



Arisaig Primary School & Nursery 2026-2027

Arisaig Primary School
Lochaber, Inverness-shire
PH39 4NH
Scotland

Tel: 01687 450282

Head Teacher: **Pamela Watt**
Contact: Pamela.watt@highland.gov.uk

Our 3-18 Schools' website:
<https://www.mallaighigh.org/>

Arisaig Primary School and Nursery Handbook

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Introduction for Parents 2026/2027

This information should be read in conjunction with web materials on The Highland Council website.

Address: Arisaig Primary School, Arisaig, Inverness-shire PH39 4NH

Landline: 01687 450282 (Arisaig PS) or 01687 462107 (MHS)

Email: Arisaig.primary@highland.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.mallaighigh.org/>

Staff:

Pamela Watt	Headteacher (Mallaig 3-18 Schools)
Deirdre Beck	Depute HeadTeacher Primary
Sarah-Louise MacKintosh	P1-3 Teacher
Ann MacLean	Principal Teacher and P4-7 Teacher
Morag Fothergill	CCR Cover
Mary MacDiarmid	Early Years Practitioner
Jill Lee	Early Years Practitioner
Sophie Kingswood	Early Years Practitioner
Susie Foster	Pupil Support Assistant
Eve Cameron	Pupil Support Assistant
Vivienne MacDonald	Clerical Assistant
Lisa Cameron	Catering Operative
Mary MacDiarmid	Cleaner
Liah MacKail	Facilities Management

Visiting Specialists:

PE Mrs. Morag Fothergill	Violin Instruction: Mrs Rebecca Lawrie	Guitar Instruction Mr Ross Martin	Active Schools Coordinator: Mrs. Pam MacDonald
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History of the School

The school was built in 1890 as a Roman Catholic Primary School. We amalgamated with the local Church of Scotland school in 1986. The school serves a rural area from Roshven burn to Rannochain to Glenacross Farm. Our main school building is old but sturdy and has a small playground. There are two classrooms, accommodating a P1 to

P3 class and a P4 to P7 class. We've recently had our hall refurbished- new floor, ceiling and wall panelling.

We also have a new, well-equipped nursery.

Currently we have 10 children registered with our nursery, 15 in our Infant (P1-3) class and 14 in our Junior (P4-7) class. Next year we will have 11 in our P1-3 class and 16 in our P4-7 class.

In 2018 we clustered with Inverie, Lady Lovat and Mallaig Primary Schools and Mallaig High School.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parent Council

Email: arisaig.primary@highlandpc.co.uk

Joint Chairs - Sara Donald and Kim Milne;
Treasurer - Diane MacDonald;
Secretary - Ashley McGee

School Transport Issues

Mr Malcolm Poole Tel: 01687 462333

Adverse Weather

The school Dojo app will be kept up to date with closure information and updates will be provided via e-mail, if appropriate.

- The Council's **website** <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> will be updated with information for individual schools
- The Council's **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil> will show updated posts on the latest news of school closures and weather-related problems
- The Council's **Twitter** page at <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil> will list Tweets of the latest news of school closures and weather-related problems

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the life of the school and the school operates an open-door policy.

Parents can telephone the school to discuss any queries. If parents are unable to speak to a member of staff, parents can leave a message on the school's answering machine. Messages are checked regularly. We will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

We promote a home-school partnership. Parents are invited to become involved in the Parent Council and in whole-school events such as end of term assemblies and school trips.

We will hold open afternoons which allow parents to visit the school and discuss learning with their pupils. We issue school reports once a year and hold Parents' Meetings to update parents on pupil progress twice a year. We provide termly overviews of expected teaching and learning outcomes to inform parents of the curriculum. We regularly update DoJo with news of our class activities. Parents are encouraged to support learning at home and communicate with us throughout the year using Class Dojo. We ask for parents' views through Google questionnaires and Parent Council meetings and we encourage parents to contribute their opinions.

We communicate with parents using a variety of methods such as newsletters, formal and informal meetings, Open Afternoons, phone calls, Class Dojo and emails. On Facebook, we have a private group for parents only – search for Arisaig Primary School Parent Forum and click for permission to join.

All parents are invited to make an appointment to see the Head Teacher/Depute Head or Class Teacher if there is a matter they wish to discuss. However, if there are any issues with our service please contact the Head Teacher in the first instance and if this does not provide you with a satisfactory solution, you may wish to contact : Kirsty Clark, Area Quality Improvement Manager, Kirsty.Clark@highland.gov.uk

Further information and guidance, should you have any concerns regarding the welfare of children in general, can be found at the following website:

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/>

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The School Day

Monday-Thursday 08.50-15.15

Friday 08.50-12.45

Morning interval - 10.45-11.05 (Healthy snack encouraged)

Lunch - 12.35 - 1.25

Nursery

Monday to Thursday 0830-1500.

Friday 0830-1230

School holidays 2026/27

A calendar with details of holiday dates and regional closures is issued to all families at the start of the session. Details of holidays and in-service dates can also be found on the Highland council website here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

Ethos

Everyone will find success and happiness in learning, ensuring that they reach their full potential within a safe, protected, inclusive environment, fostering mutual respect within an atmosphere of high expectations and equality. Parents and carers, as part of the school community, are encouraged to actively contribute to improve and develop school issues. In doing so, we will provide every opportunity to maximise success for all and ensure that our children are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Our values include Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Creativity, Curiosity and Compassion.

Pupils experience a wide and varied curriculum that supports them to develop a wide range of skills which will equip them for the future.

Scottish Executive Statistics

Data on the school's performance can be found at:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/school-informationdashboard/>

Uniform

Our uniform is comfortable, offering a navy sweatshirt and a white polo shirt can. These can be purchased online or via Magpie Makes, please contact the school office for details. It is helpful, especially in the case of school sweatshirts, that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with the pupil's name and class. The Highland Council Clothing Grant is available for those parents who claim certain benefits. If you think you may be entitled to the grant, application forms are available from the school office or local service point. Or by following this link:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing

Parents are asked to provide t-shirt, shorts and gym shoes for PE.

There is also a nursery sweatshirt available.

