

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

2022/23



Arisaig Primary School, Arisaig PH39 4NH
HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Introduction: Local and National Context

Ro-ràdh: Co-theacsa Ionadail agus Nàiseanta

This Standards and Quality Report is influenced by both Highland and national priorities. These can be summarised as follows:

Highland Priorities



National Improvement Framework Priorities



Entitlement, Excellence & Equity:

We will raise attainment and achievement for all, especially for children and young people from disadvantaged circumstances, including rural deprivation. We will focus relentlessly on improving standards and the quality of learning and teaching, to ensure that entitlement, equity and excellence are delivered across the system.

Empowerment & Leadership:

We will develop leadership skills at all levels of the system, for now and the future, building a culture of empowerment and professional capital.

Relationships:

We will maximise health and wellbeing for all children and young people, to give them the best possible start in life. We will ensure every child and young person feels part of the community they live in.

Opportunity:

We will maximise opportunities for our children and young people, and for the wider Highland community and its visitors, through the provision of high-quality services.

The key priorities outlined in the National Improvement Framework are:

- Placing the **human rights and needs of every child** and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's **health and wellbeing**
- **Closing the attainment gap** between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and **sustained, positive school-leaver destinations** for all young people
- **Improvement in attainment**, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Self-evaluation

To support self-evaluation, quality indicators from the national evaluative framework How Good Is Our School?4 are referenced.

Links to these sources (and others referenced) can be found here:

- [National Improvement Framework Improvement Plan](#)
- [HGIOS? 4](#) and [HGIOELC](#)
- [Health and Social Care Standards](#)
- [National Gaelic Language Plan](#)

In this report the following words are used to describe the numbers and proportions used:

All	Almost all	Most	Majority	Less than half	Few
100%	91% - 99%	76% - 90%	51% - 75%	16% - 50%	Up to 15%

We are pleased to present our Standards and Quality Report for Session 2022-23. This report forms part of our quality improvement framework and provides important information regarding our school's progress to date and our next steps in school improvement.

Self-Evaluation for Self-Improvement is at the heart of our practice. We continue to develop our practice in making robust use of evidence as a basis for judgements regarding the impact of our work on our learners. All staff understand that self-evaluation is an integral aspect of our approach to continuous improvement through addressing the 3 key questions:

- How well are we doing?
- How do we know?
- What are we going to do now?

Throughout the year we continuously evaluate what we do and how it makes a difference to our learners. We want to know what is working well for our school community and what needs further improvement. We inform decision making and actions through a continuous process of looking inwards, outwards and forwards.

Looking inwards - starts with those working with our children and young people

We focus on the impact on outcomes for learners. Our self-evaluation processes triangulate information, data, people's views and observation of practice to measure impact and inform planning for improvement.

Looking outwards - learning from others

Looking to others for new ideas that challenge our practice and support continuous improvement allows us to learn from what works and what doesn't. This includes practice in other schools, learning communities and learning from educational research.

Looking forwards - creating a vision and planning for implementation

Through leadership at all levels, we anticipate challenges and explore creative solutions. This helps us to create an aspirational vision for our school which shapes our actions and provides a focus for improvement.

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

When we develop our improvement plan, we use key questions at scheduled review times throughout the session to know how well we are progressing towards achieving these positive outcomes and changes.



Together we are working hard to ensure the Highlands is the best place for children and young people to grow up safely, learn, develop and achieve.

With positive experiences, our children and young people will always see the Highlands as home.

Le eòlasan deimhinneach, bidh ar cloinn is ar n-òigridh daonnan a' faicinn na Gàidhealtachd mar dhachaigh.

Pamela Watt
Acting Head Teacher
Mallaig 3-18

School Profile

Pròifil na Sgoile

Arisaig Primary School is in a rural, coastal setting serving a local community of about 300. Set in one of the most visually stunning, culturally-rich and historically-significant areas of North-West Europe, we strive to provide the perfect educational complement to the perfect place in which a young person could grow up.

There are 29 children attending the school and 9 children in nursery, ranging from N4 - P7. P1 – 3 and P4-7 are taught within multi-stage classes and there is a Nursery for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The headteacher has overall leadership responsibility for Arisaig Primary School and Mallaig 3-18 which includes Lady Lovat, Inverie and Mallaig Primary Schools The headteacher is supported by a Depute Head Teacher – who is also Depute for the other primaries. Staff and children from other schools work together and utilise relevant opportunities to work together.

As the school roll comprises a small number of children, attainment and progress will be expressed in ‘overall’ statements, rather than specific year groups or Curriculum for Excellence levels. This is to ensure the identity of individuals is not disclosed.

Overall, attainment across the school in literacy and English and numeracy and mathematics is very good/good. Children achieve appropriate CfE levels in literacy and numeracy and, across the school, a few children are exceeding nationally expected levels. Almost all children who face barriers to learning are making good progress towards meeting their individual targets.

