We will work with pupils and parents/carers to support the healthcare in our school, making reasonable adjustments that children and young people with healthcare needs might need and require.

Where appropriate, we will make arrangements for staff providing healthcare to pupils to receive appropriate training from a health professional, or other accredited source in the care they are providing.

Assistance with intimate care may be needed by children in any school and this will be provided if required to support these needs quickly and with respect for children's privacy, dignity and rights.

If your child requires medication, please note that this will only be administered by staff when there is clear written guidance from a parent/carer, providing:

- The name of the medicine, the quantity of the medicine to be given, the time it has to be given.
- As far as possible prescriptive medication should be given at home by parents/carers. If it is required to be given in school, the medication should be unopen, clearly marked with the directions from the pharmacist and administered as part of an agreed medical protocol.

Minor injuries

School will only deal with minor cuts and bruises, these will be cleaned and a plaster applied. If your child is injured, falls or becomes unwell during the school day you or the emergency contact you have provided, will always be contacted and you may be advised to collect your child from school.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a website managed by Highland Council that supports a variety of information relating to mental health and emotional wellbeing that can be accessed [here](#). Schools have access to Highland Council's Primary Mental Health Worker Service and consultation and advice may be sought if there are concerns that might require more targeted support. Counselling is also available for all pupils from age 10. Information on your school's service can be accessed from your child's guidance teacher. Alternately, there is a completely confidential, online counselling service called Kooth for children and young people from age 10 that can be accessed [here](#). Parents would generally be involved in discussions beforehand, however a young person over the age of 12 can ask for support themselves.

Fire Drills

These take place each term. Directions for prompt evacuation are undertaken by teacher and class. Teachers are in close supervision and are aware of the location of the nearest fire extinguisher and exit. Rules and regulations have been explained to the children and strict discipline is maintained throughout.

Major Incident in School

In the event of such an incident, e.g. fire, teachers would gather all the children in the playground (if appropriate) and check all were present. Police and parents would then be contacted before children are allowed home.

Emergency Contact Details

Emergency telephone numbers are kept at school for each family. These are updated each year.

- All parents are asked to complete the form for these and return them promptly to the child's teacher
- Parents are asked to contact the school if any changes occur in telephone numbers at home/work, or person to be contacted in an emergency

Adverse Weather

During a period of heavy snow, where conditions in the early morning might prevent school from opening for the day, parents are asked to listen to Moray Firth Radio, where an announcement would be made. There is also a telephone information service available which allows parents to listen to a recorded message from the Head Teacher. To use this service dial Highland Council's access number - **0800 564 2272** and then enter the school's pin number - **04 2190**



You can also find information on the Council's website <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> which 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 as well as the Council's Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil> will list Tweets of the latest news of school closures and weather related problems

In the event of adverse weather conditions, e.g. heavy snow, it may be necessary to close the school early. We will endeavour to contact every parent, but if a parent is not available it may be necessary to send a child home with an emergency contact or another pupil. No child will ever be sent home to an empty house if we have been unable to contact their parent.

School Uniform

All pupils are encouraged to wear school uniform.

The school colours are royal blue and white. Fleece, sweatshirts, polo-shirts and t-shirts can be ordered throughout the year from the school. Please contact the office to request an order form. You can also order uniforms at [Tesco.com](https://www.tesco.com)

Clothes should be clearly labelled with each child's name.



A form for school clothing is available for parents on income support and should be applied for each year at the end of the school session. Please ask school for a form or you can download them from http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing

All children should change into indoor shoes each day.

Travel Arrangements

Free school transport is provided for pupils under 8 years of age, who live more than two miles from school and pupils of 8 years or more, living a distance of three miles or more from school. Any spare seats are made available to pupils who do not qualify, if their route is judged to be particularly hazardous for walking.

After School Clubs

We are lucky enough to have talented parents who run some after school clubs for us. These have included running club, sewing club and dance club. We welcome all offers of support to help run clubs and we can help to put you forward for a PVG if you don't already have one.

Parental Involvement

Parent Council

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected to represent all parents of children at the school. Any parent who wishes to raise an issue for the Parent Council to consider can do so by contacting the parent council on hilloffearnprimarypc@gmail.com



Hill of Fearn has an active Parent Council. Meetings are held on a regular basis and the agenda and minutes are made available to the whole parent forum on the school blog. The main aim of the Parent Council is to promote positive relationships between the community, the parents, the pupils and the staff.

Present Parent Council office bearers are:

Chair

Morven Fioretti

Treasurer

Tracy Stone

Secretary

Caitlin Mackenzie

Parent Help at School

Parent help is always welcome at school and if you are free your offer of help is useful with the following:

- Supporting classroom learning
- Library
- Craft activities
- Extra-curricular activities
- Helping on school trips
- School events
- Fundraising

Supporting Your Child's Education

Why involve parents?