Positive Behaviour Policy

Our school values underpin positive behaviour. A high standard of behaviour is expected of all pupils while on the school premises. Promoting positive behaviour in our nursery and primary is essential for creating a safe, respectful and productive learning environment. We lead by example, modelling empathy, active listening and respect. We use restorative practices to resolve issue positively and there is an emphasis on helping our children develop social and emotional skills. As a cluster, we follow Highland Council's guidance on promoting positive behaviour: [Highland Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy](#)

Equality and Inclusion

For up-to-date information please see:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/313/equal_opportunities

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-presumption-provide-education-mainstream-setting/pages/1/>

In summary, our activities in school should ensure that we:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, promote good relations. Activities should not discriminate against any of the following 'protected characteristics' age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has now been incorporated into Scots Law. To find out more about this and the rights for all children in Scotland, you can access information here.

Military Families

Our school welcomes and supports families and their children and young people from Armed Forces families: Serving, Reservists and Veterans.

We understand some of the challenges that service life can bring. These may be more difficult during times of mobility, separation due to a deployment, long training exercise or weekending. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child or young person thrives whilst with us in Highland.

Please get in touch with us as soon as you can so we can work together to ensure we are ready for your child or young person joining us. This is particularly important if they have additional support for learning (ASL) needs so that we can where possible have the appropriate support in place. (ASL is the term used in Scotland, in England a similar term is SEND).

Highland Council proudly committed to the Armed Forces Covenant many years ago and have built positive relationships with its Armed Forces community. There is a unique and dedicated partnership, The Military Liaison Group (Education), often referred to as "The MLG" extend a warm welcome to you. This was formed to promote and ensure the equity and equality for any child or young person from an Armed Forces family, within an educational context, so that they thrive whilst with us in Highland.

There is a dedicated website in Highland, Armed Forces Families Website: <https://armedforcesfamilieshighland.wordpress.com/> that has been developed and informed by our Armed Forces community's needs. It is an easy to navigate website with helpful information, guidance and support for families, educators, children and young people and communities. https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/833/armed_forces_-_support_for_families_and_schools

[Enrolment in Highland – Armed Forces Families Highland](#)

Our children and young people have co-created a warm welcome to you and your family. Click the links here Primary School Welcome:
https://read.bookcreator.com/ouqQMVgtjQfja9nlpgNpUB07b0q2/tQ8N_8ViQBSW3OqCcXKFpQ/zGSrfqQ3S3GjwkWveKtGRA
Secondary School Welcome: <https://armedforcesfamilieshighland.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/welcome-message-secondary-1.pdf>

Please get in touch with the Headteacher if you have any queries or if you would prefer, contact the MLG (Education) lead louise.kinnear2@highland.gov.uk

School meals

School meals are served every day and cost **£2.40** per day. Free School Meals are available to all P1 – P5 pupils and Nursery pupils accessing 1140 hours. We like to collect money on a Monday and take the orders from the menu. If a child needs a one-off meal they can let their teacher know, first thing and pay on the day. (Or, contact us on Do Jo.)

The menu works on a 3 weekly rota system, offering a good range of healthy options. A copy of this menu is posted on the wall in the dining room, children are issued with a copy and it is also available to view online:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/22861/primary_and_early_years_2-choice_menu

Parents in receipt of certain benefits are entitled to free school meals for their children and should seek the necessary forms of application from the school office. This is treated entirely confidentially.

We must know of any **allergies** in advance and a special diet request form should be completed. Due to severe allergies **NO** nuts are allowed in school at any time, this includes school outings/packed lunch and snack. We understand that nut traces are unavoidable however nuts and foods containing nuts E.g., cereal bars, chocolate are not permitted.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/65/special_diet_request_form

Enrolment

An enrolment week, which is generally in early February, is advertised in the local press. Any parent seeking a place for their child in the school may make arrangements in advance with the Head Teacher to visit the establishment. Enrolment should be completed online by visiting The Highland Council website.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school

Placement Request - Parental Choice

Each school serves its own particular catchment area. Pupils living within this area will have priority in being allocated a place in the school. However, parents have the right to specify the school in which they wish to place their child. Applications are made to the Area Quality Improvement Manager, Kirsty Clark. Placing request applications are made online at:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2

Transportation to and from school, for placing request pupils, is a parental responsibility.

Parents of children with additional support for learning, (including those that have Coordinated Support Plans) can make placing requests to any school in Scotland including schools outside of the local authority area they live in. All appeals about placing requests to special schools will be referred to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.

New Entrants

Most new entrants will have attended our nursery and therefore be fully familiar with both the layout of the building and general school arrangements. In August, we spend time getting to know the children and ensuring that they adapt to the new routine. Your assistance with reading and writing homework is invaluable and thank you in anticipation of this. Please contact either the Class teacher or Head Teacher/Depute Head if you have any questions or would like advice about how to support your child's learning.

Transition events, preparing our children for the next phase of their learning journey, begin in January. For our P7s this culminates in June with a week in Mallaig High School.

Occasional and emergency closures

When the school has a planned early closure, parents will be informed in good time in a newsletter. In the event of an emergency closure, children will not be allowed to leave the premises unless a satisfactory arrangement has been made by us so that we know the child will be in the care of an elected adult.

Information about unexpected closures will be issued in a Do Jo message and by email, also at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Attendance

It is imperative that we be informed of any absence as soon as possible, but preferably before 9.00am. We are required to forward to the Scottish Office in Edinburgh all details of attendance within the school and where there is no explanation for an absence; it must be processed as "unauthorised". These figures for each school are published as statistics at the end of a session. Advice from the Scottish Executive on School Attendance can be found on our school website or on The Highland Council website. Attendance monitoring is also vital for child protection purposes.

Permission to leave during the school day: If a pupil needs to leave during the school day for an appointment etc., parents must inform the school. Pupils must report to and adult before leaving, if returning the same day, they must report again to the office with their parent/guardian. Where at all possible, medical and dental appointments should

be made out with school hours. If pupils fall ill during the day, parents are contacted for them to collect their child, therefore it is essential that we have up to date day time contact numbers and emergency contact numbers for all pupils. You can contact the school using the following methods:

- Call on 01687 450282 and leave a message (answer machine available)
- Email: Pamela.Watt@highland.gov.uk (for longer/planned absences)
- Email the school office: arisaig.primary@highland.gov.uk
- Write a note

Please email or phone and leave a message if you have a dental/medical appointment.

Schools are required to keep an attendance register by law. **We have a responsibility for the care and welfare of all pupils during the school day therefore need to know the whereabouts of absent pupils.**

When parents are considering whether or not to remove their children from school for a family holiday, they should be aware that such a decision:

- will result in a significant loss in classroom experience;
- will result in a pressure to 'catch up' on missed work by pupils;
- could result in pupils missing assessments with consequential impact on pupils and teachers;
- could result in the loss of curricular activities;
- will affect school attendance records and efforts to raise standards of attendance;
- under the guidance issued at a national level, most family holidays will be coded as unauthorised absence, only in exceptional cases will the absence be recorded as authorised.

