

**The Highland Council**

**Caithness Committee**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>5.</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>CC/21/16</b>

## **Thurso Associated School Group Overview**

### **Report by Director of Care and Learning**

#### **Summary**

This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Thurso Associated School Group (ASG), and provides useful updated links to further information in relation to these schools.

### **1.0 ASG PROFILE**

The primary schools in this area serve over 900 pupils, with the secondary school serving 748 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/858/school\\_roll\\_forecasts\\_2014-15](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/858/school_roll_forecasts_2014-15)

There are currently no Head Teacher vacancies in the ASG and all schools receive support through the Quality Improvement Team and the Area Office.

### **1.1 Attainment and Achievement**

#### **1.1.1 Thurso High School- 2016**

##### **Attainment – Performance Summary**

#### **1.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes**

Congratulations should be recorded for the appearance on Breakfast Time TV of Lara Simpson from Thurso HS who has the lead role of Gretel in the Royal Scottish Ballet's production of Hansel and Gretel. A notable achievement.

**Secondary – Thurso – [Link to Thurso High webpage](#)**

**Primary by School:**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/44/schools/search>

School	Link to School Webpage
Castletown Primary School ©	<a href="#">Castletown Primary webpage</a>
Crossroads Primary School ©	<a href="#">Crossroads Primary webpage</a>
Halkirk Primary School	<a href="#">Halkirk Primary webpage</a>
Miller Academy Primary School	<a href="#">Miller Academy Primary webpage</a>
Mount Pleasant Primary School	<a href="#">Mount Pleasant Primary webpage</a>
Pennyland Primary School	<a href="#">Pennyland Primary webpage</a>
Reay Primary School	<a href="#">Reay Primary webpage</a>

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Thurso High School	Mar 2012	<a href="#">Thurso High Inspection</a>
Castletown Primary School	Jan 2010	<a href="#">Castletown Primary Inspection</a>
Crossroads Primary School	Apr 2010	<a href="#">Crossroads Primary Inspection</a>
Halkirk Primary School	Aug 2014 (follow up)	<a href="#">Halkirk Primary Inspection</a>
Miller Academy Primary School	Nov 2008 (follow up)	<a href="#">Miller Academy Primary Inspection</a>
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Feb 2007	<a href="#">Mount Pleasant Primary Inspection</a>
Pennyland Primary School	Nov 2010 (follow up)	<a href="#">Pennyland Primary Inspection</a>
Reay Primary School	May 2010	<a href="#">Reay Primary Inspection</a>
16 registered childminders		

© Denotes school part of a "cluster" management arrangement

## Early Years Centres

Link to Care Inspectorate website: [Find a care service](#)

Key appointments have been made to support Early Years provision in Caithness. Tina Lear has recently been seconded to the post of Early Years Officer. Tina will be based in Drummie but have responsibility to support and help to manage Early Years Centres across the North. We have also appointed Maria Aitken to the post of Early Years Education Support Officer for Caithness. Maria will offer support and curriculum guidance to all Early Years Centres in Caithness. Maria has already taken up her post with Tina due to start by the end of November.

Early Year Centre	Inspection Month	Quality of Care & Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management & Leadership
Castletown Nursery	Nov-15	very good	very good	very good	very good
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa (now part of Mount Pleasant School Nursery)	Jan-16	good	good	good	adequate
Halkirk Playgroup	Sep-15	very good	very good	very good	very good
Miller Academy Nursery	Nov-14	very good	good	very good	good
Mount Pleasant Nursery	Sep-13	good	good	good	good
Pennyland Nursery	Nov-15	good	good	adequate	adequate
Playden Nursery	Jan-15	very good	very good	very good	very good
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	Aug-14	very good	very good	very good	very good
Scallywags Nursery	Feb-15	excellent	very good	very good	excellent

### 1.1.3 Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) which is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The most recent return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1 August 2014 and 31 July 2015. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2015.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Thurso High School	90.1%	91.3%	93.8%
Highland	93.1%	92.7%	93.7%
Scotland	91.4%	92.3%	92.9%

#### Leaver Destinations for Thurso

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2012/13	162	2579	52792
2013/14	149	2601	51876
2014/15	130	2700	53836

#### Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	12/13	13/14	14/15	12/13	13/14	14/15	12/13	13/14	14/15
Higher Education	29.6%	35.6%	34.6%	33.7%	32.3%	34.1%	36.5%	38.6%	38.3%
Further Education	35.8%	37.6%	33.1%	23.7%	23.8%	26.3%	27.8%	26.3%	27.8%
Training	0.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	2.3%	1.5%	5.0%	4.1%	3.8%
Employment	22.2%	15.4%	21.5%	31.2%	31.9%	29.1%	20.4%	21.7%	21.7%
Voluntary	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Activity Agreements	1.9%	0.7%	2.3%	1.9%	1.5%	1.9%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%
Unemployed Seeking	8.0%	4.0%	3.8%	5.6%	4.8%	4.2%	7.1%	6.3%	5.4%
Unemployed Not Seeking	1.2%	3.4%	0%	0.8%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
Unknown	0.6%	1.3%	2.3%	0.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%

*Note: National averages have been calculated from the figures for all available local authority and grant-aided schools, whereas the local authority averages are based on local authority schools only.*

There are currently 2 Activity Agreements involving former pupils of Thurso High.