Parental involvement features prominently within Curriculum for Excellence; **it is your right** as a parent or carer to be involved in your child's education. This includes involvement in setting next steps for learning and evaluating against these. Parents and carers are the biggest influence in a child's development; sharing information, standards and expectations is a very important aspect of the best possible education. Evidence shows that children learn best when the school and parents work together

Useful information for parents and how to get involved in your child's education, how to support the school, information on curriculum developments can all be found at Parentzone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

Homework

It is our policy to issue homework on school days, but not at weekends. Homework will relate to work at school and will involve no new concepts. If your child is unable to understand the work, it should be referred to the teacher next day, and should not be a cause for anxiety. The amount of homework increases as the child progresses through the school.

All children have a homework diary and a plastic homework wallet where all necessary information is kept. Parental involvement is encouraged and appreciated.

Learning is best accomplished if parent, teacher and child work as a team. Any problems which parents perceive with homework should be brought to the attention of the teacher.

Arrangements for Parents to Contact the School

To avoid unnecessary disappointment, parents wishing to discuss any matter at length with any member of staff, should, in the first instance, telephone the Head teacher for an appointment. As she may be timetabled at Tarbat Old Primary School, the best form of communication is to e-mail or phone the school and ask her to contact you.

We consider contact with parents invaluable to enable parents to understand and support the general operation and curriculum of the school. Opportunities to achieve this can be made through the following:

- Emails
- SeeSaw
- Text messages
- Newsletters
- The school blog <https://hofprimaryblog.wordpress.com/>
- Letters sent home with children
- Pupil Progress Reports
- End of term assemblies/other school events
- Parents Evenings

It should work the other way too! We look forward to hearing your views at meetings, through questionnaires, face to face, etc.

Family Learning

Family Learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Family learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning.

“Family learning is a powerful method of engagement and learning which can foster positive attitudes towards life-long learning, promote socio-economic resilience and challenge educational disadvantage.” (Family Learning Network, 2016).

At Hill of Fearn we engage parents in workshops such as internet safety, literacy workshops and other curricular learning opportunities. We also provide Stay, Play and Learn opportunities in our Early Level Class.

Useful information for parents and how to get involved in your child's education, how to support the school, information on curriculum developments can all be found at Parentzone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

School Ethos

'You'll definitely make some new friends because we are all so friendly.'

P5 boy



'We support each other in our learning.'

P7 girl

Our vision (draft Nov 2020): Pupils who are healthy, happy and hardworking

Values and aims:

OUR CORE VALUES:	AIMS (HOW WILL WE GET THERE?):
<p>Friendly, honest & responsible</p> <p>Educated</p> <p>Achieving</p> <p>Resilient</p> <p>Nurtured</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pupils with a positive and varied learning experience • Have supportive frameworks in place to promote happiness and health and wellbeing. • VIPs - everybody being a Valued, Included Person with needs being successfully met through a joined-up approach. • Relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

Celebrating Achievements:

Star Awards

One or two children are chosen from each class each week to receive these awards at assembly. The teachers have a choice of awards to choose from to make these more meaningful. Examples of some of these awards are 'Star Successful Learner', 'Star Creative Person' and 'Star Digital Leader'. These children then have their photos put on to their 'SeeSaw' profile and these achievements are shared in the newsletter.

Personal Achievements

We record achievements in school on our online profiling system 'SeeSaw' and will be using our classroom profiles too. We want to encourage children to think about what they have learned and what they have done well on an ongoing basis both in school and out of school.



House Points

Our houses are Balinroich, Loandhu, Mouteagle and Rhynie. Each child is allocated to a house and points can be earned for a variety of reasons. The Parent Council shield is given to the winning house each year. This encourages children to work hard and achieve well for the benefit of their house.

Noticeboards and Newsletters

The entrance hallway is used as a display area for a variety of achievements and parents are informed of achievements through regular newsletters, 'SeeSaw' and on the school blog.

Star Assemblies

These present an opportunity for classes to come together to celebrate success. The sharing of thoughts, ideas and feelings are considered to be important here. The life and work of the school will be reflected through the assemblies.

School Chaplain

We do not currently have a school chaplain.

Parents' wishes are respected if they want their children to be withdrawn from Religious Observance. Other work will be given to these children at this time.