In conclusion, we would ask parents to be aware of these considerations when making decisions on planning holidays during term time. We have enclosed a link to the school term dates on the Highland Council website to aid parents in planning any holidays they may be considering https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates. If parents decide to make holiday arrangements during school term, this should be confirmed in writing to the Head Teacher.

Complaints and requests for service

If a parent has any concerns they should contact their child's Named Person in the first instance,

Ms Pamela Watt (HT) or Mrs Deirdre Beck (Depute HT).

The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership. Should a situation not be resolved, parents can contact the Area Quality Improvement Manager, Kirsty Clark Kirsty.Clark@highland.gov.uk

Please note that transport is not a school responsibility and any queries should be addressed to the Transport Development Officer, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, or emailed to school.transport@highland.gov.uk.

How can parents help their child?

Considering that your child is likely to spend 10 –14 years in school, it makes good sense to make this a happy experience and to think and talk positively about school!

Be a receptive and appreciative audience to your child's work, achievements and enthusiasm – and don't forget to share your child's out of school successes with the school staff! Children usually love to share their satisfaction in acquiring new skills and knowledge.

Useful information for parents and how to get involved in your child's education, how to support the school, information on curriculum developments can all be found at Parentzone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

We believe that much of the strength of the school lies in the positive relationships between staff, pupils and their parents. These relationships must be nurtured by a healthy exchange of information between teachers and pupils, between home and school. We always welcome parental interest in the welfare of our pupils. Whatever the nature of the issue, you can be assured of our help.

The school works very hard to keep parents informed regarding their child's progress and any key decisions being made about their education. This includes:

- Parents' evenings
- Progress checks
- Target Setting
- Information on Class Dojo

The support of parents in their children's education is key to the success of young people. Taking time with them, discussing work, practicing language, helping them manage their homework and encouraging responsibility are important ways of supporting children's learning.

The school always seek to involve parents in any key decisions about their child's education and keep parents informed about progress.

Parental information is obtained from questionnaires issued regularly at Parents evenings and from Parent Forums.

Parent Council is a group of parents selected to represent all parents of children at the school.

Transferring to High School

Transfer at the end of primary stage is normally to Mallaig High School, Mallaig, PH41 4RG, Telephone 01687 462107. Prior to transfer, pupils will have the opportunity of spending some time in the receiving school when they will be given information about school organisation and meet subject and Guidance teachers. Primary and Secondary staff work in collaboration to ensure that all pupils, particularly those with additional needs, have a smooth transition.

Theft and damage to property

The Highland Council does not provide cover for loss of personal property so money and valuables should not be left in cloakroom areas. Parents of any pupils who damage another's property e.g. bicycles, will be contacted immediately.

Pupil Councils

All pupils are members of the School Council which encompasses Pupil, Learning, Eco and Improvement Council. The School Council undertake and support ideas for Enterprise, Curriculum, Looking After Our School, Eco and Digital.

Health care

Parents are asked to inform the school if their child is suffering from any condition that may require individualised treatment or care. This information will, of course, be treated as confidential.

Staff will only administer medication when there is clear written guidance and written permission from the parents.

The school will only deal with minor cuts and bruises, these will be cleaned a plaster applied, if necessary. All head injuries (minor or major) will be reported directly to parents/ guardians and information will be recorded. Staff will also contact parents/ guardians should they be concerned about any other injuries. Current advice is that ticks should be removed swiftly. Parents will be contacted in the first instance and encouraged to attend to this task, however, we appreciate that this can be difficult and may seek permission for a member of staff to do this alternatively.

We are a 'Health Promoting School' and encourage children to bring along healthy options for snacks and to drink plenty water throughout the course of the day.

Administration of Medicines

National Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Schools has been issued by the Scottish Government. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-children-young-people-healthcare-needs-schools/>

This guidance is based on a number of common principles that will be consistently applied when identifying, supporting and reviewing the healthcare needs of children and young people in Highland schools to enable them to make the most of their learning.

Under Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have a right to the highest attainable standard of health and to health care services that help them attain this. Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them. The arrangements for each individual will therefore take account of the health professionals' advice, the pupil's views and, where appropriate, their parent's views.

NHS Highland, Highland Council and school staff will work collaboratively to ensure that pupils receive the service they need in the way most appropriate to their personal circumstances.

We will work with pupils and parents/carers to support the healthcare in our school, making reasonable adjustments that children and young people with healthcare needs might need and require.

Where appropriate, we will make arrangements for staff providing healthcare to pupils to receive appropriate training from a health professional, or other accredited source in the care they are providing.

Assistance with intimate care may be needed by children in any school and this will be provided if required to support these needs quickly and with respect for children's privacy, dignity and rights.

If your child requires medication, please note that this will only be administered by staff when there is clear written guidance from a parent/carer, providing:

- The name of the medicine, the quantity of the medicine to be given, the time it has to be given.
- As far as possible prescriptive medication should be given at home by parents/carers. If it is required to be given in school, the medication should be unopen, clearly marked with the directions from the pharmacist and administered as part of an agreed medical protocol.

Minor injuries

School will only deal with minor cuts and bruises, these will be cleaned and a plaster applied. If your child is injured, falls or becomes unwell during the school day you or the emergency contact you have provided, will always be contacted and you may be advised to collect your child from school.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Staff will support the emotional development and wellbeing of pupils through formal and informal curricular activities. Any concerns about a pupil's wellbeing can be discussed with the named person. There is a website managed by Highland Council that supports a variety of information relating to mental health and emotional wellbeing that can be accessed here: [Supporting the wellbeing of our C&YP - WSA to Wellbeing](#). Schools have access to Highland Council's Primary Mental Health Worker Service and consultation and advice may be sought if there are concerns that might require more targeted support. Counselling is also available for all pupils from age 10. Information on your school's service can be accessed from your child's guidance teacher. Alternately, there is a completely confidential, online counselling service called Kooth for children and young people from age 10 that can be accessed here: <https://www.kooth.com/>.

Child Protection

From time to time, incidents can occur within the school setting which cause concern and could indicate that a child is suffering from some form of harm. In terms of Highland Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Protection Guidelines, Education Service staff must report such incidents to Social Work Services, which can lead to a joint Social Work/Police investigation. All agencies involved in Child Protection are obliged to make the welfare of children their paramount consideration and this will be the priority for Education Service staff.

