

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Agenda Item | 9        |
| Report No   | DSA/8/26 |

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee

**Date:** 9 February 2026

**Report Title:** Dingwall Academy Associated School Group Overview

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – People

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Dingwall Academy 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 1149 pupils, ELC settings serve 300 children (186 in LA settings and 114 in Partner settings as at September Census), with the secondary school serving 1094 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 Dingwall Academy website](#)  
Primary – [Link to School information on Highland Council website](#)

| <b>School</b>               | <b>Link to School Webpage</b>                       |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Ben Wyvis Primary School    | <a href="#">Ben Wyvis Primary School website</a>    |
| Dingwall Primary School     | <a href="#">Dingwall Primary School website</a>     |
| Ferintosh Primary School    | <a href="#">Ferintosh Primary School website</a>    |
| Marybank Primary School     | <a href="#">Marybank Primary School website</a>     |
| Mulbuie Primary School      | <a href="#">Mulbuie Primary School website</a>      |
| Strathconon Primary School  | <a href="#">Strathconon Primary School website</a>  |
| Strathgarve Primary School  | <a href="#">Strathgarve Primary School website</a>  |
| Strathpeffer Primary School | <a href="#">Strathpeffer Primary School website</a> |
| Tarradale Primary School    | <a href="#">Tarradale Primary School website</a>    |

5.2 Standards and Quality Reports – latest reports:

| <b>School</b>               | <b>Leadership of change</b> | <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b> | <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b> | <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Dingwall Academy            | Good                        | Good                                     | Good  | Satisfactory                              |
| Ben Wyvis Primary School    | Good                        | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Dingwall Primary School     | Good                        | Good                                     | Good  | Good                                      |
| Ferintosh Primary School    | Very Good                   | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Marybank Primary School     | Good                        | Good                                     | Good  | Good                                      |
| Mulbuie Primary School      | Very Good                   | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Strathconon Primary School  | Good                        | Good                                     | Good  | Good                                      |
| Strathgarve Primary School  | Good                        | Good                                     | Good  | Good                                      |
| Strathpeffer Primary School | Good                        | Satisfactory                             | Good  | Good                                      |
| Tarradale Primary School    | Very Good                   | Very Good                                | Very Good   | Good                                      |

| <b>ELC</b>               | <b>Leadership of change</b> | <b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b> | <b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b> | <b>Raising attainment and achievement</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Ben Wyvis Primary ELC    | Very Good                   | Very Good                                | Very Good   | Very Good                                 |
| Dingwall Primary ELC     | Very Good                   | Good                                     | Good  | Satisfactory                              |
| Marybank Primary ELC     | Good                        | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Mulbuie Primary ELC      | Very Good                   | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Strathgarve Primary ELC  | Good                        | Good                                     | Very Good   | Good                                      |
| Strathpeffer Primary ELC | Good                        | Good                                     | Very Good   | Very Good                                 |
| Tarradale Primary ELC    | 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 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dingwall Academy     | 18/01/2022                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Ben Wyvis Primary    | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Dingwall Primary     | 22/08/2023                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Ferintosh Primary    | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Marybank Primary     | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Mulbuie Primary      | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Strathconon Primary  | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Strathgarve Primary  | 17/09/2024                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Strathpeffer Primary | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |
| Tarradale Primary    | *+ 5 Years                      | <a href="#">Link</a>             |

\*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 |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Ben Wyvis Primary    | 48  | 31  | 36  | 35  | 38  | 55  | 40  | 283   |
| Dingwall Primary     | 61  | 54  | 54  | 48  | 56  | 75  | 56  | 404   |
| Ferintosh Primary    | 1   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 3   |     | 1   | 10    |
| Marybank Primary     | 3   | 3   | 5   | 1   | 1   |     | 3   | 16    |
| Mulbuie Primary      | 9   | 6   | 7   | 6   | 6   | 3   | 9   | 46    |
| Strathconon Primary  |     | 1   | 1   |     | 1   | 2   |     | 5     |
| Strathgarve Primary  | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 9     |
| Strathpeffer Primary | 18  | 15  | 14  | 18  | 29  | 17  | 20  | 131   |
| Tarradale Primary    | 28  | 33  | 30  | 33  | 33  | 39  | 49  | 245   |
| Total                | 169 | 147 | 150 | 143 | 168 | 193 | 179 | 1149  |

| School Name      | S1  | S2  | S3  | S4  | S5  | S6  | TOTAL S1-S6 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Dingwall Academy | 196 | 213 | 219 | 195 | 164 | 107 | 1094        |

