

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	9
Report No	DSA/8/26

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](#)

School	Link to School Webpage
Ben Wyvis Primary School	Ben Wyvis Primary School website
Dingwall Primary School	Dingwall Primary School website
Ferintosh Primary School	Ferintosh Primary School website
Marybank Primary School	Marybank Primary School website
Mulbuie Primary School	Mulbuie Primary School website
Strathconon Primary School	Strathconon Primary School website
Strathgarve Primary School	Strathgarve Primary School website
Strathpeffer Primary School	Strathpeffer Primary School website
Tarradale Primary School	Tarradale Primary School 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
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

ELC	Leadership of change	Learning, teaching and assessment	Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Raising attainment and achievement
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	Link
Ben Wyvis Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Dingwall Primary	22/08/2023	Link
Ferintosh Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Marybank Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Mulbuie Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Strathconon Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Strathgarve Primary	17/09/2024	Link
Strathpeffer Primary	*+ 5 Years	Link
Tarradale 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
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

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
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%	-	-

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
Dingwall Academy	86.84%	7.26%	5.87%	23	21.1

c = value suppressed to protect against the risk of disclosure of personal information

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%
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
National		81%	76%	87%	80%
Highland		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
National		80%	75%	87%	80%
Highland		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

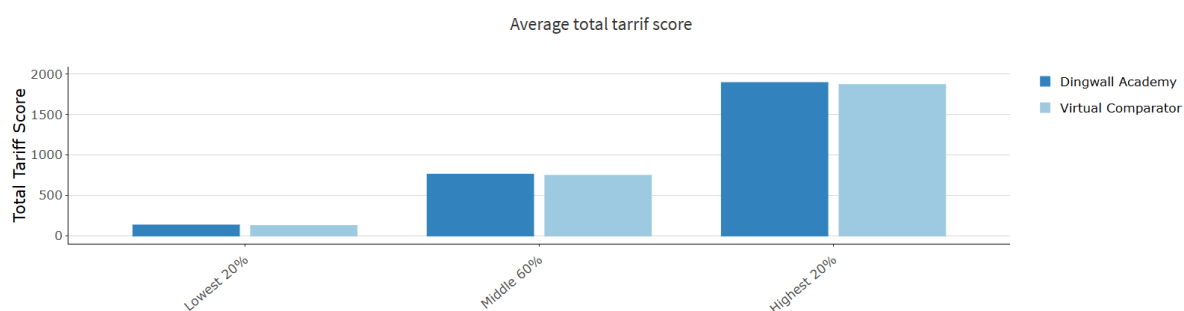
School Leavers Achieving Numeracy			
Establishment	Year	% Level 4 Numeracy	% Level 5 Numeracy
Dingwall Academy	2023/24	91%	65%
Virtual Comparator	2023/24	90%	70%
Dingwall Academy	2022/23	85%	64%
Virtual Comparator	2022/23	92%	69%
Dingwall Academy	2021/22	90%	60%
Virtual Comparator	2021/22	92%	69%

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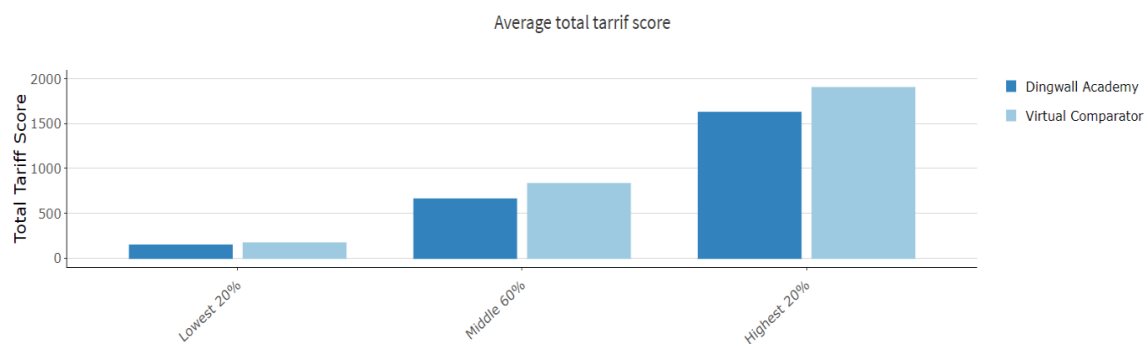
9.2.2 Senior Phase

Average Total Tariff for Leavers				
Establishment	Year	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%
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

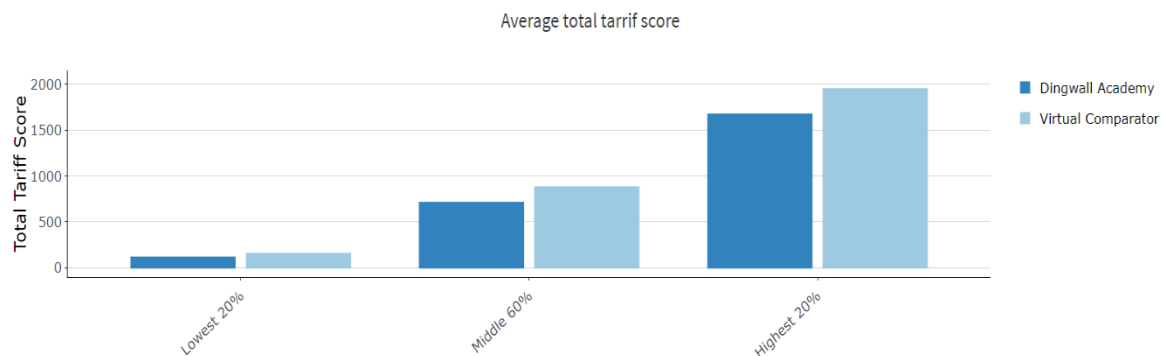
9.3 2023/24



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	93.16
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

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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