COPIES OF CHILD PROTECTION POLICY GUIDELINES are available online at <https://hcpc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Highland-Child-Protection-and-GIRFEC-Guidance-2024-FINAL.pdf>

Data Protection

Any information that is supplied or gathered from parents/guardians relating to pupils will be used only for the purposes for which it was provided and any relevant procedures following from this. This data will be maintained in accordance with the Act and will not be passed on to any other organisation without your prior approval unless this is a legal requirement. Access to Pupil Records

The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003 extend to parents the right of access (with certain specific exceptions) to any record held by the Authority in relation to their child. Parents may make application to the Headteacher.

Data Protection Legislation

Information on pupils, parent and guardians is stored on a computer system and may be used for teaching, registration, assessment and other administrative duties. The information is protected by data protection legislation and may only be disclosed in accordance with the codes of practice.

Transferring Educational data about pupils

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils through the Pupil Census to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us. Further information can be obtained from <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed>

Data about pupil preferred routes, preferred occupations and anticipated school leaving date is also collected from S3/S4 to support planning for leaving school. This information is shared with Skills Development Scotland. Further information about 16+ Data can be found here: <https://hi-hope.org/help-resources/16plus-planning>

Data policy

Information about pupils' education is collected through our statistical surveys in partnership between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities through the ScotXed Programme which aims to help schools and Local Authorities by supporting efficient collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Scottish Government then provides analysis of the data to support research, planning, management and monitoring of education services as well as to produce National Statistics publications.

Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints. As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by

Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.

Information on why we collect data about pupils and who we share this data with can be found in Highland Council's Privacy Notice which is available here: https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1095920/enrol_your_child_at_a_school

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the SQA and Skills Development Scotland need accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better examination results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows us to:

- Plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils.
- Plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils.
- Better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement.
- Share good practice.
- Target resources better.
- Enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of young people in Scotland.

Your data protection rights

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with data protection legislation. We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. Data protection legislation gives you the right to know how we will use your data. This note can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of each individual ScotXed survey, including the purpose of each and the published data, can be found on the ScotXed website

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/SchoolEducation>

Scottish Government works with a range of partners including Education Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, in order to help meet our aim of improving the life of young people in Scotland, we may make individual data available to partners such as the National Registers of Scotland to carry out research relating to the national population census and also academic institutions and organisations to carry out additional research and statistical analysis to meet their own official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, and will be consistent with our data policy. This will ensure that no individual level data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that these data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Decisions on the sharing of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis at ScotXed@scotland.gov.uk or write to The ScotXed Support Office, Area 2D, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ. Alternative versions of this page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, Braille and large print.

School Improvement

Our Main Achievements and successes for the current year are noted in the School Improvement Plan (SIP). SIP Documents, and standards and quality reports, are shared on our website and are available on request. [Mallaig 3-18 Schools](#)

This year our improvement priorities are Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy and earning our Rights Respecting School award.

HMIe December 2022 : [Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review](#) | [Education Scotland](#) Education Scotland will not be undertaking any further follow-up inspections.

Our Curriculum

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE / CURRAICEALAM AIRSON SÀR-MHATHAIS

We follow the National Curriculum- A Curriculum for Excellence.

The Curriculum for Excellence is divided into 3 levels within the primary school

1. Early level..... Nursery and Primary 1
2. First level Primary 2,3,4
3. Second level Primary 5,6,7

Curricular Areas

We study the following curriculum areas and plan using the experiences and outcomes linked to each area. The children work through the different levels based on their ability and progress is closely monitored. All staff have a responsibility for Health and Wellbeing/Literacy/Numeracy.

We involve the children as much as possible when planning their learning and ensure they understand what they are learning and why in each lesson.

Listening and talking skills are developed progressively at every stage of Arisaig Primary. Children learn to communicate confidently, respectfully and effectively in a range of situations. These skills are woven through all areas of learning and link closely with reading and writing.

Pupils have regular opportunities to:

- Listen carefully to stories, instructions and information.
- Share their ideas, thoughts and opinions with others.
- Take part in discussions, group tasks and presentations.
- Ask and answer questions to build understanding.
- Develop confidence when speaking to different audiences.

Through purposeful play, class lessons, interdisciplinary learning and wider school experiences, we support children to become effective contributors and successful communicators in line with CfE Literacy and English outcomes.

Reading

At Arisaig Primary, reading is taught in line with the principles of the Highland Literacy Progression. Our approach supports children to develop accuracy, fluency, comprehension and a lifelong love of reading. Learning is organised into four key areas:

- Core Reading Sessions – Taking place 3–4 times each week, these sessions use a range of carefully levelled texts to build decoding skills, fluency and deep understanding.
- Reading for Enjoyment – Children are encouraged to read widely at home and in class, choosing texts that interest and inspire them. We promote a positive reading culture across the school.
- Reading for Information – Pupils learn to use a variety of texts to gather, interpret and evaluate information, supporting learning across the curriculum.

- Writer's Craft – Through exploring high-quality texts, children learn how authors use language, structure and style. They apply these skills to improve their own writing.
- Together, these approaches help our learners become confident, motivated and skilled readers.

Writing

At Arisaig Primary, writing is taught through a balanced approach that develops children's ideas, technical accuracy and confidence as young authors. Learning is progressive across the school and closely linked to listening, talking and reading.

Our writing curriculum focuses on:

- Tools for Writing – Developing essential skills such as spelling, handwriting, grammar and punctuation to ensure children can write clearly and accurately.
- Writing to Convey Information – Creating reports, explanations, summaries, letters and other non-fiction texts with a clear purpose and audience.
- Writing to Entertain – Crafting imaginative stories, poems and personal pieces that allow pupils to express creativity and explore writer's voice.
- Planning, Drafting and Editing – Learning to plan ideas, write independently, and review and improve work using feedback from peers and staff.
- Writing Across the Curriculum – Using writing skills in all subject areas, helping children explain their thinking and consolidate learning.

Through meaningful contexts, high-quality models and supportive feedback, we aim to ensure every child develops confidence and pride in their writing

Numeracy and Mathematics:

At Arisaig Primary, we follow the principles of the Highland Numeracy Progression to ensure children build strong foundations in number, develop confidence in problem-solving and apply mathematical skills in real-life contexts. Learning is active, engaging and carefully matched to each child's stage of development.

