

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	12iii
Report No	LA/12/26

Committee: Lochaber Committee

Date: 26 January 2026

Report Title: Lochaber High Associated School Group Overview

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – People Cluster

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Lochaber High Associated School Group (ASG) and provides useful updated links to further information in relation to these schools.
- 1.2 The primary schools in this area serve 886 pupils, ELC settings serve 226 children (161 in LA settings and 65 in Partner settings as at September Census), with the secondary school serving 780 young people.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Scrutinise and note the content of the report

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource
There are no implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Legal
There are no implications arising from this report.
- 3.3 Risk
The Service is committed to a sustained focus on progress and improvement to mitigate against the risk of under-performance which impacts on children and young people being able to achieve their full potential.
- 3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)
There are no implications arising from this report.
- 3.5 Gaelic
Continued improvements in primary phase Gaelic Medium Education

attainment will support progress in secondary.

4. Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5. School Website Links

- 5.1 Secondary – [Link to Lochaber High website](#)
 Primary – [Link to School information on Highland Council website](#)

School	Link to School Webpage
Banavie Primary	Banavie Primary website
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar website
Caol Primary	Caol Primary website
Invergarry Primary	Invergarry Primary website
Inverlochry Primary	Inverlochry Primary website
Lundavra Primary	Lundavra Primary website
Spean Bridge Primary	Spean Bridge Primary website
St Columba's RC Primary	St Columba's RC Primary website

- 5.2 Standards and Quality Reports – latest reports:

School	Leadership of change	Learning, teaching and assessment	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Raising attainment and achievement
Lochaber High School	Good	Good	Good	Satisfactory
Banavie Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	Satisfactory	Good	Good	Very Good
Caol Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good
Invergarry Primary	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Good
Inverlochry Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good
Lundavra Primary	Good	Good	Very Good	Good
Spean Bridge Primary	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

ELC	Leadership of change	Learning, teaching and assessment	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Raising attainment and achievement
Banavie PS Nursery	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar Nursery	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Caol PS Nursery	Good	Good	Very Good	Good
Invergarry PS Nursery	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Inverlochry PS Nursery	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Good
Lundavra PS Nursery	Good	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Spean Bridge PS Nursery	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good

6. Education Scotland Inspection Reports

6.1

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Banavie Primary	2/14/2023	Link
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	*+ 5 Years	Link
Caol Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Invergarry Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Inverlochry Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Lundavra Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Spean Bridge Primary	9/17/2024	Link
St Columba's RC Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link

*Education Scotland website shows review and inspection reports in last 5 years, older reports are no longer available to view on the site.

7. School Rolls

7.1 ASG School Rolls – Session 2025-26

Primary School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Banavie Primary	11	11	9	12	19	10	14	86
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	26	20	20	20	21	23	26	156
Caol Primary	26	29	18	26	18	30	47	194
Invergarry Primary	1		1	6	2	2		12
Inverlochry Primary	13	20	19	17	24	19	19	131
Lundavra Primary	27	24	29	32	37	30	25	204
Spean Bridge Primary	9	14	7	11	14	12	12	79
St Columba's Roman Catholic Primary	4	1	4	7	3	3	2	24
Total	117	119	107	131	138	129	145	886

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL S1-S6
Lochaber High School	139	149	129	147	132	84	780

7.2 School Roll and Capacity Forecasts

The school roll and capacity forecast for the ASG can be found here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/818/school_roll_forecasts

8. Attendance / Absence / Exclusions – Session 2024/25

8.1

Primary Schools	% Actual Attendance	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	(2024/25) No of Exclusions	(2024/25) Exclusion Rates per 1000 pupils
National Primary (2024-25)	93.10%	4.30%	2.60%	2004	5.3
Highland Primary (2024-25)	92.70%	5.10%	C	61	C
Banavie Primary	90.29%	7.37%	2.34%	-	-
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	93.75%	5.61%	0.64%	-	-
Caol Primary	91.80%	6.02%	C	C	C
Invergarry Primary	95.43%	3.54%	1.03%	-	-
Inverlochy Primary	91.34%	5.46%	3.20%	-	-
Lundavra Primary	90.33%	7.38%	2.29%	-	-
Spean Bridge Primary	91.91%	3.67%	C	C	C
St Columba's Roman Catholic Primary	88.08%	11.06%	0.86%	-	-

