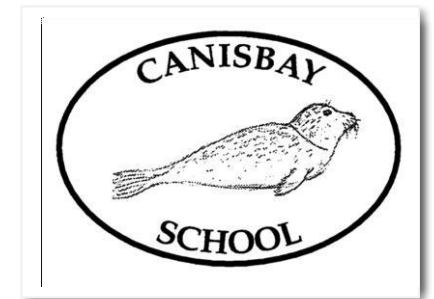




STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2025-26

AITHISG INBHEAN IS CÀILEACHD

CANISBAY PRIMARY/ELC



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%	Over 91%	75% - 90%	50% - 74%	15% - 49%	Up to 15%

Respect
Responsibility

Inclusion
Independence

Challenge
Confidence

Safety
Aspiration

School Profile

Pròifil na Sgoile

The following information can be found on [Parentzone Scotland](#). It is important to remember that statistical data alone is not a measure of how well we are doing. All schools are unique. To understand how well we are doing it is important for us to look at a range of different data sources.

Attendance
92.2%

Average Class Size
19

Meeting PE Target
Target Met

Pupil Numbers (inc nursery)
38 (+4 nursery)

Teacher Numbers
3

Pupil Teacher Ratio
13.6

Canisbay Primary School is located in the north eastern corner of Caithness in close proximity to John O'Groats.

There are 38 children attending the school and 10 children in nursery. The school has 2 classes which are structured as a P1-3 and a P4-7 with a separate nursery for 3 and 4 year olds.

The headteacher has overall leadership responsibility for Canisbay Primary School and Castletown Primary School. The headteacher is supported by a principal teacher across the cluster, based in Castletown Primary. Staff from both schools work together regularly.

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. Children achieve appropriate CfE levels in literacy and numeracy. 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

Very good progress

Writing

Very good progress

**Listening and
talking**

Very good progress

Numeracy

Very good progress

We have had no exclusions this year

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School vision, values and aims

Lèirsinn, luachan agus amasan na sgoile

Vision – Learning together to be the best we can be (staff, pupils, parents and the community)

Values – Respect Inclusion Challenge Safety
Responsibility Independence Confidence Aspiration

Aims –

- Encourage a sense of belonging, pride and responsibility within the school and to have opportunities to make contributions.
- Provide an inclusive learning environment in which all children feel motivated, successful, valued and supported.
- Ensure individual needs are recognised and met and children have their personal achievements celebrated.
- Enable all children to become confident individuals by providing relevant opportunities and responsibilities within the school setting.
- Welcome and encourage partnerships with parents and the wider community to support children's learning.
- Present opportunities to access global citizenship activities to develop an understanding of different beliefs and cultures in Scotland and beyond.
- Promote the health and wellbeing of everyone in the school community.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all and uphold racial equality.
- Value the contribution that all staff make to the school by involving everyone in evaluations and solution finding for future improvements.
- Ensure children have the opportunities to direct their own learning and to engage in self-evaluation.
- Develop awareness and a sense of responsibility for environmental issues locally and globally (2016)

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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](#).

School Priority 1: Rights Respecting Schools	
School Improvement Plan Priority 1	
Summary of progress	Next steps
We have made good progress within this priority. We completed most actions in our school improvement plan and are steadily moving towards what is needed for silver accreditation with Rights Respecting Schools. Children show that they are able to recognise their rights and also the rights of others and ways in which we can ensure they have access to these rights. Children are involved in creating various charters and policies, improving aspects of school, being involved in productive and meaningful decision making and committees. Families have been involved in some engagement with work around rights but through evaluation it has been shown that this needs further work.	Next year will be our final year with having Rights Respecting Schools as a priority action. In summary we will continue to work on the areas that we need to improve, according to our updated self-evaluation. This will include gathering evidence, further promoting engagement and understanding of children's rights with families and promoting positive behaviour. The School Improvement Plan for 26-27 provides detailed information.
Impact	
The impact aligns with the following from Rights Respecting Schools. The UNCRC is known to children and adults who sometimes use this shared understanding to work for improved child well-being, school improvement, global justice and sustainable living. Improved ethos and relationships by regularly using knowledge of the rights to create actions and decisions affecting children to be reviewed and resolved effectively. Children and adults usually collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. Children are regularly empowered to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others.	