Our approach focuses on:

- Number and Number Processes – Developing secure understanding of place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division through concrete materials, visual models and mental strategies.
- Fractions, Decimals and Percentages – Building confidence in comparing, converting and applying these concepts in meaningful situations.
- Measurement, Time and Money – Using practical, hands-on activities to help children apply mathematical understanding to everyday life.
- Shape, Position and Movement – Exploring properties of 2D and 3D shapes, angles, direction and symmetry.
- Information Handling – Learning to gather, display and interpret data using tables, charts and digital tools.
- Problem-Solving and Reasoning – Encouraging children to think flexibly, explain their strategies and apply mathematical ideas to new challenges.

Across all stages, we aim to develop confident, resilient learners who enjoy mathematics and can use numeracy skills effectively in school and beyond.

Health and Wellbeing

At Arisaig Primary, Health and Wellbeing is central to our curriculum. We aim to help every child develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to lead happy, confident and healthy lives. Learning is planned in line with the Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing experiences and outcomes and is embedded across school life.

Our programme covers the following key areas:

- Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical Wellbeing – Developing resilience, emotional literacy, confidence and positive relationships. Children learn strategies to manage feelings, solve problems, deal with conflict and look after their mental and physical health.
- Planning for Choices and Change – Helping pupils build skills for learning, life and work through discussions about strengths, interests, transitions and future pathways.
- Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) – Age-appropriate learning about relationships, consent, body changes, personal boundaries, safety and respect, delivered in line with national RSHP guidance.

- Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport – Promoting active, healthy lifestyles through regular PE, outdoor learning and participation in a wide range of sports.
- Food and Health – Exploring nutrition, healthy eating, food choices and safe food practices.
- Substance Misuse – Learning about the impact of smoking, alcohol, solvents and drugs, and how to make safe, informed decisions.
- Physical Health
 - Children learn how to look after their bodies and keep themselves safe. This includes understanding physical changes, hand hygiene, road safety and the harmful effects of smoking, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.
- Emotional Health
 - Pupils explore feelings, relationships and mental wellbeing. They learn how to care for others, manage challenges such as loss or bullying and seek help when needed.
- Social Health
 - Learning focuses on how individuals, communities and the environment interact. This includes topics such as caring for our school and local area, personal safety and contributing to a health-promoting school community.

Physical Education (PE)

- All children take part in two PE sessions each week:
 - One hour with our PE specialist
 - One hour with their class teacher
- Pupils should bring appropriate kit (t-shirt, shorts, gym shoes). Football colours should not be worn, and all items should be labelled.
- All pupils also attend blocks of swimming lessons, and we work closely with the Active Schools Coordinator to provide a wide range of sporting opportunities throughout the year.

RSHP and Substance Misuse (Term 4 Focus)

In Term 4, our Health and Wellbeing programme includes learning about relationships, sexual health, parenthood and drug awareness. These topics are taught sensitively and thoughtfully, following national guidance and taking account of pupils' ages and stages.

Parents are encouraged to view the RSHP materials at: <https://rshp.scot/>

We also hold a parent information session at the end of Term 3 to outline the content and groupings for this programme. Any concerns or questions can be discussed with the Head Teacher or Depute Head.

Science areas of study:

- Sciences Planet Earth
- Forces and Electricity
- Materials
- Biological systems

Social Subjects:

- People, past events and societies (HISTORY)
- People in society economy and business (ENTERPRISE)
- People, place and the environment (GEOGRAPHY)

Technologies:

- Technological developments in society
- ICT to enhance learning
- Computing science contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge
- Food and textiles contexts for developing technological skills and knowledge

Expressive Arts:

- Art and Design
- Drama
- Dance
- Music

Modern Languages In accordance with National Guidelines, we follow the 1 + 2 programme for teaching languages. The first language taught is English, French is taught daily/weekly as the second language throughout the year and the third language we teach is Gaelic. This is taught using a wide range of activities including games, songs, role-play and story-telling as well as direct teaching of simple vocabulary and language structures.

Religious and Moral Education: is an integral part of our curriculum and encompasses three areas:

- Christianity
- World Religions
- Development of beliefs and values

This part of our curriculum is distinct from religious instruction and observance. Parents who do not wish their children to participate in religious observance activities should inform the school and alternative arrangements will be made.

Extra-Curricular Activities – dance, football, gymnastics and shinty, take place after school hours.

Parents can access further information regarding the Curriculum for Excellence from national websites – <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/> and <https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/>

Assemblies

Weekly assemblies are led by either the Head or Depute Head Teacher or pupils. We share our learning, celebrations and promote our values.

Additional Support Needs

Provisions made for pupils with additional support needs:

Class Teachers, in conjunction with Additional Support Needs Teachers, where appropriate, monitor the progress of pupils with additional support. The needs of such pupils are generally met within the normal curriculum, with specialist advice and support as required. If necessary, a child's plan may be put in place to help plan, organise, monitor and regularly review a child's progress. Parents and pupils will be involved in these procedures and in reviews. More information can be found about the Highland Council model for support and child's plans at:

[Policies and guidance - support for learners | Highland Practice Model - delivering additional support for learners](#)

<https://www.thrivingfamilies.org.uk/>

Sometimes a Children's Service Worker will be involved in supporting a child. A Children's Service Worker is often based at the school and will generally focus on more social and emotional needs rather than issues about the curriculum or classroom learning. They:

- work in collaboration with the support team in school
- work to support families in their own communities
- work with individual pupils and small groups - offering a further level of support

Parents/Carers will always be involved in discussions about any additional support being suggested for their child and any need that may be identified within the school.

(a) Enquire – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning <http://enquire.org.uk/>

(b) My Rights, My Say – an advocacy and advice service for young people over 12 with additional support needs <http://enquire.org.uk/myrightsmysay/>

(c) [Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance](#), an advocacy service to support parents and children

(d) [Scottish Child Law Centre](#), an organisation providing free legal advice to young people

Highland Council would seek to work in partnership with parents at all times, but sometimes you will have a concern that you don't feel is being addressed, or will want to talk to someone out with the school. Should you have any concerns that your child's additional needs are not being met, you should contact your child's named person in the first instance and/or the Head Teacher. If your concerns continue, there are a number of means of resolving difficulties and disputes and information on this can be found at:

[Additional support for learning | Additional support for learning | The Highland Council](#)

Supporting your child's learning

Children receive regular homework and this takes a variety of forms. Homework is used to support your child's learning in school. If you have any queries regarding your child's homework, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher to discuss.