## 1.2 Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census carried out in September 2016.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registered P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P1-3
Highland Primary (2016)				13.4%	86.0%	76.6%
Scotland Primary (2016)				17.9%	87.3%	81.7%
Castletown Primary School	119	0	0	small school / number	small school / number	85.1%
Crossroads Primary School	21	<5	0	small school / number	small school / number	77.8%
Halkirk Primary School	134	0	<5	8.4%	85.7%	92.2%
Miller Academy Primary School	201	<5	<5	15.4%	73.3%	94.4%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	189	0	<5	22.4%	82.6%	72.8%
Pennyland Primary School	198	<5	<5	14.2%	60.0%	75.8%
Reay Primary School	46	0	<5	small school / number	small school / number	77.8%

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary (2016)				10.8%	82.5%
Scotland Secondary (2016)				14.2%	73.9%
Thurso High School	748	<5	6	11.4%	70.2%

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2016 Free Meals Eligibility is the percentage of the present school roll registered for free meals. Free Meals Uptake is the percentage of those present on census day who were registered and took free meals.

The comment "small school/number" indicates that because of the small numbers of pupils in the school or the small numbers registered for free school meals this information cannot be disclosed.

## 1.2.1 Attendance/Absence/Exclusion Profile 2015/16

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis.

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Primary (2015-16)	94.9%	4.0%	1.1%	8/1000	5/1000
Scotland Primary (2014-15)	94.9%	3.8%	1.3%	9/1000	5/1000
Castletown Primary School	95.6%	3.4%	1.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Crossroads Primary School	95.5%	3.3%	1.1%	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	95.7%	3.6%	0.7%	15/1000	7/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	93.9%	4.5%	1.7%	5/1000	5/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	94.2%	4.6%	1.1%	0/1000	0/1000
Pennyland Primary School	94.5%	3.6%	1.9%	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	92.9%	6.1%	0.9%	0/1000	0/1000

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Secondary (2014-15)	91.5%	5.9%	2.6%	38/1000	26/1000
Scotland Secondary (2014-15)	91.9%	5.4%	2.5%	50/1000	29/1000
Thurso High School	92.4%	4.3%	3.2%	60/1000	23/1000

## 1.3 School

SCHOOL	ECO School	Travel Plan	Improving through Self-Evaluation and Improving Services	No of Placing Requests In	No of Placing Requests in Granted	No of Placing Requests Out Granted
Thurso High School	Bronze	yes	Very Good (2012)	4	4	5
Castletown Primary School	Bronze	yes	Satisfactory (2010)	5	5	5
Crossroads Primary School	Bronze	yes	Satisfactory (2010)	2	2	6
Halkirk Primary School	Silver	yes	Good (2013)	3	3	0
Miller Academy Primary School	Bronze	yes	Unsatisfactory (2005)	12	12	7
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Silver	yes	Adequate (2007)	12	12	5
Pennyland Primary School	Silver	no	Weak (2010)	9	9	15
Reay Primary School	Withdrawn	yes	Excellent (2010)	0	0	0

ECO School information is reported as at Oct 2016. Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2015-16.

It should be noted that all placing requests in/out of these schools were able to be accommodated this year. There were therefore no parental appeals lodged for this ASG.

## 1.4 ECS Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	52.9	17.01
Castletown Primary School	6.6	2.91
Crossroads Primary School	2.5	1.24
Halkirk Primary School	7.4	1.60
Miller Academy Primary School	11.8	3.37
Mount Pleasant Primary School	12.3	5.75
Pennyland Primary School	13.9	3.34
Reay Primary School	2.3	0.77
Nursery	Teacher FTE	Total Staff (FTE)
Castletown Nursery	0.1	2.76
Halkirk Playgroup	0.0	2.23
Miller Academy Nursery	0.1	8.14
Mount Pleasant Nursery English Medium	0.05	3.20
Mount Pleasant Nursery Gaelic Medium	0.05	1.31
Pennyland Nursery	0.1	5.83
Playden Nursery	0.0	1.31
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	0.0	1.34
Scallywags Nursery	0.0	1.40

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2016. Please note that only certain types of teaching posts are counted here: Normal complement, Long term sick absence replacement, secondment replacement, maternity leave replacement, other replacement, temporary contract, covering a vacancy. Teachers who teach at the school but are centrally employed are excluded.

Pre-school staff information has been taken from the Pre-School Census returned to the Scottish Govt in September 2016.