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School Priority 2: Curriculum Planning, Curriculum Framework and Teaching Resources	
School Improvement Plan Priority 2	
Summary of progress	Next steps
We started work with this priority but then more information started to be shared from Education Scotland about the review of the curriculum and the dates for implementation. Due to this we had to change our priority as this planned work would be best to be completed after the new revised curriculum has been shared. I did speak with a school highlighted for good practice, to discuss and view their planning processes and we also completed activities that would have an impact on our curriculum including choosing an area of the curriculum to start to look at our resources in school. Time was spent on clearing out old resources and listing resources held in school in preparation for the revised curriculum. We also used time to engage with the Education Scotland Resources for the revised curriculum plans. Tracking processes were also implemented in ELC.	This priority will be put back in place once we have the revised curriculum in place, although it may change depending on the planning resources that come along with it. Also within Wick and Thurso ASGs we agreed that all teachers will engage with the Education Scotland resources continuing to be issued from Education Scotland so that we can engage with each other around the professional dialogue, providing feedback on draft materials and also to ensure we are all starting from the same point and knowledge.
Impact	
Due to the changes required to this action, the impact in this priority was not as expected however we utilised the time effectively and kept it within the curriculum development and it did have an impact as it helped us to ensure we are keeping up with fresh developments and preparing our resources for this significant change.	

Progress and impact of Pupil Equity Fund

Adhartas agus buaidh Maoin Cothromas Sgoilearan

PEF was used to support progress in literacy and numeracy.

17/18 (94%) targets were partially or fully met.

For the following year we will continue to target specific areas in literacy and numeracy as well as some social and behavioural needs.

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Wider achievements

Coileanaidhean nas fharsainghe

Awards were achieved in :

- Bikeability Awards – P7
- Outdoor Learning Residential Trip available to P7 pupils
- Sport's Day
- Anne Mowat Memorial Cup for the Winning House Team for Sport's Day and Heptathlon
- Canisbay Heptathlon events where children aim to beat their previous distance or time and also challenge themselves to beat the record set for their year group. We had multiple record breakers this year.
- Overall heptathlon 1st and 2nd place awarded for lower primary and upper primary.
- Junior and Senior Sporting Champions awarded at the end of year assembly
- Rural Sports P4-7 pupils participate in 2 sports against other schools and winners of the netball tournament
- Highland Games competition across Wick ASG rural schools
- Good Citizenship Cup awarded to a P7 pupil
- Garry Macleod Memorial Shield awarded for Good Sportsmanship
- Leadership Awards for P5-7 children with Active Schools Coordinator
- Celebrating children's own achievements through Together Times
- School Awards given during Together Times

Children also experienced:

- Steven Hughes, Active Schools to do Refresher Leadership Training with P6/7
- Feis Music sessions in P4-7
- Barbara Henderson – author visit to school
- Stem class sessions through UHI for Mara Gibb – Electrical circuits and making your own scooter (P4-7)
- Mental Health Fitness Sessions from Planet Youth and Mikeysline (P4-7)
- Science Workshop – Fizz Bang Boom
- Visit by Jeri Cormack from John O'Groats Mill
- Lighthouse Talk, through the Book Festival in JOG
- Poetry sessions with Amy and Dorren
- Kodaly music sessions for P1-3
- Thrive Workshop for money skills (P1-3)

Both classes

- Meditation Sessions in school for both classes
- Energy Presentation – Octopus Energy
- Caithness Science Festival workshops in school – Boing, Bounce, Buzz, Shake Whizz, Ping
- Science Festival - The Body Builder Show
- Christ Aitken from Wick High School – Astronaut/Space project

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- Tide School visit and workshop
- Assemblies with Rob Petersen
- Storytelling visit in association with Sìdh Chailleann Art Team
- HomeStart charity at our Open Afternoon

Other outings were:

- 10 Swimming sessions
- Newton Room in UHI for STEM workshop – Renewable Energy
- Dunnet Forest – Mushroom Hunt with Caithness Fungi Group
- John O’Groats Mill to see the mill process and try beremeal
- JRSO training in Wick for 2 of our pupils
- RHET - Food and Farming Day at Quoybrae Mart
- Carol singing performance at Befrienders Lunch in Mey Hall
- All – Nick Morgan concert (World Cup theme)
- Lyth Arts Centre to see Hopeful Monsters and again to see Una Imagines and do puppet making workshop
- Science week – Royal Botanic Garden workshop at Crossroads Primary (P1-3)
- Visit to Wick Library

Fundraising for:

- Poppy Collection
- Children in Need – 25km challenge which raised huge amounts of money
- HomeStart

Other activities included:

- Current buddies working hard to help our new P1s
- Together Times to share our achievements and awards
- Christmas Concert
- Open afternoon for our families
- Playground leaders putting on activities for P1-3 bus children.
- International Day of Play – organized by Mrs Starbuck and RRS Group
- Took part in Anti-bullying Week and attended 5 live lessons in p4-7
- World Book Day activities
- Entering the Sidh Art comp and 2 children had pieces of artwork selected for display
- Fun afternoon of activities provided by the Parent Council
- Took part in recording a song for the Fischy Concert – only school in Highland to be included
- Online sessions for National Gallery of Scotland
- National Orchestra
- Extra transition events for P7 going to Wick High School – PE and Rural visit
- Rights Respecting School group membership
- Pupil Council membership

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Comments from learners, families, stakeholders and staff

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

Quotes from 24/25

'What a lovely well-behaved group they were for their visit' May 25

'The children were all so well behaved' May 25

Children shared that their trip to the Nucleus Archive Centre and Wick Heritage Museum was great. May 25

Mrs Starbuck shared such a lovely message about the Rural Sports and Highland Games event. 'Our pupils were an absolute credit to our school today. They behaved so well, played well in their teams, showed excellent sportsmanship and were very respectful and graceful winners.'