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

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

8.1

| <b>Primary Schools</b>     | <b>% Actual Attendance</b> | <b>% Authorised Absences</b> | <b>% Unauthorised Absences</b> | <b>(2024/25) No of Exclusions</b> | <b>(2024/25) Exclusion Rates per 1000 pupils</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| National Primary (2024-25) | 93.10%                     | 4.30%                        | 2.60%                          | 2004                              | 5.3  |
| Highland Primary (2024-25) | 92.70%                     | 5.10%                        | C                              | 61                                | C  |
| Ben Wyvis Primary          | 91.71%                     | 5.74%                        | 2.55%                          | -                                 | -  |
| Dingwall Primary           | 92.57%                     | 5.63%                        | C                              | C                                 | C  |
| Ferintosh Primary          | 86.35%                     | 3.73%                        | 9.92%                          | -                                 | -  |
| Marybank Primary           | 95.33%                     | 4.14%                        | 0.53%                          | -                                 | -  |
| Mulbuie Primary            | 93.75%                     | 5.14%                        | 1.12%                          | -                                 | -  |
| Strathconon Primary        | 89.25%                     | 6.75%                        | 4.00%                          | -                                 | -  |
| Strathgarve Primary        | 91.37%                     | 7.39%                        | C                              | -                                 | -  |
| Strathpeffer Primary       | 92.33%                     | 5.17%                        | C                              | C                                 | C  |
| Tarradale Primary          | 93.12%                     | 4.48%                        | 2.40%                          | -                                 | -  |

| <b>Secondary School</b>      | <b>% Actual Attendance</b> | <b>% Authorised Absences</b> | <b>% Unauthorised Absences</b> | <b>(2024/25) No of Exclusions</b> | <b>(2024/25) Exclusion Rates per 1000 pupils</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 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   |
| Dingwall Academy             | 86.84%                     | 7.26%                        | 5.87%                          | 23                                | 21.1   |

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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 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| <b>National</b>             |             | 81%     | 77%     | 88%                 | 80%      |
| <b>Highland</b>             |             | 77%     | 72%     | 87%                 | 75%      |
| Ben Wyvis Primary School    | 107         | 80-90%  | 70-80%  | 90+%                | 80-90%   |
| Dingwall Primary School     | 181         | 70-80%  | 70-80%  | 80-90%              | 70-80%   |
| Ferintosh Primary School    | 8           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Marybank Primary School     | 6           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Mulbuie Primary School      | 16          | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathconon Primary School  | 3           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathgarve Primary School  | 3           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathpeffer Primary School | 61          | 60-70%  | 50-60%  | 80-90%              | 60-70%   |
| Tarradale Primary School    | 104         | 80-90%  | 70-80%  | 80-90%              | 80-90%   |

| 2023/24                     | Roll P1/4/7 | Reading | Writing | Listening & Talking | Numeracy |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| <b>National</b>             |             | 81%     | 76%     | 87%                 | 80%      |
| <b>Highland</b>             |             | 76%     | 71%     | 87%                 | 74%      |
| Ben Wyvis Primary School    | 118         | 80-90%  | 70-80%  | 90+%                | 70-80%   |
| Dingwall Primary School     | 193         | 70-80%  | 70-80%  | 90+%                | 80-90%   |
| Ferintosh Primary School    | 4           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Marybank Primary School     | 11          | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Mulbuie Primary School      | 17          | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathconon Primary School  | 3           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathgarve Primary School  | 5           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathpeffer Primary School | 57          | 80-90%  | 60-70%  | 80-90%              | 70-80%   |
| Tarradale Primary School    | 111         | 80-90%  | 80-90%  | 90+%                | 80-90%   |