Secondary School	% Actual Attendance	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	(2024/25) No of Exclusions	(2024/25) Exclusion Rates per 1000 pupils
National Secondary (2024-25)	88.40%	6.60%	5.00%	8472	26.9
Highland Secondary (2024-25)	86.80%	7.50%	5.70%	454	32.7
Lochaber High School	85.47%	9.29%	5.17%	25	30.6

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9. Attainment Profile

9.1 Primary Attainment – Pupils Achieving Expected National Curriculum for Excellence Levels – P1, 4, 7 Combined, Literacy and Numeracy

2024/25	Roll P1/4/7	Reading	Writing	Listening & Talking	Numeracy
National		81%	77%	88%	80%
Highland		77%	72%	87%	75%
Banavie Primary	43	60-70%	50-60%	80-90%	50-60%
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	62	c	c	c	90+%
Caol Primary	87	60-70%	60-70%	80-90%	60-70%
Invergarry Primary	8	c	c	c	c
Inverlochry Primary	66	80-90%	80-90%	90+%	80-90%
Lundavra Primary	88	60-70%	50-60%	70-80%	60-70%
Spean Bridge Primary	37	90+%	90+%	90+%	90+%
St Columba's RC Primary	5	c	c	c	c

2023/24	Roll P1/4/7	Reading	Writing	Listening & Talking	Numeracy
National		81%	76%	87%	80%
Highland		76%	71%	87%	74%
Banavie Primary	33	70-80%	70-80%	80-90%	70-80%
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	59	c	c	c	70-80%
Caol Primary	97	70-80%	60-70%	70-80%	70-80%
Invergarry Primary	11	c	c	c	c
Inverlochry Primary	53	80-90%	70-80%	80-90%	70-80%
Lundavra Primary	83	70-80%	70-80%	70-80%	70-80%
Spean Bridge Primary	39	70-80%	70-80%	70-80%	60-70%
St Columba's RC Primary	5	c	c	c	c

2022/23	Roll P1/4/7	Reading	Writing	Listening & Talking	Numeracy
National		80%	75%	87%	80%
Highland		74%	68%	74%	72%
Banavie Primary	47	70-80%	60-70%	90+%	60-70%
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	55	c	c	c	70-80%
Caol Primary	116	70-80%	60-70%	70-80%	70-80%
Invergarry Primary	9	c	c	c	c
Inverlochry Primary	51	80-90%	80-90%	80-90%	90+%
Lundavra Primary	87	50-60%	50-60%	50-60%	50-60%
Spean Bridge Primary	33	70-80%	60-70%	70-80%	70-80%
St Columba's RC Primary	6	c	c	c	c

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9.2 Secondary Attainment – Literacy

School Leavers Achieving Literacy			
Establishment	Year	% Level 4 Literacy	% Level 5 Literacy
Lochaber High School	2023/24	92%	72%
Virtual Comparator	2023/24	93%	79%
Lochaber High School	2022/23	92%	78%
Virtual Comparator	2022/23	92%	76%
Lochaber High School	2021/22	89%	69%
Virtual Comparator	2021/22	92%	74%

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9.2.1 Secondary Attainment – Numeracy

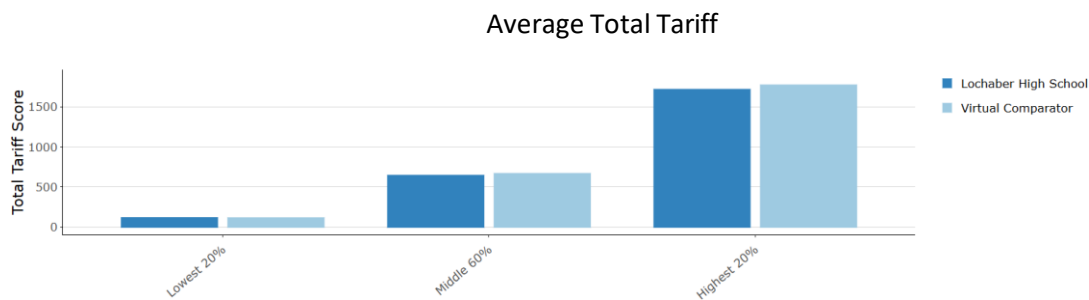
School Leavers Achieving Numeracy			
Establishment	Year	% Level 4 Numeracy	% Level 5 Numeracy
Lochaber High School	2023/24	91%	65%
Virtual Comparator	2023/24	90%	67%
Lochaber High School	2022/23	90%	63%
Virtual Comparator	2022/23	89%	64%
Lochaber High School	2021/22	83%	64%
Virtual Comparator	2021/22	87%	61%