Positive Behaviour

The school's behaviour policy is based around the principle that people should be courteous to each other and should act in such a manner so as to keep themselves and others safe. Discussions take place in each class about rules, behaviour, being courteous and this is reinforced by the examples set by the staff, both teaching and non-teaching. We try to stress positive rules rather than negative ones as laid out in our 'Golden Rules':



- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do look after property
- Do listen to people
- Do be honest

A behaviour code devised by pupils and parents is in place and uses a traffic light system for the children to follow. This clearly states what behaviour is and is not acceptable and there are clear sanctions for those who do not follow the code.

If a child demonstrates inappropriate behaviour the child will be spoken to first by the class teacher to find out what the underlying problem is and time will be removed from Golden Time. If behaviour improves it is possible to earn back lost golden minutes.

If there is no improvement or the child displays more serious red behaviour the head teacher will speak to the child and a letter will be sent home stating what that behaviour was, this should be read, commented on and returned by parents.

After three red letters or more serious behaviour you will be contacted asking you to visit the school and discuss the situation with the class teacher and Head Teacher.

Persistent behaviour which shows disregard for the golden rules and/or the safety of others will be regarded as a serious matter and may, ultimately lead to exclusion, according to Highland Council procedures. We work hard at inclusion so that home and school see improvements.

Support for Learners

At Hill of Fearn Primary School, we have a real emphasis on the health and wellbeing of our pupils. As such, positive behaviour will be encouraged through restorative, solution focussed and nurturing approaches.

We are committed to providing additional support for children and young people who without such support, would be unable to benefit from school education. We know that some children and young people need extra support to help them overcome barriers in learning. Children may need extra help with their education for a variety of reasons, for example:

- Difficulties with relationships
- Challenges with learning or understanding
- Problems at home
- Bullying
- A sensory impairment or communication disorder
- A physical disability
- Being a young carer or parent
- Moving home frequently
- Having English as an additional language



Every child is different and any support provided should meet their individual needs. There are lots of ways we can support children, such as:

- Time with additional support needs staff
- Adapting the way they are taught
- Assistance from Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language Therapists
- Equipment, such as a laptop or special seating
- Strategies, like using nurture rooms

We also provide a range of specialist services to help children and young people with additional support needs. Please click here for our Bullying and Positive Relationships policy. https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti_bullying_-_guidance_for_schools

Individual needs will be met through first meeting with parents and perhaps other agencies to ensure the correct support is given at the right time. Visit http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners for more information.

Equality and Diversity

The school promotes understanding and respect for other people's cultural identity and beliefs, according to the guidelines set out by the Highland Council. Any incident of an anti-racist nature will be considered serious. All policies and aspects of the curriculum promote inclusion for all and no tolerance of racism or stereotyping in any form. Please click [here](#) for our Equality and Diversity policy.



Our Curriculum



Our Curriculum



As you can see, our pupils are at the heart of everything we do in school. The things that inform our practice are varied and included in our Rationale.

As with all schools in Scotland Curriculum for Excellence forms the basis of our curriculum.

Timetables are flexible to allow for links to be made between the eight subject areas e.g. skills in writing may be developed through a science topic on electricity.

Each pupil's attainment and achievement is monitored by the class teacher and the head teacher. Formal discussions about individual pupil progress take place between class teacher and head teacher twice in each school year. In addition to this there are frequent informal discussions about pupils when appropriate to ensure pace of learning is as close a match as possible to each pupil.

The subject areas are:

- Languages (which includes listening and talking, reading and writing and French)
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Studies
- Expressive Arts
- Religious and Moral Education
- Sciences
- Technologies



Within Curriculum for Excellence progression is indicated through curriculum levels, although we understand that each learner is unique and all children will have their own learning journey:

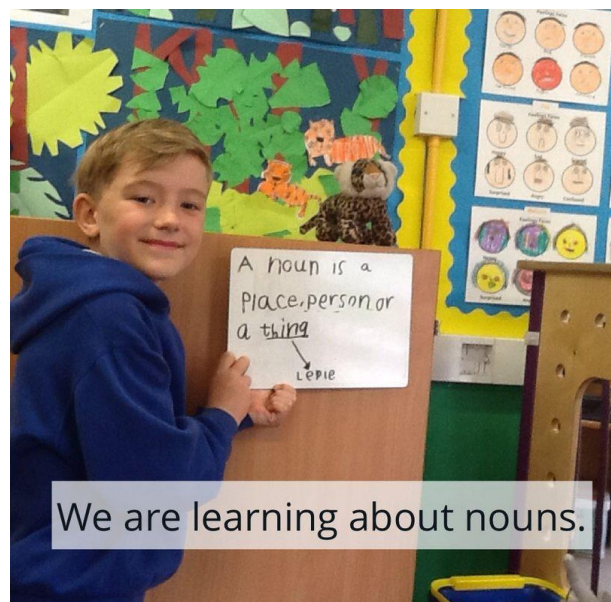
Early level	pre-school and P1 or later for some children
First level	to end of P4, but earlier or later for some children
Second level	to end of P7, but earlier or later for some children
Third and fourth levels	S1 to S3, but earlier for some children
Senior phase	S4 to S6 and college or other means of study

Languages

In line with Curriculum for Excellence, our programme is designed to give our pupils opportunities to develop all aspects of language:

listening	talking
reading	writing

All aspects of language are considered to be important since the study of language is not only valuable for its own sake, but also a necessary prerequisite of all other areas of the curriculum. To make literacy meaningful it is taught across the curriculum. At all stages, the child is



We are learning about nouns.