| 2022/23                     | Roll P1/4/7 | Reading | Writing | Listening & Talking | Numeracy |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| <b>National</b>             |             | 80%     | 75%     | 87%                 | 80%      |
| <b>Highland</b>             |             | 74%     | 68%     | 74%                 | 72%      |
| Ben Wyvis Primary School    | 120         | 80-90%  | 70-80%  | 90+%                | 80-90%   |
| Dingwall Primary School     | 183         | 70-80%  | 70-80%  | 80-90%              | 70-80%   |
| Ferintosh Primary School    | 3           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Marybank Primary School     | 7           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Mulbuie Primary School      | 21          | 80-90%  | 70-80%  | 80-90%              | 80-90%   |
| Strathconon Primary School  | 1           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathgarve Primary School  | 5           | c       | c       | c                   | c        |
| Strathpeffer Primary School | 70          | 70-80%  | 50-60%  | 80-90%              | 70-80%   |
| Tarradale Primary School    | 122         | 90+%    | 80-90%  | 90+%                | 80-90%   |

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## 9.2 Secondary Attainment – Literacy

| School Leavers Achieving Literacy |         |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Establishment                     | Year    | % Level 4 Literacy | % Level 5 Literacy |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2023/24 | 92%                | 81%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2023/24 | 93%                | 80%                |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2022/23 | 93%                | 85%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2022/23 | 94%                | 82%                |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2021/22 | 95%                | 87%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2021/22 | 95%                | 83%                |

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### 9.2.1 Secondary Attainment – Numeracy

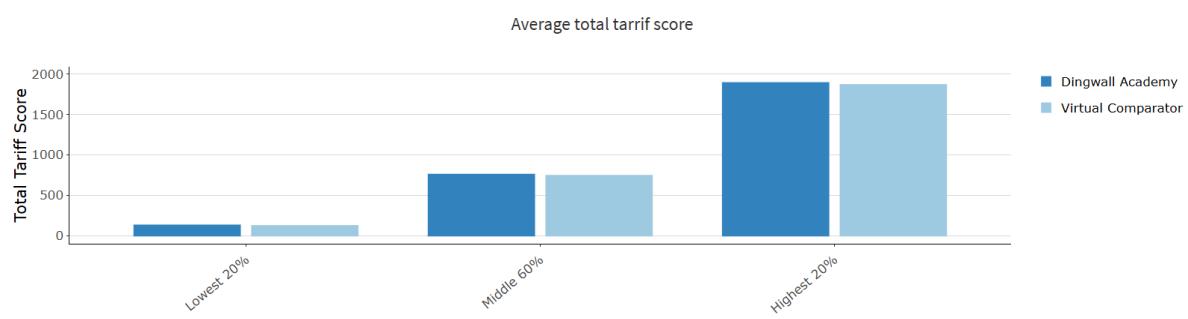
| School Leavers Achieving Numeracy |         |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Establishment                     | Year    | % Level 4 Numeracy | % Level 5 Numeracy |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2023/24 | 91%                | 65%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2023/24 | 90%                | 70%                |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2022/23 | 85%                | 64%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2022/23 | 92%                | 69%                |
| Dingwall Academy                  | 2021/22 | 90%                | 60%                |
| Virtual Comparator                | 2021/22 | 92%                | 69%                |

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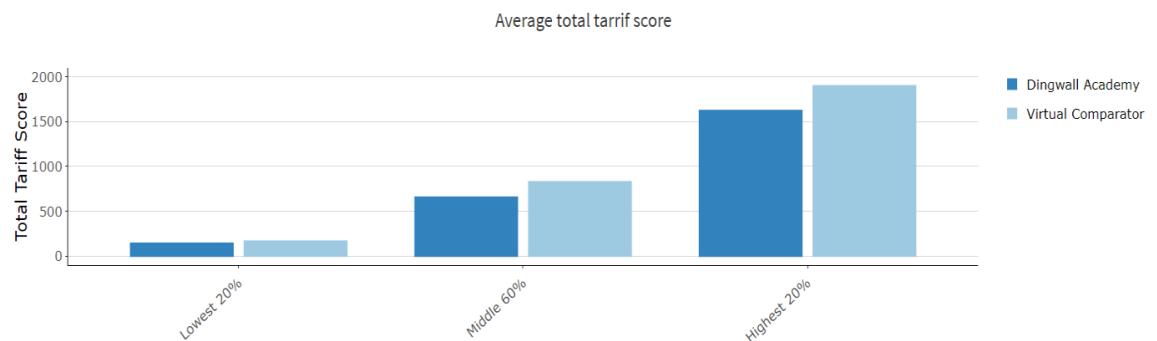
## 9.2.2 Senior Phase