Parent thanked us very much for helping their child with a particular issue and said it had made a huge difference to their child (Feb 25).

At the school's 50th open morning a parent commented on how her child has achieved and where she is in life (University, travelling the world, doing languages, etc) and thanked the teacher for the good foundations of learning she had in her class. She said that when she needs a pick-me-up, she regularly looks at a comment written, from the teacher to her, about believing in herself and that she can achieve anything in life. (June 25)

'Thank you for letting me know about this issue and for looking out for my child.' (24/25 session)

Parent shared that it makes such a difference for her child with his learning because the teacher is so understanding and supportive towards them with regards to their difficulties. She appreciated that on occasion when needed there have been appropriate allowances made to help. It was also noted that subtle adjustments in class help to support them. (24/25 session)

Comments from Learner Profiles 24/25

'So proud of how much hard work our child has put into the task'

'It's great to see our child begin to enjoy writing letters to others'

'We are very proud how you kept trying and enjoyed the outcome. You are enjoying your class, which is lovely.'

'Well done. You were able to tell me everything you did and had learned. You were so enthusiastic and had clearly really enjoyed it.'

'Our child enjoys Feis Rois. We talk about it regularly. It's lovely to hear you liked "Simon Says (in Gaelic)". I like that you have learned through music. I know you're sad it is over.'

'Great job on your suncatcher. We put it in our window and it will go up every year now for Halloween.'

'Our child is enjoying maths more which is great to see. She works super hard.'

Comments from Parent Report Returns June 25

'Thank you for believing in her!'

'We are so pleased with our child's progress'

'Our child enjoys school and always tries hard! She loves learning and we are glad to hear our child is doing so well'

'It is lovely to read such nice comments. Our child has come on so much this year.'

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Quotes from 25/26

Caithness Fungi Group - One of the leaders said that she really enjoyed working with the children from p4-7 in Dunnet Forest as they were so lovely and engaged in the activity (Activity leader, Sep 2025)

Food and Farming Event - Mrs Starbuck was informed that her class were the best class of the day as their behaviour was excellent and the children took part really well (Activity instructors, Nov 2025)

Comments from Parent Report Returns June 26

'Thank you to her teacher for helping her grow in confidence and develop a love of learning. We truly appreciate your kindness, support and dedication.'

'Thank you to the staff at Canisbay for the hard work and dedication throughout the year, it is very much appreciated.'

'Our child has grown so much in confidence in the last 3 years with you.'

'We are extremely grateful to her teacher for the encouragement and support. You helped our child to develop confidence and we cannot thank you enough.'

'My child loves to come to school and her confidence and enthusiasm for learning has grown. Thank you for nurturing my child over the last 2 years.'

Learner Profiles quotes 25/26 will be added at a future date

Pupil Questionnaire Results June 25

(Selection of questions from Rights Respecting Schools questionnaire, 30 children surveyed from P1-7)

97% of children said they learnt or sometimes learn about rights in school.

97% of children said they enjoy or sometimes enjoy being at school

97% of children said they feel safe or sometimes feel safe in school

100% of children said they do like or sometimes like the way adults treat them in school

97% of children said they felt that other pupils in their class are or sometimes are kind and helpful

100% of children said that if they felt unsafe they could, or sometimes could, tell an adult in school

100% of children said that teacher listen, or sometimes listen, to them

77% of children said that school listens to their ideas, or sometimes listens to their ideas, for how to do things better

83% of children said that they know, or sometimes, know what they need to do to make progress in class

87% of children said they know they can do things, or sometimes do things, to help their local community

77% of children said they know they can do things, or sometimes do things, to help others around the world

Questionnaires will be issued before October 26 and the results will be added at a future date.

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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
QI 1.3 Leadership of change	Good	Good
QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good	Good
QI 3.1 Wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good	Good
QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement/Securing children's progress	Good	Good

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

Continue to work towards achieving Silver accreditation for Rights Respecting Schools
Evaluate Pace, Challenge and Differentiation within our teaching and learning
ASG collaboration within the Curriculum Review for Scotland

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Planning ahead

A' planadh air adhart

Full details of the school's 2025/26 improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan, which can be accessed on our website <https://canisbayprimary.wordpress.com/parent-section/> or by contacting the school office.

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