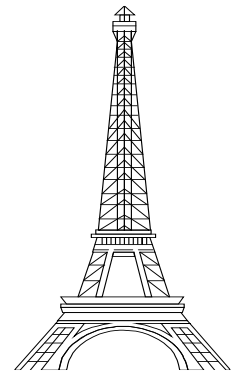
presented with a wide variety of material which is both interesting and enjoyable. The school uses some strategies from the Highland Literacy Project to support learning. This involves lessons in core reading, reading for information, exploring writers' craft, phonics, spelling and opportunities for reading for enjoyment. This is done in a structured and progressive manner using a variety of resources.

Written work is often linked to other areas of the curriculum to make it meaningful and will include opportunities for factual, creative and personal writing. Otherwise the child will progress through a systematic approach to punctuation, presentation and language structure set at an appropriate level. Children are expected to acquire the skill of listening with attention and understanding. Through activities such as discussion and drama, they will learn to interact with each other and express their own ideas and feelings with confidence.

Progress in reading, writing, listening and talking is monitored and recorded systematically and involves both teacher and pupil. The school are also involved in year 2 of a spelling pilot 'Wraparound Spelling.' We aim to provide parents with feedback on the success of this after 6 weeks and then 12 weeks.

French

All children in P1-7 are taught French through games and activities. Throughout the day, some instructions will be given in French to enable the children to become accustomed to hearing a foreign language. The Highland Council Programme of Work is followed and links with Curriculum for Excellence to allow a progressive route through learning French in the Primary Years.



Numeracy and Maths

Within Curriculum for Excellence Numeracy and Maths are organised into three areas

1. Information Handling
2. Number, Money and Measure
3. Shape Position and Movement

From the early stages children will explore and apply mathematical concepts to understand and solve problems, explaining their thinking and presenting their solutions in a variety of ways. Whenever possible, the children will be shown the application of a concept learned in a real situation. Therefore much of the work will be of a practical and active nature. Learning without real understanding of the process tends to turn the pupils off when they come up against a different method. A balance of knowledge and skills will be embedded into the curriculum and developed across the curriculum. A range of resources are used to support this including Heinemann Active Maths, SumDog and the Highland Numeracy Progression as well as approaches such as Outdoor Learning.

Mental agility is an ongoing activity at each stage and is practised daily. Strategies to help children develop agility with numbers are encouraged.

All pupils are assessed in maths in an on-going basis; the children are involved in this process along with the class teacher.

Health and Wellbeing

Each year, through the study of a variety of health topics, the children are given opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and skills which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.

Learning through health and wellbeing enables children to:

- Make informed choices
- Experience challenge and enjoyment
- Experience positive aspects of healthy living
- Apply knowledge and skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle
- Make a successful move to the next stage of education

This is done through specific health and wellbeing lessons and also across the curriculum as appropriate and within the general ethos and life of the school.

Examples of health and wellbeing topics are:

- Food and Health
- Substance Misuse
- Mental, Emotional and Social Wellbeing

Where appropriate, input from people such as the police, nurse or dentist is requested. Parents will be informed by letter before sensitive aspects of Health and Wellbeing, such as sexual health, are taught. Information about content will be given and the opportunity to withdraw children from these lessons if appropriate.

There is a website managed by Highland Council that supports a variety of information relating to mental health and emotional wellbeing that can be accessed [here](#). Schools have access to Highland Council's Primary Mental Health Worker Service and consultation and advice may be sought if there are concerns that might require more targeted support. Counselling is also available for all pupils from age 10. Information on your school's service can be accessed from your child's guidance teacher. Alternately, there is a completely confidential, online counselling service called Kooth for children and young people from age 10 that can be accessed [here](#). Parents would generally be involved in discussions beforehand, however a young person over the age of 12 can ask for support themselves.



Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport

This is part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum. The school provides wide ranging activities which suit all ages and abilities. Each class has 2 hours of PE timetabled weekly. We have a visiting specialist, Ms Swanson, for P.E. each week.

