



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2025-26

AITHISG INBHEAN IS CÀILEACHD

CASTLETOWN 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%

*Creativity and Success
Motivated and Confident*

*Responsibility and Independence
Awareness, Inclusion and Safety*

*Active and Happy
Working Together*

*Kindness, Compassion and Respect
Honest and Fairness*

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 92.1%			Average Class Size 22.3			Meeting PE Target Target Met		
Pupil Numbers (inc nursery) 67 (+23 nursery)			Teacher Numbers 4			Pupil Teacher Ratio 16.3		
N3 57%	N4 43%	P1 9%	P2 11.9%	P3 13.4%	P4 13.4%	P5 14.9%	P6 20.9%	P7 16.4%
SIMD Q1 ¹ 0-10%	SIMD Q2 40-50%	SIMD Q3 30-40%	SIMD Q4 20-30%	SIMD Q5 0-10%	Unknown 0-10%			
ASN ² 29%	No ASN 71%	FSM ³ 40-50%	No FSM 50-60%	EAL ⁴ 0-10%	No EAL 90+%			

2024/25 Proportions of pupils achieving Curriculum for Excellence Levels (P1, P4, P7 combined):

Reading	Writing	Listening and talking	Numeracy
Most	Most	Almost all	Most

We have had no exclusions this year.

¹ SIMD – The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a relative measure of deprivation.

² ASN – Additional Support Needs

³ FSM – Free school meal entitlement

⁴ EAL – English as an additional language

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School vision, values and aims

Lèirsinn, luachan agus amasan na sgoile

Vision – Encouraging each other to be the best we can be!

Values –	Kindness, compassion and respect	Responsibility and independence
	Honesty and fairness	Awareness, safety and inclusion
	Creativity and success	Active and happy
	Motivated and confident	Working together

Aims –

1. Castletown Primary School aims to be a happy and dynamic learning environment in which pupils are encouraged to achieve their full potential. Every member of our school community should be treated equally and with respect.
2. Learning and caring are at the heart of school activities, both formal and informal. We aim to promote a positive attitude to learning, to encourage pupils to be proud of their school, to celebrate their own efforts and achievements and those of others, and to feel that all their contributions are valued.
3. Through effective learning and teaching we aim to raise attainment by providing a variety of challenging experiences that cater for all our pupils' needs and prepare them to take an active role in their lifelong learning.
4. We want our pupils to become active and caring citizens who respect the needs and feelings of members of their own community and understand the responsibility they have within the wider community. Our pupils are encouraged to be involved in the community and we welcome members of the community into school. We value the contributions they make and the example they set in providing positive role models.
5. We value the role parents play in encouraging pupils to become independent and enthusiastic learners. With open and honest dialogue we will work together to support our pupils and provide good quality resources to enhance their learning.
6. We aim to provide a professionally fulfilling environment for all staff, teaching or ancillary. All staff are encouraged to work together as an effective team within an atmosphere of mutual support. Opportunities for professional development are given a high priority.
7. We aim to work closely with other agencies in order to meet the needs of every child and, with them, help overcome obstacles to learning and successful development.

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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 another 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 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 the 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.

17/21 (81%) 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

Pupils have gained awards in:

- Caithness Music Festival winning 3 trophies/shields in the following categories:
 - P1-3 Choir, P4/5 Dramatised Song and P6/7 Choral Speaking.
- Bikeability – Level 1 and 2 accreditation for most P7 pupils.
- Rotary Club Quiz winners
- School Sporting Competitions - Sport's Day races, House Shield and Castletown Sporting Record Breakers, P7 Sporting Champion for boys and girls
- Netball Tournament: winning the B team competition, the A team won the rural cup with Halkirk
- Awards for Good Citizenship in each class
- P7 Literacy Award
- Leadership Awards in P6/7 with Active Schools Coordinator
- Individual competition winners for various events

They also experienced the following throughout the year:

P6/7 had

- Feis Music sessions
- Mental Health Fitness Session from Planet Youth and Mikeysline
- Storytelling visit in association with Sidh Chailleann Art Team
- Rugby Sessions through Active Schools
- Sea Cadet Presentation and First Aid demonstration along with P5

P4/5 and/or P1-3 had

- Kodaly music sessions for P1-3 and P4/5
- Police visit with a focus on reducing speed around schools arranged by JRSOs and Mr Cormack

All classes had

- Assemblies with Rob
- We had Homestart charity at our Open Evening
- Caithness Science Festival workshops in school for all classes covering:
 - Royal Botanical Gardens
 - Amazing Adoptions/ DNA
 - Generation Science Body Builders Show
 - K'Nex Dinosaurs
 - Science of Flight
- Sessions in school through Active Schools - Dancing and Running clubs

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- Visit from Mixu – ex professional footballer
- Bud, Poppy Scotland Mobile Museum (visit won by one of our pupils)
- Assembly on St Andrews Day by Graeme Paterson
- Hawk and Owl visit to the whole school
- Andy from Jammin' Fitness - 150 Years of Castletown Dance: Community Workshop & Celebration
- Theatre group - Wizard of Oz in school thanks to a generous donation to the school

P6/7 went to

- Newton Room in UHI for STEM Energy Workshop
- Touch Rugby Tournament
- JRSO training in Wick for 4 of our pupils
- Castlehill Heritage Centre trip for P6/7 - World War 2 focus
- Residential trip to Fairburn offered to P6 and P7 pupils
- Nick Morgan mini concert (World Cup themed songs) – P6/7
- Football festival along with some P5s
- Visit to Nucleus Archive Centre and Wick Heritage Museum for P4/5 and P6/7