Core staffing is calculated using the Highland Staffing Model, which takes account of national agreements for P1 to P3 class sizes. As a result, all primaries in this ASG are staffed according to the model. The Primary Staffing Arrangements are currently being revised and the new Highland Staffing Model will be shared in due course.

### - Primary School Rolls as at September 2016 – Appendix

In addition to core staffing for each school, a model will be used to provide an appropriate level of ASN cover to each school within the ASG. This model was approved at Adult and Children's Services Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (Item 9a). Report [ACS-33-12](#).

This session we are funding additional staffing for the ASG as follows:

- 8.9 FTE ASN teachers
- 860 hours PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs) 31.27 FTE

The identified level of need at start of session was:

143	Pupils at level 2
46	Pupils at level 3
14	Pupils at level 4

## 1.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Devolved Budget 2014/15	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2013/14	Devolved Budget 2015/16	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2014/15
Thurso High School	2,897,033	3,733	100,437	3,279,446	4,253	97,772
Castletown Primary School	310,092	2,898	-9,175	352,390	3,118	(10,781)
Crossroads Primary School	117,799	3,681	-4,645	134,566	4,806	(4,659)
Halkirk Primary School	360,996	2,777	10,832	478,034	3,594	5,644
Miller Academy Primary School	510,923	2,620	-33,185	596,379	2,982	(23,335)
Mount Pleasant Primary School	480,110	2,667	-7,198	549,833	3,124	(9,132)
Pennyland Primary School	486,439	2,350	-19,706	576,095	2,756	(10,049)
Reay Primary School	131,897	3,471	-4,289	142,822	3,483	(1,810)

Members are asked to note that devolved funding is generally sufficient for school needs. Figures in ( ) are surpluses.

## 1.6 Buildings

School	Suitability	Condition	% Roll Capacity
Thurso High School	C	C	71%
Castletown Primary School	B	B	48%
Crossroads Primary School	B	B	40%
Halkirk Primary School	B	B	51%
Miller Academy Primary School	B	C	42%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	B	B	58%
Pennyland Primary School	B	B	58%
Reay Primary School	A	B	49%

*Building suitability, condition and capacity levels are as reported on the 2016 School Estate Core Facts return.*



### 3.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND IN Thurso ASG

<b>HLH Facilities and Services within the Thurso Associated School Group Area</b>	<b>User Information</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Thurso Swimming Pool	Uses	65019	60654	72756
Swanson Gallery*	Uses	0	0	2385
Thurso Library**	Uses	23712	21333	24899
Mobile Library	Uses	5434	11869	7687
Sports Pitches Ormlie Olig Street Sir George's Gillock Millbank Naver Viewfirth Park Dunnet	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-	-
Active Schools Coordinator (academic year)	Unique Participants	832	963	869
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People	1307	1533	1283
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	129	88	82

\* Gallery/Library closed for refurbishment from Jan 2013 to Nov 2015.

\*\* Library in temporary smaller accommodation from Jan 2013 to Nov 2015.

#### Programme information

**Thurso Swimming Pool:** <https://www.highlifehighland.com/thurso-swimming-pool/>

**Swanson Gallery:** <https://www.highlifehighland.com/swanson-gallery/>

**Thurso Library:** <https://www.highlifehighland.com/thurso-library/>

**Mobile Library:** <https://www.highlifehighland.com/far-north-mobile-library/>

#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Area Committee is asked to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Author:

Date: 10 November 2016

**SCHOOL ROLLS****Estimated Rolls Session 2016-17**

<b>SEED Code</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>P1</b>	<b>P2</b>	<b>P3</b>	<b>P4</b>	<b>P5</b>	<b>P6</b>	<b>P7</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
5100321	Castletown Primary	18	21	17	16	17	19	11	119
5100429	Crossroads Primary	2	2	2	5	2	5	3	21
5100623	Halkirk Primary	16	15	17	23	18	26	19	134
5101328	Miller Academy Primary	27	26	30	21	40	20	37	201
5101425	Mount Pleasant Primary English Medium	23	20	28	26	21	28	27	173
5101425	Mount Pleasant Primary Gaelic Medium	3	8	0	5	0	0	0	16
5101026	Pennyland Primary	29	29	31	35	27	21	26	198
5101123	Reay Primary	8	5	7	6	2	8	10	46

<b>School Name</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>S4</b>	<b>S5</b>	<b>S6</b>	<b>S1-S6</b>
Thurso High School	134	130	127	126	130	101	748

**EARLY YEARS CENTRES AND SCHOOL NURSERY SEPT 2016**

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Deferred Entry</b>	<b>N5 (Sep)</b>	<b>N4 (Sep)</b>
Castletown Nursery	0	14	13
Halkirk Playgroup	0	9	11
Miller Academy Nursery	0	47	18
Mount Pleasant Nursery English Medium	0	16	6
Mount Pleasant Nursery Gaelic Medium	0	14	2
Pennyland Nursery	0	41	17
Playden Nursery	0	1	15
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	1	5	1
Scallywags Nursery	0	2	1