Children are encouraged to be active and given opportunities to sample a range of activities throughout their time at Hill of Fearn. The school have recently been involved with the Ross County Rural Schools programme.

Hill of Fearn Primary has maintained Health Promoting Status Level 4.

Social Studies

Social studies provide a means for children to find out about the world around them and explore their relationship with it.

The three main areas covered are:

- People, past events and societies
- People, place and environment
- People, society, economy and business

These have been organised by the school into cross curricular topics with a strong local and Scottish element which is built upon to look at the wider world. Examples of possible topics are:

Early / first level

- My Village
- Hill of Fearn Now and in the Past
- A Day in the life of...

Second level

- Local Industry
- A Country Beyond Europe
- Twentieth Century Scotland

Class teachers and pupils may also decide on other topics of study which meet the interests and needs of pupils. We try where possible to integrate other curricular areas, e.g. health, language into our social studies topics.

Science

The school uses the Highland Science Programme through which children will meet the Science experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence. Links are made with other areas of the curriculum as appropriate.

The areas covered are:

- Planet Earth
- Forces, Electricity and Waves
- Biological Systems
- Materials
- Topical Science

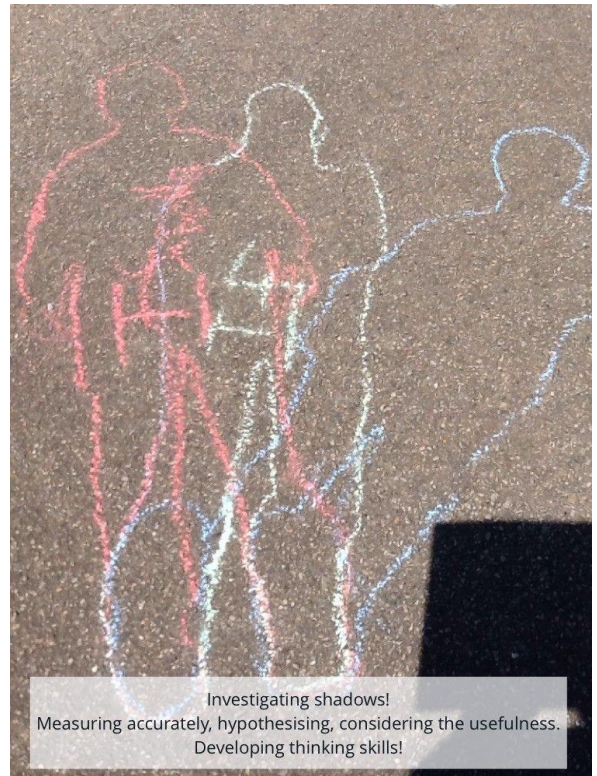
These topics can be adapted to meet the needs and interests of pupils. The experiences and outcomes in science provide opportunities for children to develop and practise a range of inquiry and investigative skills and to develop scientific analytical thinking skills. There is an emphasis on environmental issues throughout the science programme.

Expressive Arts

Through the primary school, the children will have the opportunity to express ideas and emotions based on first hand experiences of their surroundings.

The ideal opportunity presents itself in the expressive arts, through the enjoyment of music, art, drama and movement.

Frequently, the work undertaken will be linked to other curricular areas, e.g. language or environmental studies.



Art and Design

Art and design are important areas of our primary school curriculum. A wide variety of skills and techniques are tackled each year to give children experience of different mediums. Class teachers provide tasks, often related to pupils' direct observation and to the content of class topics.

Music

The school is fortunate in having the help of a weekly visit from a strings' instructor who gives tuition in violin and cello to those children who show an interest and ability. The Youth Music Initiative enables younger pupils to receive regular Kodaly singing and P4-7 to have regular instruction from Feis Rois. The classroom teachers co-ordinate their programme of work according to classroom topics to give progression in the skills of listening, singing, music making. Above all, enjoyment is the main concern.

Drama and Dance

The school makes use of the Out of Eden project to enable all children to work with an Eden Court outreach teacher on drama and dance.

The school uses a variety of teachers of dance from out with the school to motivate and enthuse pupils in this area.

We also put on a Christmas play each year in which the whole school are involved, this combines drama and music and is enjoyed by all.

In addition to this the school participates in the Tain Associated School Group Dance competition each March.

Religious and Moral Education

The main aim in this area of education is to help the child in the search for meaning, value and purpose. Other aims are to enable the children to develop positive self-image and to have good relationships with other people. A helpful and caring attitude to their own community and the world they live in is to be encouraged. Through selected stories which illustrate religious and moral commitment, the aim is to increase knowledge of Christianity and other world religions.