Community Links

We have strong links with the Community Council, Arisaig Fund, The Gower Trust, The Spar Shop, Arisaig, Loch Shiel Cruises, the Glenfinnan Hotel, EON Energy, Outward Bound Trust, Land, Sea & Island Centre, Lochaber

Environmental Group, Cameron MacKintosh Foundation, Arisaig Hotel and The Arisaig Community Trust.

Assessment and Reporting

Arrangements for tracking and assessing pupil progress and planning future learning comprises of the following:

Pupils are assessed by both formal tests and informal observation and activity methods on an on-going basis to enable effective planning and evaluation of teaching and learning. Assessment takes place within the normal classroom situation, thus allowing pupils to perform to the best of their ability. Pupil profiles allow both pupils and staff access to individual targets in Numeracy and Literacy.

We use Standardised Diagnostic Tests from P4 in Mathematics, English Language – Reading, Spelling and Comprehension. The tests provide evidence of attainment and any areas for development, which may need consolidation. We also use information from the Scottish Nationalised Assessments (SNSAs) which are administered at P1, P4 and P7 and a similar assessment- Scottish Online Formative Assessments (SOFAs) in P2,3, 5 and 6.

Pupils should view the assessment process as a motivating experience which takes place within the overall context of a supportive school. Pupils should make use of feedback, in all its forms to inform next steps for the improvement of their own learning.

Parents will receive feedback on their son or daughter's progress through pupil reports, progress checks, and target setting information.

Pupils will reflect on their progress, achievement and best work on their profiles.

In Primary 1 pupils undertake the Emerging Literacy Assessment in the first term.

Levels of attainment

The levels of attainment for the Curriculum for Excellence are:

Early	Pre-school and Primary 1	First	By end of P4, but earlier for some
Second	By end of P7, but earlier for some	Third	S1-S3, but earlier for some.

The fourth and fifth levels relate to secondary school. Primary schools predominantly focus on the Early, First and Second levels.

Transition

At the end of primary stage our pupils normally transition to Mallaig High School, Mallaig, PH41 4RG, Telephone 01687 462107. Primary and Secondary staff work in collaboration to ensure that all pupils, particularly those with additional needs, have a smooth transition. Prior to transfer, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a transition programme, when they learn about the routines of the High School, meet subject teachers and experience a range of activities designed to support the academic, social and emotional adjustment of moving to Secondary.

School Policies and Practical Information

This can be found on our 3-18 Schools' website

<https://www.mallaighigh.org/information>

Highlife/ Active Schools

Active Schools Mallaig covers Mallaig High School and the following Primary schools – Arisaig, Canna, Eigg, Inverie, Lady Lovat, Mallaig, Muck and Rum. Active Schools clubs and sessions take place throughout the area and are delivered and supported by a network of dedicated volunteers.

Opportunities for extra-curricular sport and activity within our community can be found

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/active-schools-mallaig/>

Whilst the information in this handbook is considered to be accurate at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information.

ARISAIG NURSERY HANDBOOK

Arisaig Nursery 2026-2027

We welcome you and your child to ARISAIG NURSERY and we hope all the experiences here are memorable! Your child is at a very crucial stage in his/her development as it is now accepted that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years than at any other time. Therefore, it is really important that the children are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a parent you play a vitally important part in this process. We, in the Nursery, hope to play our part by treating your child as an individual and offering him/her a variety of experiences and activities that are designed to further the developmental process

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NURSERY.

STAFF:

HEAD TEACHER/ NURSERY MANAGER:	Ms Pamela Watt
P1-3 Teacher:	Miss Sarah-Louise MacKintosh
P4-P7 Teacher:	Miss Ann MacLean
EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER:	Miss Mary MacDiarmid
EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER:	Mrs Jill Lee
EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER:	Mrs Sophie Kingswood
SCHOOL CLERICAL ASSISTANT:	Miss Vivienne MacDonald

VISITING SPECIALISTS:

Dental Nurse. -

Health Visitor: Sarah MacDonald

Camaghael Hostel

Fort William

PH337NE

Office: 01349781410

Mobile: 07909213917

We operate an Open Door Policy and should you have any issues with our service, please discuss these with the nursery staff. If you are not provided with a satisfactory solution, please then arrange to meet the Depute Head, Mrs Deirdre Beck. Further advice can be sought from the following.

AREA EDUCATION OFFICE.

Kirsty Clark, Area Quality Improvement Manager, Kirsty.Clark@highland.gov.uk

Care Inspectorate, Compass House, 11 Riverside Drive Dundee DDI 4NY
Tel. 08456009527

Care Inspectorate, First Floor, Castle House, Fairways Business Park, Inverness IV2 630
Tel. 01463227630

SESSION 2026-2027

The nursery will follow Primary School arrangements for openings and closures and these will be issued at the beginning of the year and can also be accessed here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

GENERAL INFORMATION

We have a modern building, opened in late November 2021.

NURSERY HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 0830 -1500

Friday: 0830-1230

CHANGE OF CLOTHES/FOOTWEAR

It is essential for each child to have a spare set of underwear/tights/socks/trousers/leggings in the Nursery for emergencies. It is preferable for children to change into different shoes inside the building and a pair of black gym shoes are ideal (slippers can be dangerous during physical education games).

Please label all your child's items of footwear and clothing.

Nursery sweatshirts are available online – details from the school office.

ILLNESS

If your child becomes ill or has an accident while attending Nursery we will contact, you by telephone. If there is no reply, we will ring your emergency number. If your child is unable to attend nursery, please telephone the school and leave a message.

EARLY CLOSURE

Should the Nursery need to close earlier than normal you will be contacted by telephone if prior warning has not been given out. The emergency contact will be telephoned if there is no reply at your home number. Children will not be permitted to leave the nursery without being in the care of a designated adult. Please ensure you always keep the Nursery Staff up to date with your telephone number and your emergency contact.

Adverse Weather

- The Council's **website** <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> will be updated with information for individual schools
- The Council's **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil> will show updated posts on the latest news of school closures and weather related problems
- The Council's **Twitter** page at <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil> will list Tweets of the latest news of school closures and weather related problems

Our Nursery Aims

To provide a caring, happy and respectful atmosphere for children, parents, visitors and staff in the Nursery.

To provide a safe and stimulating place where we can encourage the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of the children.

To recognise that each child is an individual and as such will develop at his or her own rate.

To encourage positive attitudes to self and develop self-confidence and self-esteem.