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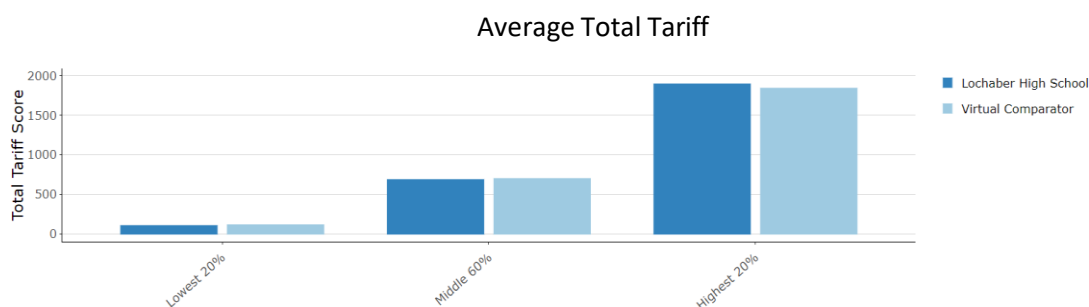
9.2.2 Senior Phase

Average Total Tariff for Leavers				
Establishment	Year	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%
Lochaber High School	2023/24	116	644	1716
Virtual Comparator	2023/24	114	667	1771
Lochaber High School	2022/23	101	682	1891
Virtual Comparator	2022/23	111	695	1837
Lochaber High School	2021/22	100	707	1692
Virtual Comparator	2021/22	98	673	1857

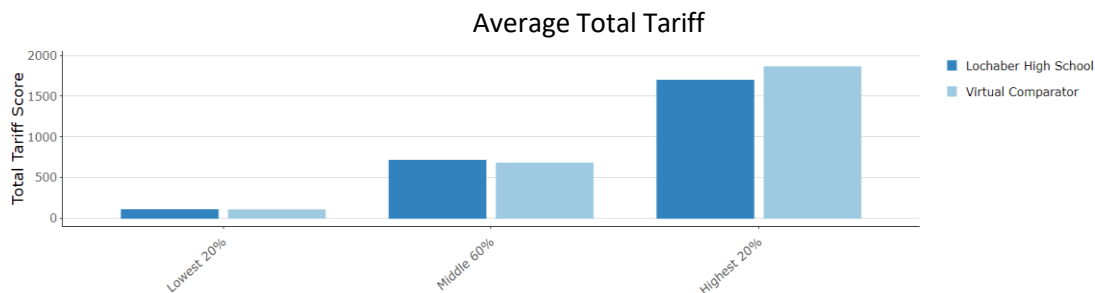
9.3 2023/24



9.4 2022/23



9.5 2021/22



9.6 Pupil Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination data collected by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Lochaber High School	92.66	96.73	98.82
Highland	94.45	95.27	96.5
Scotland	95.74	95.87	95.71

9.6.1 Number of pupils leaving in school year:

	Lochaber High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2021/22	177	2559	55211
2022/23	153	2474	54719
2023/24	170	2629	55961

9.6.2 Destination of pupils (%):

	Lochaber High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
DESTINATION	21/22	22/23	23/24	21/22	22/23	23/24	21/22	22/23	23/24
Higher Education	30.5	31.37	24.71	34.11	33.1	32.07	41.27	40.3	40.8
Further Education	19.77	30.07	24.12	19.54	20.53	20.39	25.45	26.62	26.43
Training	1.69	1.96	1.76	1.52	1.9	3.04	2.91	3.35	3.89
Employment	40.67	32.68	47.06	38.73	39.05	40.4	25.12	24.34	23.08
Voluntary	0	0.65	0.59	0.31	0.53	0.42	0.47	0.52	0.58
Activity Agreements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed Seeking	3.95	1.31	1.18	2.89	2.95	2.05	2.32	2.24	2.16
Unemployed Not Seeking	2.25	1.96	0	1.76	1.62	1.45	1.55	1.57	1.86
Unknown	1.12	0	0	0.9	0.16	0	0.4	0.32	0.27

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.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - People

Date: 8 January 2026

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Background Notes:

- (For all figures marked with "C")
c = value suppressed to protect against the risk of disclosure of personal information
- All data used within this report comes from the most recently published source.

Appendices: n/a