Making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday 🍳👍

Religious Observance Withdrawal

Special arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in religious observance. Alternative arrangements will be made for these pupils.

Technologies

The curricular area of technologies is intended to tap into children's natural inventiveness and creativity and their desire to work in practical ways. Through technologies children are motivated to develop skills and acquire knowledge and understanding of their world.

Technologies is organised into the following framework:

- Digital literacy
- Food and textile technology
- Technological developments in society and business
- Craft, design, engineering and graphics
- Computing science

In technologies the children will develop an understanding of technology in the world around them and the contributions various technologies make to society.

They will learn a variety of skills from problem solving and organisational skills to using tools, computers and software.

Class teachers teach and practise computer skills on a daily basis throughout learning and teaching in the curriculum.



Skills for Life, Learning and Work

As a school we have identified a range of transferable skills as a focus for development. This skills development will be planned and assessed and pupils will be aware of the skills they are developing and how they will be of use throughout life in a variety of situations, particularly in numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing.

Pupil Choice and Involvement in Planning

All pupils will be given appropriate choice within their learning. This will take place in a range of ways for example:

- A pupil may be asked to research a famous Scot but be given choice as to whom to research.
- A pupil may be asked to present information on renewable energies but have choice as to how they present their information e.g. report, PowerPoint, poster
- A pupil may have spellings to practice, but be given choice as to how to learn these
- Classes will be involved in planning topics for study and at times in which topic to study
- Pupils will be given opportunities to work individually or as part of a group
- All pupils are involved in setting their own targets for learning each term and working towards achieving these targets

You can find out more about Curriculum for Excellence through reading our curricular policies a list of which is included in the School Policies section of this document.

You can also visit:

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

and Skills Development Scotland – My World of Work which is useful for parents of children who are moving up to secondary school. <http://parents.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Assessment & Reporting

As a school, we seek to provide information to pupils, parents and staff to assist in the effectiveness of learning and teaching process and in raising attainment.

Teachers will use the assessment process as an evaluative, diagnostic and formative tool to provide evidence of pupil attainment and progress and to inform learning and teaching approaches and pupil targets.

Pupils should view the assessment process as a motivating experience which takes place within the overall context of a supportive school. Pupils should make use of feedback, in all its forms to inform next steps for the improvement of their own learning.

Parents will receive feedback on their son or daughter's progress through pupil reports, progress checks, and target setting information.

Pupils will reflect on their progress, achievement and best work on their SeeSaw e-portfolio.

Progress

Parents wishing to enquire about a pupil's progress are invited to get in touch with their class teacher in the first instance.

Tracking

Tracking is recorded in maths, reading, writing, listening and talking.

We have identified the important steps in learning at each level of the curriculum for maths, reading, writing, listening and talking. These support class teachers' planning for learning and are used to track pupil achievement and progress as they move through the school.

Assessment for Excellence

Each session P1, P4, and P7 pupils sit online standardised assessments in reading, writing and numeracy. The results of these tests are used to identify areas of strength and where development is required for individuals, groups, classes and as a school.

Summary of Pupil Progress

In November and May each year discussion takes place between class teachers and the head teacher as to the progress of each individual pupil. Highland Council has issued the following statements and one statement from each section is used to report progress to parents. These statements tell how well a child is performing in relation to

other children at the same stage and how well they are making appropriate progress for them taking into consideration their ability and circumstances.

In terms of performance against age and stage

- is consistently performing beyond the expected standard for his/her stage
- is consistently performing at the expected standard for his/her stage
- is sometimes performing at the expected standard for his/her stage
- is not yet performing at the expected standard for his/her stage

In terms of personal progress

- Making very good progress through consistent application to learning activities.
- Making appropriate progress through consistent application to most learning activities
- Some progress being made but this is hampered by inconsistent application to learning activities
- Not making appropriate progress due to inconsistent application to learning activities

Reporting to Parents

The school use a profiling system called 'SeeSaw' which parents can connect to, view and comment on work that has been happening throughout the year and a fuller report using Highland Council's format is issued in May.

Parent evenings will be held in October and March. Class teachers, head teacher and support for learning teacher are all available at these meetings.

At other times through the year discussions on progress will take place with parents if and when appropriate.

If parents have a concern at any time about their child's progress or how to support them they should contact their child's teacher to arrange a meeting.



For more information please visit:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/17/school_curriculum

Transitions



Transfer from Nursery to Primary

Enrolment for P1 takes place in January each year and is advertised in the local press and on posters at the school and around the village. Because there is a Nursery in Hill of Fearn the majority of our pupils already know the school well.

Three mornings are planned in June for all new P1 children to join the class. During one of these mornings there will be an opportunity for parents to meet with the head teacher to find out more about the school and ask any questions they may have.