To promote the health and welfare of the children.

To ensure preparation for the introduction of early stages of basic numeracy and literacy.

To encourage children to explore, appreciate and respect their environment.

To promote awareness and respect for the lifestyles and cultures of others. Provide opportunities for staff development as part of an ethos of self-improvement.

To develop self-evaluation through implementation of HGIOELC.

To work in line with the recommendations of Education Scotland and The Care Inspectorate.

Our Nursery aims to help children become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Children will learn through their play with a balance of free choice and adult led activities. They will be encouraged to learn in a safe and stimulating environment where their individual needs will be met and respected. Nursery staff will work in partnership with parents, carers, specialists and the local community.

Health and wellbeing information.

TOILET TRAINING

Every child's development is unique. Some children can be toilet trained earlier and faster than others. It is important to support children to learn at their own pace. Our team will work closely with parents/carers to support each child in this area. [How to potty train - NHS](#)

POLICY ON CHANGING A CHILD. Arisaig Nursery – Nappy Changing & Personal Care

Our Approach

- We provide warm, nurturing and respectful personal care for all children who require nappy changing or support with toileting.
- Personal care times are treated as positive, one-to-one interactions that build relationships, language and confidence.
- Every child's dignity, privacy and wellbeing are central to our practice.

Dignity, Privacy & Respect

- Changing takes place in a dedicated, private changing area, separate from play and food-preparation spaces.
- Staff explain what they are doing and speak gently and respectfully with each child.

- Children are encouraged to take part in their own care where appropriate, supporting early independence.

Staffing & Safety

- Only appropriately trained staff carry out nappy changing and personal care.
- Staff follow Highland Council safeguarding procedures and infection-control practices at all times.

Facilities

- The changing area includes:
- A safe changing unit and clean mat
- Handwashing sink for staff
- Suitable ventilation and lighting
- Lidded, foot-operated nappy bin
- Secure storage for clean items and soiled clothing
- Facilities meet Care Inspectorate standards

Hygiene & Infection Prevention

- Staff follow Standard Infection Control Precautions, including handwashing before and after every change.
- Changing mats and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Gloves and aprons are worn for all personal-care tasks.
- Soiled nappies and waste are disposed of safely and promptly.

Supporting Toilet Learning

- We work in partnership with families to support children who are beginning toilet training.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to share routines, strategies and preferences so that we can ensure a consistent approach.
- Children are given time, encouragement and support to develop independence in toileting when they are ready.

What Parents Should Provide

- Creams (with permission forms completed)
- Spare clothing
- All items must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Communication With Families

- Staff will inform parents/carers of any concerns regarding skin health, toileting patterns or discomfort.
- Significant changes to a child's toileting needs will be discussed sensitively and promptly.
- If a child has additional support needs related to continence, an individual care plan will be created in partnership with families.

Safeguarding & Professional Standards

All personal care is provided in line with:

- Care Inspectorate Nappy Changing Guidance (2024)
- Health and Social Care Standards
- Highland Council policies
- Child protection and safeguarding procedures
- Records of any concerns are kept in line with our safeguarding policy.

Health in Our Nursery

At Arisaig Nursery, your child's health, safety and wellbeing are our highest priorities. In line with Care Inspectorate expectations, we work closely with health professionals and follow clear procedures for managing illness, accidents and medical needs.

Please ensure that you inform us of any medical conditions, allergies, additional needs or ongoing health concerns when your child is registered. This helps us plan appropriate care and keep your child safe.

If your child becomes unwell or has an accident while in our care, staff will:

- respond promptly and sensitively
- administer first aid if required
- contact parents/carers as soon as possible
- record the incident in our accident/incident system and ask you to sign the form

It is essential that we hold up-to-date emergency contact details. Please make sure we know how to reach you and provide at least one additional emergency contact.

If we are unable to reach you or your emergency contact, and medical guidance is required, staff will seek appropriate advice from a healthcare professional or the local GP. In an emergency, we will always act in the best interests of your child and follow national and local health and safety procedures.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for all children.

SNACK & LUNCHES

At Arisaig Nursery we follow the Scottish Government's Setting the Table guidance, which promotes healthy eating habits, positive mealtime experiences and good nutrition for young children. Our aim is to ensure snack and lunch times are relaxed, social and nurturing moments within the nursery day.

Snacks

- We provide a healthy morning and afternoon snack each day.

- Snacks are based on Setting the Table guidance and may include fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, water, oatcakes, yoghurt or simple carbohydrate options.
- Children are encouraged to try new foods at their own pace and develop independence by helping to prepare and serve snacks.
- Water is available at all times.

Please let us know of any allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements so that we can ensure your child's safety and meet their individual needs.

Lunches

- Lunch is served in the nursery for children attending over the lunchtime period.
- Meals are freshly prepared by the school kitchen and meet national nutritional standards.
- Staff sit with children to support positive eating habits, model healthy choices and encourage independence.
- Children are never pressured to eat; we support children sensitively around appetite and preferences.

Free School Meals (Nursery-Aged Children)

2-Year-Olds (Eligible Early Learning & Childcare)

- Free school meals are available for eligible 2-year-olds whose families meet Scottish Government criteria (e.g., certain benefits or social services involvement).
- Eligible 2-year-olds may qualify for free lunch and snack provision. Families can check eligibility via Highland Council or by speaking to the nursery.

All 3–5 Year-olds

- All children aged 3–5 years who attend funded Early Learning and Childcare automatically receive:
 - Free lunches
 - Free milk (Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme)
- No separate application is needed; this begins when funded hours start.

Partnership With Families

- We work closely with families to accommodate cultural needs, dietary requirements, allergies and eating preferences.
- Please share any relevant information with us so we can provide consistent care between home and nursery.

TOOTH BRUSHING

At Arisaig Nursery we are committed to supporting children's health and wellbeing, and recognise that good oral hygiene is a key part of that. In line with national guidance, we provide a daily supervised tooth-brushing session for all children who wish to take part.

The Dental Hygienist visits the nursery on a regular basis to encourage the children to brush their teeth in the correct way. She provides the nursery with toothbrushes and toothpaste.

- Every child will have the opportunity to brush their teeth during the nursery day using a fluoride toothpaste and a toothbrush provided by the programme.
- Tooth-brushing is supervised by trained staff, with the aim of building children's skills, confidence and independence.