P4/5 went to

- 7 Swimming sessions
- RHET – Food and Framing event at Quoybrae
- Castlehill Heritage Centre - Flagstone focus
- Castletown Playpark with P1-3

P1-3 also went to

- Lyth Arts Centre - show 'Hopeful Monsters' P1-3
- Lyth Arts Centre again in Dec to see 'Una Imagines' and a puppet workshop along with P4 children

Fundraising

- Poppy Collection
- Residential trip, Children in Need and HomeStart – 25km challenge which raised huge amounts of money
- Blythswood Shoebox Appeal – wrapping boxes for the appeal
- Plant sale raised £170 for the P6/7 class

Other activities

- Artwork chosen for Display for Plant Art - April Steven
- Together Times to share our achievements and awards
- Christmas Concert
- Open evening for our families
- Scottish dancing and a Celidh
- Student Council meetings
- Rights Respecting Schools Group

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- JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) meetings and activities
- Rights Around the World engagement
- Pumpkin Drive
- Halloween and Christmas Parties run by P6/7 pupils
- Children in Need Day with lots of fun challenges
- Piping, Strings and Woodwind Tuition
- Christmas Lunch and Summer Picnic special lunches
- International Day of Play celebrated with different activities
- Took part in live lessons in Anti-bullying Week P6/7
- World Book Day activities – bringing in random items and making group stories
- 150th Open Day for the community
- 150th party games celebration for pupils
- Mr Cormack also took 2 teams to the Cansibay Show to participate in the 5-a-side football tournament

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Comments from learners, families, stakeholders and staff

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

Jun 25 parental returns from reports

- 'We are happy with how many new skills our child has learn in music and sport, etc.'
- 'I really appreciate the topics you teach outside of the typical classroom setting, those days are my child's favourite.'
- 'Thank you for all of the hard work and support you have given our child.'
- 'Netball and football have helped our child's social skills and boosted confidence.'
- 'I am really happy with my child's report card. She loves school and I hope that continues. Thank you for supporting and encouraging my child to try new things and to move out with her comfort zone.'
- 'It's nice to read that our child has started to progress more and show confidence in her learning and now more confident.'
- 'We have to say thank you for giving our child your time and support the last two years. He has loved having you as his teacher.'
- 'Thank you so much for all of your help and encouragement.'

June 26 parental returns from reports

'Our child has become more confident and overcome issues. She speaks highly of her teacher and said she has helped her progress in all aspects of her schooling.'

'Thank you to the teacher for also helping our child stay on target'

'Thank you so much for all of your efforts and support. It is greatly appreciated by us all.'

'Thank you for your care and kindness'

'Our child has had a fantastic 3 years in your classroom and we can't thank you enough for the progress made due to your incredible teaching'

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

Other quotes May/June 25

- 'I can also say that your school upheld great sportsmanship , were very mannerly and were deserved winners.' (Active Schools Coordinator, June 25)
- 'They all did brilliantly. Had a lovely morning watching them 🍌 ' (Music Festival spectator, June 25)
- 'Looks like a great time!' (parent comment on photo of beach trip, May 25)
- 'Our child enjoyed his time at the beach and sports day take 2' (June 25)
- 'Children were very attentive and engaged.' (Nature Days leaders, Jun 25)
- 'P1-3 choir were fantastic, sang so well and all participated.' (Music Festival spectator, Jun 25)
- "Fantastic art work helped set the scene. The opening announcement was clear and confident"

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- “...demonstrated excellent team-work and assured musicianship, with some confident leaders in evidence.” (adjudicator at Music Festival about the P5/6 music making, June 25)

Other quotes from 25/26

- ‘We really enjoyed P6/7 class visiting today. We all thought the children were lovely, well behaved and very interested. (Workshop Organisers, Castletown Heritage Centre, March 2026)
- ‘I’d also like to thank you for all the help you’ve given, not only to our child but us as parents. If it wasn’t for yourself, our child wouldn’t be getting the help they needed so quickly. (Message from parent to HT, May 2026)
- ‘I’d just like to thank you for all of your help you’ve given our child not only this year but since she started. You went above and beyond for her to try and get us help. Every push back we got you helped us with the next step.’ (Parent thank you card, June 26)

Lots of comments given about our Open Day for the 150th Anniversary of Castletown School.

- ‘I had such a great day’, ‘The effort that went into this was clear and we wanted to thank you for a superb event’
- ‘This was a very good idea and a very special event. It has brought back so many memories, so thank you for all of the work that went into it’ (Previous pupils of Castletown School, May 26)

Learner’s Statements since June 25

“I really enjoyed this year. We learned about a lot of interesting topics as a primary * but I am ready to start Primary *. I’m sad to leave all the good memories behind though.” (June 25)

June 25 questionnaire for Rights Respecting Schools project (school sample of 36 pupils)

97% of the children said they enjoyed, or sometimes enjoyed being in school

94% of children said they felt safe in school.

100% of children said that adults in school treated them with respect or sometimes treated them with respect.

100% of children said that other children were kind and helpful or sometimes kind and helpful

97% of children said that if they felt unsafe they could tell an adult or sometimes tell an adult

97% of children said their teacher listens to them or sometimes listen to them

83% of children said that the school listens to their ideas or sometimes listen to their ideas.

97% of children said they knew how to make progress or sometimes knew how to make progress.

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	Satisfactory	Good
QI 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Satisfactory	Good
QI 3.1 Wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Satisfactory	Good
QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement/Securing children's progress	Satisfactory	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://castletownprimary.wordpress.com/parent-section/> or by contacting the school office.

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