If further transition arrangements are required these will be arranged on an individual basis.

Enrolment week for Primary 1 pupils will take place in January 2023.

For Early Learning and Childcare places, enrolment week will take place in February 2023. Enrolment forms can be filled in online at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/11/school_enrolment

Transfer between Primary Classes

For many children the transition between classes and classrooms causes no anxiety or concern as pupils throughout the school have frequent opportunities to work and play together. This allows pupils to get to know other pupils and staff throughout the school.

However there may be times when transitions between classes cause worry or upset for pupils. If this is the case arrangements will be made to reduce stress for pupils as much as possible. Pupils and parents will be involved in decisions as to how this will be done.

Transfer from Primary to Secondary

Most pupils transfer to Tain Royal Academy for their secondary education. To make the transition as easy as possible, teachers from the Academy visit the school to meet the children and discuss the school routine. Pupils also have the opportunity to spend 3 days at the Academy. During this time they will follow a normal timetable and be placed in their prospective classes. Further visits for sporting fixtures and problem solving days etc. prior to admission are also arranged. Pupils will sometimes be provided with an enhanced transition which will be planned with staff from the secondary destination. You will be fully involved and kept informed of this.

Tain Royal Academy, Scotsburn Road, Tain, Ross-Shire, IV19 1PS.
01862 892121

Head teacher: Mr Mark Jones

Support for Pupils



Additional Support Needs

Class teachers, in conjunction with Additional Support Needs Teacher monitor the progress of pupils with additional support. The needs of such pupils are generally catered for within the normal curriculum but with specialist advice and support as required. If necessary, a child's plan may be put in place to help plan, organise, monitor and regularly review a child's progress. Parents and pupils will be involved in these procedures and in reviews. More information can be found about the Highland Council model for support and child's plans at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/230/highland_practice_model_-_delivering_additional_support_for_learners

http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11/co-ordinated_support_plan

Sometimes a Children's Service Worker will be involved in supporting a child. A Children's Service Worker is often based at the school and will generally focus on more social and emotional needs rather than issues about the curriculum or classroom learning. They:

- work in collaboration with the support team in school
- work to support families in their own communities
- work with individual pupils and small groups - offering a further level of support

Parents/Carers will always be involved in discussions about any additional support being suggested for their child and any need that may be identified within the school.

Highland Council would seek to work in partnership with parents at all times, but sometimes you will have a concern that you don't feel is being addressed, or will want to talk to someone out-with the school. Should you have any concerns that your child's additional needs are not being met, you should contact your child's named person in the first instance and/or the Head Teacher, Gemma Jack. If your concerns continue, there are a number of means of resolving difficulties and disputes and information on this can be found at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners

Progress

Parents wishing to enquire about a pupil's progress or have concerns about their progress are invited to get in touch with the class teacher in the first instance or Mrs Jack, Head Teacher. Please also visit Parentline: <https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland>

Children with Additional Support Needs

If your child has any additional needs please ensure that the school is fully aware of these when you enrol your child. If concern arises once a child is in school parents will

be contacted quickly and appropriate guidance and support sought from other agencies where appropriate.

Further information on provision for children with additional support needs and where to get further information can be obtained from the school or for more information and advice visit the Support for Learners Website: <http://enquire.org.uk/> Education Scotland information. My Rights, My Say – an advocacy and advice service for young people over 12 with additional support needs <http://enquire.org.uk/myrightsmysay>

Support for Learning Teacher

A Support for Learning teacher gives consultation and advice to staff. Pupils may have input from the support for learning teacher for a variety of reasons including to carry out assessments and to support with the Child Plan process if necessary.

Pupil Support Assistant (PSA)

We have one full time Pupil Support Assistant post providing support for many of the children. This is currently a job share across the week with Mrs Milne and Mrs Wightman across the week. Our PSA may support lessons such as reading or maths, provide support for pupils in the playground or in the canteen etc Our PSAs also supervises the playground at break time and lunch time.

The individual learning and social/emotional needs of children are considered when allocating support.

Child Protection – Highland Council Protection Inter-agency Guidelines

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.

COPIES OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY GUIDELINES are available from Mrs Jack or online at

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare_and_family_care/438/child_protection

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/> email info@enquire.org.uk

The Highland Council’s policy on provision for children with additional needs can be found at: <http://www.forhighlandschildren.org/5-practiceguidance>

For more information you can contact the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC033576 or the Scottish Child Law Centre, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SCO12741.

School Improvement



Each year the school issues a Standards and Quality Report detailing the main achievements of the school over the last 12 months. A paper copy can be requested from the school).