- Tooth-brushes are individually identifiable, hygienically stored and changed or replaced as required.
- We partner with families and encourage children to brush at home morning and night, and we provide information for parents and carers about supporting children's oral health.
- Parents/carers will be asked to give consent for their child to participate in the tooth-brushing programme and to inform us of any relevant oral-health or medical considerations.
- We ensure that tooth-brushing fits into the nursery routine in a calm, supportive way that respects children's choice and comfort.
- As part of our health promotion, we link tooth-brushing with our snacks & lunches policy and promote healthy eat-/drink-choices that support dental health.

Outings/visits

Outdoor activities in different environments play an essential part in early years learning. Children will experience outings around the Nursery Setting and further afield in the local community. Trips by train to explore interesting features of a larger village and visits to the Mallaig Nurseries are part of our termly calendar. Visits to the local Churches and The Land and Sea Centre are also part of their learning experiences.

We issue permission slips prior to any trips out within the local area and stringent Risk Assessments are in place in accordance with Highland Council Policy. A general consent form is issued at the beginning of each session. Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning is a key part of our curriculum at Arisaig Nursery. We are fortunate to have access to rich natural spaces in our local environment, and we make full use of them to support children's learning, wellbeing and development.

We value outdoor learning because:

It supports children's holistic development, helping them develop confidence, independence, resilience and curiosity.

(Realising the Ambition; Curriculum for Excellence)

Outdoor experiences promote wellbeing and positive mental health. Fresh air, space to move and opportunities for active play help children regulate emotions and develop physical coordination.

(How Good is our Early Learning Centre 3.1 & 3.2)

Being outside provides real, hands-on learning opportunities where children can explore, experiment, problem-solve and follow their interests.

(Realising the Ambition's emphasis on play-rich environments)

It helps children form a strong connection to their local environment, developing respect for nature, sustainability and care for the world around them.

(Learning for Sustainability; UNCRC Article 29)

Outdoor play supports language and social development through shared experiences, imaginative play and rich conversations prompted by natural materials and changing weather.

(Curriculum for Excellence Early Level Experiences and Outcomes)

It reflects Care Inspectorate expectations that children benefit from daily outdoor play as part of high-quality early learning and childcare.

(Space to Grow & Care Inspectorate outdoor learning guidance)

Highland Council encourages high-quality outdoor learning as part of a broad, engaging and inspiring Early Level curriculum.

At Arisaig Nursery, children access outdoor play every day, in all seasons. We ensure that outdoor learning is safe, well-planned, stimulating and responsive to children's interests. We also work closely with families to ensure that children have appropriate clothing and footwear so they can enjoy and fully participate in outdoor experiences.

Policy Folder / Planning

Our nursery policies and planning information are always available for you to look through. You'll find our Policy Folder in an accessible spot within the nursery, and we're always happy to answer any questions you may have about how we work.

We keep families fully involved and informed. Our Nursery Noticeboard is updated regularly with important information, upcoming events and items we think you'll find helpful. The weekly planner is also on display so you can see what your child will be exploring and learning.

Family voice is very important to us, and we warmly welcome your ideas, feedback and contributions at any point during the year.

You will receive regular nursery newsletters to keep you up to date with our plans, celebrations and wider school calendar.

We also use Class Dojo to share photos, experiences and achievements from nursery life. We encourage all parents and carers to comment, join in the conversation and share any special moments or achievements from home—this helps us build a strong, connected picture of your child's learning.

The Nursery Curriculum

Our Learning

At Arisaig Nursery, we believe that play is children's work. Through play, children make sense of their world, develop confidence and curiosity, and build the foundations for lifelong learning. The purpose of early learning is to broaden each child's experience, nurture their natural interests, and support them to become confident, enthusiastic and successful learners.

Our curriculum is shaped by Realising the Ambition and Curriculum for Excellence Early Level. Children learn best when they are engaged, following their interests and having time to explore, investigate and experiment. Throughout their nursery day, children are encouraged to use all their senses as they discover new ideas, link experiences to what they already know, and share their learning with others.

We offer a rich variety of experiences across all areas of Curriculum for Excellence learning:

Health and Wellbeing

Literacy and English

Numeracy and Mathematics

Sciences

Technologies

Social Studies

Religious and Moral Education

Expressive Arts

These experiences are woven naturally through play, outdoor learning, real-life tasks, stories, conversations and creative activities.

Learning Journeys

Each child has their own Learning Journey, which celebrates their achievements, progress and special moments throughout the year. Children have real ownership of these folders and enjoy choosing what they would like to include—drawings, photos, models, tickets from special outings, or anything meaningful to them.

Learning Journeys help children reflect on what they can do and what they are proud of. Children also help set simple targets within their Learning Journey, supporting them to take an active role in their own learning in a way that is meaningful and developmentally appropriate.

Families are warmly encouraged to share items or photographs from home that can be added to their child's Learning Journey, helping us build a fuller picture of each child's interests, experiences and milestones.

Starting Nursery & Transitions

Beginning nursery is an exciting milestone, and we work closely with families to ensure every child feels secure, welcomed and ready for this new stage.

Before your child starts, you will receive an invitation to visit the nursery on several occasions. These visits give your child the chance to meet staff, explore the environment and begin building relationships at their own pace. You will be offered a choice of dates so you can attend at a time that suits your family.

You will also receive an “All About Me” form. We kindly ask that you complete this with your child and return it before they begin. This information helps us get to know your child's interests, strengths, worries, likes and dislikes so that we can plan for a positive start and support their early learning in a meaningful way.

Transition to Primary One

Transition is not a one-off event but an ongoing process. Throughout their final nursery year, four-year-olds take part in a range of activities designed to help them feel confident and connected as they move into Primary One.

These rich experiences may include:

- Early years number and language games with Primary One
- Working with the infant class on shared topics
- Circle time activities with children from Primary One to Four
- Opportunities to visit the infant room and share special achievements
- Joint cooking, gardening and outdoor learning sessions
- In the final term, spending three mornings in the P1 classroom to experience the rhythm of the school day
- Our aim is to make the move to school feel natural, familiar and exciting.
- Working Together

We hope you find our handbook helpful. If there's anything you're unsure about, please don't hesitate to speak to any member of the nursery team—we're always happy to help.

Your views matter deeply to us. We welcome your ideas and suggestions as part of our ongoing improvement, and we appreciate the skills and interests that families bring to our nursery community. If you have a hobby, talent or story you would like to share with the children, please let us know—these experiences enrich our learning environment.

We also warmly invite you to join our Stay and Play sessions, where you can spend time in the nursery with your child, see their learning in action and enjoy being part of our community.