| <b>Average Total Tariff for Leavers</b> |             |                   |                   |                    |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Establishment</b>                    | <b>Year</b> | <b>Lowest 20%</b> | <b>Middle 60%</b> | <b>Highest 20%</b> |
| Dingwall Academy                        | 2023/24     | 129               | 757               | 1890               |
| Virtual Comparator                      | 2023/24     | 122               | 743               | 1866               |
| Dingwall Academy                        | 2022/23     | 116               | 607               | 1701               |
| Virtual Comparator                      | 2022/23     | 120               | 727               | 1842               |
| Dingwall Academy                        | 2021/22     | 141               | 625               | 1616               |
| Virtual Comparator                      | 2021/22     | 166               | 815               | 1877               |

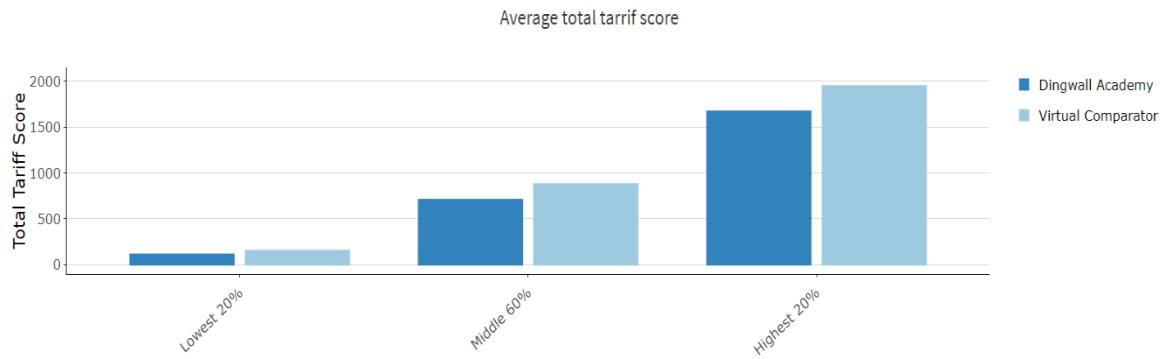
## 9.3 2023/24



## 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 |
|          | Dingwall Academy        | 93.24   | 96.17   |
| Highland | 94.45                   | 95.27   | 96.5    |
| Scotland | 95.74                   | 95.87   | 95.71   |

### 9.6.1 Number of pupils leaving in school year:

|         | Dingwall Academy | HIGHLAND | SCOTLAND |
|---------|------------------|----------|----------|
| 2021/22 | 207              | 2559     | 55211    |
| 2022/23 | 183              | 2474     | 54719    |
| 2023/24 | 190              | 2629     | 55961    |

### 9.6.2 Destination of pupils (%):

| DESTINATION            | Dingwall Academy |       |       | HIGHLAND |       |       | SCOTLAND |       |       |
|------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
|                        | 21/22            | 22/23 | 23/24 | 21/22    | 22/23 | 23/24 | 21/22    | 22/23 | 23/24 |
| Higher Education       | 28.01            | 31.69 | 35.26 | 34.11    | 33.1  | 32.07 | 41.27    | 40.3  | 40.8  |
| Further Education      | 16.9             | 16.94 | 16.84 | 19.54    | 20.53 | 20.39 | 25.45    | 26.62 | 26.43 |
| Training               | 1.93             | 3.28  | 5.26  | 1.52     | 1.9   | 3.04  | 2.91     | 3.35  | 3.89  |
| Employment             | 46.37            | 43.17 | 35.26 | 38.73    | 39.05 | 40.4  | 25.12    | 24.34 | 23.08 |
| Voluntary              | 0                | 1.09  | 0.53  | 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     | 4.83             | 3.28  | 4.74  | 2.89     | 2.95  | 2.05  | 2.32     | 2.24  | 2.16  |
| Unemployed Not Seeking | 0.48             | 0.55  | 2.11  | 1.76     | 1.62  | 1.45  | 1.55     | 1.57  | 1.86  |
| Unknown                | 1.44             | 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: 29 January 2026

Author: Annika Jansson - Area Quality Improvement Manager, N2 (AQIM)

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