Our latest report from HMle can be viewed at:

<http://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland>

Improvement Priority Title	What exactly are we going to do?
1. Curriculum development - Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take part in Talk for Writing training and to roll this out across the cluster to ensure a consistent approach to Writing.• Develop a robust tracking system for Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking• Create an Assessment Calendar
2. Tain ASG Numeracy Assessment and Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Numeracy working party to be set up with representatives from all associated schools• To discuss and create a consistent approach to Assessment and Moderation of Numeracy across the ASG
3. ELC – Planning in the moment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To continue to embed Planning in the Moment to reflect the guidance in Realising the Ambition- Being Me. Staff will learn about and practice their skill in planning responsively and including children’s voice.

Pupil Equity Fund

The school are working hard to address the poverty related attainment gap. This year we have used the funding to employ a PSA, Mrs Milne, to work with pupils to address gaps in learning. She will be running interventions in literacy and numeracy for targeted learners.

School Performance

Parents can find out more about the school’s performance by visiting:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/school-information-dashboard/>

School Policies

Policies

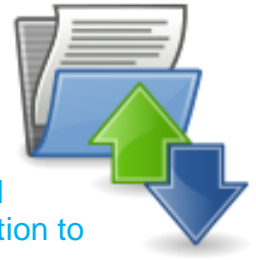
The following policies are available for parents in the office and a copy can also be requested.

- Child Protection
- Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety
- Internet Access
- Adverse Weather
- Dealing with Drug Related Incidents
- Road Safety
- Behaviour
- Positive Relationships and Bullying Prevention
- Promoting Equality and Diversity
- Emergency Planning Procedures
- Absences
- Equal Opportunities
- Quality Assurance, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Partnership with Parents
- Homework
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- Health Promotion
- Handwriting
- Presentation of Work
- Social Studies
- Maths
- Problem Solving
- Science
- Technology
- Spelling
- Phonics
- Reading
- Writing
- Listening and Talking
- Religious and Moral Education
- Expressive Arts



Highland Council School Policies can also be accessed through http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_-_general_information/29/school_policies_procedures_and_guidelines

Data about Pupils



Access to Pupil Records

The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003 extend to parents the right of access (with certain specific exceptions) to any record held by the Authority in relation to their child. Parents may make application to the Head Teacher, Mrs Jack.

Data Protection Legislation

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 data protection legislation and may only be disclosed in accordance with the codes of practice.

Transferring Educational data about pupils

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils through the Pupil Census to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us. Further information can be obtained from

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed> .

Data about pupil preferred routes, preferred occupations and anticipated school leaving date is also collected from S3/S4 to support planning for leaving school. This information is shared with Skills Development Scotland. Further information about 16+ Data can be found here:

<http://hi-hope.org/directory/listing/16plus-planning>

Data policy

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. Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints. As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government. The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.

Information on why we collect data about pupils and who we share this data with can be found in Highland Council's Privacy Notice which is available here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1095920/enrol_your_child_at_a_school

Education authorities and the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) have collected data about pupils on paper forms for many years. We are now working together to transfer data electronically through the ScotXed programme. **The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.**

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the SQA and Skills Development Scotland needs accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better examination results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows us to:

- o plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils
- o plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils
- o better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement
- o share good practice
- o target resources better
- o enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of young people in Scotland

Your data protection rights

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with data protection legislation. We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. Data protection legislation gives you the right to know how we will use your data. This note can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of each individual ScotXed survey, including the purpose of each and the published data, can be found on the ScotXed website

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/SchoolEducation>

Scottish Government works with a range of partners including Education Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, in order to help meet our aim of improving the life of young people in Scotland, we may make individual data available to partners such as the National Registers of Scotland to carry out research relating to the national population census and also academic institutions and organisations to carry out additional research and statistical analysis to meet their own official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, and will be consistent with our data policy. This will ensure that no individual level data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that these data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Decisions on the sharing of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis at ScotXed@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to The ScotXed Support Office, Area 2D, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ. Alternative versions of this

page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, Braille and large print.

Military Families

Our school welcomes and supports families, their children and young people from Forces families: serving, veteran and reservists.

We understand some of the challenges that mobility of service life can bring and we look forward to working with you to ensure a smooth transition for your child/young person coming into or moving on from our school. Please get in touch with us as soon as you can so we can work with you to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Highland Council have proudly committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and as such support our veteran and reservist families as well as those currently serving. There is a dedicated Highland Council Military Liaison Group (MLG) which has been formed to promote and ensure equality and equity for your children and young people in their education.

Visit the Highland Council Armed Forces Website for lots of helpful information and support

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/833/armed_forces_-_support_for_families_and_schools

Please get in touch with your child's named person or the Head Teacher if you have any concerns.

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