Overall children are making the following progress:

Reading	Writing	Listening and talking	Numeracy
Good progress	Good progress	Good progress	Good progress

We have had no exclusions this year.

School vision, values and aims

Lèirsinn, luachan agus amasan na sgoile

Our school values are: responsibility, respect, resilience, creativity, curiosity and compassion.

Our aims are under review with further consultation next session with the whole school community.

Review of progress for session

Ath-sgrùdadh air adhartas airson an t-seisein

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

Responsibility • Respect • Resilience • Creativity • Curiosity • Compassion
Dleastanas • Spèis • Seasmhachd • Cruthachailleachd • Furachas • Co-fhaireachdainn

Purpose:

Since 2018, attainment in literacy across the cluster has declined. Combined 2022 achievement of a level data showed that less than half of children in P1, 4 and 7 were achieving the appropriate levels in writing. This figure was marginally higher for reading.

A focus on learning, teaching and assessment in reading and writing is required to address this decline in attainment and ensure children are attaining expected levels.

Progress:

Writing rubrics have been developed and implemented across the cluster to support assessment of children's progress.

Attitudes surveys were conducted in Term 1 and Term 4.

All teachers participated in cluster moderation activities to support professional judgements around achievement of a level in writing.

Senior leaders and at least one teacher from each cluster school undertook Highland Literacy for All training.

All primary teachers and support staff undertook an introduction to the Talk for Writing approach during the February in-set day.

All teaching staff have reviewed approaches to planning and these will be finalised early next session.

Approaches to teaching reading comprehension skills were reviewed and a consistent approach agreed using 'Epic 8.'

Impact:

Teacher confidence in identifying targets to support and progress learning has increased. Rubrics have supported teacher judgement around achievement of a level as observed in termly tracking meetings.

Surveys within INCAS reflected an improvement in attitudes towards learning from Term 1 to Term 4 in most pupils.

Feedback from teachers on moderation activities was positive with greater confidence in achievement of a level.

Teaching staff have continued to develop their understanding about their role in gathering information to inform planning for targeted learning and teaching as well as for the identification of Dyslexia, where necessary.

Observations of learning show that most teaching staff are beginning to trial aspects of the Talk for Writing approach. It is too early to say if this is having an impact.

Consistent approaches to planning using the Highland progression frameworks are in place. All teachers plan appropriately over different timescales to meet the needs of learners.

A whole cluster approach to teaching reading comprehension has been established for P4 – P7 learners. Attainment in reading is improving and all children are making good progress in this area.

Next steps:

Our teaching team will continue to work collaboratively, complete training and to share good practice and the principal focus for next session will be Talk for Writing Fiction and Non-Fiction.

School Priority:

Raising attainment in Numeracy

Purpose:

Since 2019, attainment in numeracy across the cluster has improved for most cohorts, however, overall attainment levels remained below those reported in 2018. Combined 2022 achievement of a level data showed that just more than half of children in P1, 4 and 7 were achieving the appropriate levels in numeracy. Teacher observation, summative and diagnostic assessments highlighted a gap in children's understanding of basic facts.

A focus on using the Highland Numeracy Progression Basic Facts tracker was required to address this decline in attainment and ensure children are attaining expected levels.

Progress:

An attitudes survey of children towards numeracy was undertaken in Term 1 and 4.

National Standardised assessments for P1, P4 and P7 were completed.

Physical manipulatives were purchased for all classes.

All children across the cluster participated in Maths Week – *Maths in Everyday Life*.

Almost all teaching staff use retrieval practice to recap previous learning.

Most children have opportunities to set targets for numeracy and review these with their teacher.

Impact:

Over the session most children's attitudes to numeracy increased from term 1 to term 4. This reflects greater enjoyment and motivation.

Assessment data for P1, P4 and P7 showed majority of pupils achieving expected standard.

Observations of learning show that manipulatives are being used well by teachers to support children to engage in mathematical ideas. Children independently access manipulatives to support their learning.

Feedback from the week reflected that pupils enjoy theme days/weeks through questionnaires. All pupils see relevancy of numeracy skills and can reflect on their learning.

Most children are observed to recall previous learning and apply this to learning of new concepts.

Most children can be seen to take responsibility for their learning and can set realistic targets for learning.

Next steps:

Basic facts will continue to be a focus to support attainment for pupils.

Purpose:

To improve the health and wellbeing of our young people, ensuring they are all safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included.

Progress:

In assembly once a month pupils are part of a Pupil Voice group from P1-7. Pupils chose a focus and/or a priority to work towards. Teachers support pupils in achieving this.

All pupils from Nursery to P7 took part in community engagement activities including entertaining at Old Folks Lunch, participation in performances and visiting businesses and places in the local area and attendance at the Mòd.

All upper pupils took part in Cluster wide sports activities. These included Cross-Country, Rugby,

Some pupils had the opportunity to represent the school at Lochaber wide sports events including Cross Country, Rugby, Swimming Gala

Impact:

Most pupils feel their voice is heard and valued when they are completing feedback questionnaires.

A small number of pupils reported that some of these experiences they have not had before

Almost all pupils reported back positively on the experiences.

All pupils had the opportunity to take part in competitive team games which isn't always possible in individual schools. Pupils feedback on questionnaires is positive about these events both for sport and social opportunities

Next steps:

Ensure that every class has the opportunity for specialist PE input and time for class teachers to link with PE teacher on planning within the WTA. Ensure the work on the school hall floor to reduce need to travel to village for PE. Ensure that pupils are confident in using the wellbeing indicators to talk about themselves and to set targets.

Progress and impact of Pupil Equity Fund

Adhartas agus buaidh Maoin Cothromas Sgoilearan

Although we have had significant, ongoing staffing challenges the playground support has really supported improvements.

Wider achievements

Coileanaidhean nas fharsaing

- Pupils' participation in Local Mòd, choir, action song and soloists
- Outward Bound trip P6/7
- Loch Insh Trip- P5-7
- Community engagement – Christmas Concert, Old Folks lunch,
- Local and area competitions- Write Highland Hoolie, John Muir
- Inter-school sports Lochaber wide e.g swimming gala, cross country
- Fèis Oigridh na Mara lessons and performances
- Cluster events eg sports, activity day, performances, workshops
- Education Scotland re-visit
- Nursery engagement with Local community
- School trips

Comments from learners, families, stakeholders and staff

Beachdan bho luchd-ionnsachaidh, teaghaichean, luchd-ùidhe is luchd-obrach

Parents and pupils provided feedback for our Education Scotland Visit in December and also through online feedback term 4.

Parents

- The regular weekly transition days worked well for P7
- It has been positive to have more communication about child's learning and whole school activities. It has been positive to have a set pattern of homework provided. It was great to have opportunities to take part in the Mod.
- It might be better to tell all pupils the class is taking part in events like the Mòd rather than asking who wants to be involved as not all pupils are confident to put themselves forward.
- Pupils have missed the Forest Friday opportunities this session
- Cluster opportunities have been valuable for all pupils and should continue

Pupils

- we have targets and target time.
- In school our achievements are recognised by saying things like: well done, your doing great, you are amazing!
- Visits and group activities are important because it gives us a good chance to socialise more and have more fun.
- We have an assembly every Wednesday. Say for example when somebody does something good and somebody notices it they would give them a star certificate and write why they deserved it.
- Trips and visits are important because it's fun and interesting and I like making more friends and seeing my friends from different schools

Capacity for continuous improvement

Comas airson leasachadh leantainneach

Using indicators from 'How Good is our School 4' together with learner, parent, carer, partner and community feedback we believe we have made the following progress this session:

	ELC	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
QI 1.3 Leadership of change	Very good	Good	Good
QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Very good	Good	Choose an item.
QI 3.1 Wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Very good	Good	Choose an item.
QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement/Securing children's progress	Very good	Good	Choose an item.

Our overall evaluation of our capacity for continuous improvement is:

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

Key priorities for improvement planning

Prìomhachasan airson planadh airson leasachadh

- Continued focus on raising attainment in numeracy and literacy
- Health and Wellbeing - develop pupil leadership; improve access to a wider range of sports/recreational activities; outdoor education
- Review transition programme

Literacy

- Work to support new staff with Emerging Literacy - work within school, WTA and cluster to support this
- Work to introduce Talk for Writing across both classes and moderate and work with others within the cluster and undertake authority training
- Moderation within WTA group, stage partners and wider cluster in all Literacy areas

Numeracy

- Focus on Basic Facts for Numeracy - improve mental maths speed and knowledge
- Continue using Mental Maths books to build on previous progress (need to be purchased for next session)
- Improve staff confidence when using Mathematics to support all areas of Numeracy
- Continue to embed through all areas of Numeracy and Maths and have a weekly problem-solving focus to model and develop skills and knowledge

HWB

- Work to ensure that children have access to quality P.E. time and equipment - currently school hall is unsafe for use and is costing money and time to walk children down to local community hall
- Consider how to provide quality P.E activities within classroom environment, especially when weather does not permit outside lessons - work within WTA with P.E. specialist
- Continue to provide children with cross-cluster local sporting activities e.g., tag rugby, basketball, swimming etc.
- Transition to be discussed and developed with all relevant staff

Planning ahead

A' planadh air adhart

Full details of the school's 2023/24 improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan, which can be accessed on our website www.mallaigcluster.org.uk or by contacting the school office