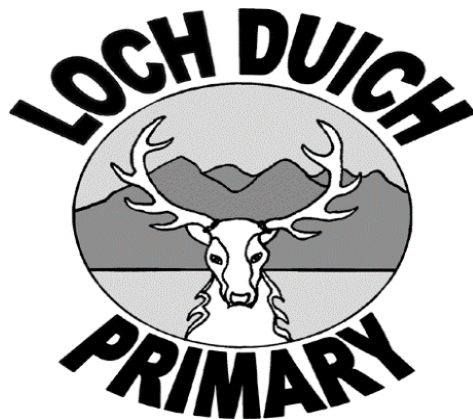




STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT AITHISG INBHEAN IS CÀILEACHD

2024-2025

Loch Duich Primary School



Ready Respectful Safe

Introduction: Local and National Context

Ro-ràdh: Co-theacsa Ionadail agus Nàiseanta

This Standards and Quality Report is influenced by both Highland and national priorities. These can be summarised as follows:

Highland Priorities



National Improvement Framework Priorities



Entitlement, Excellence & Equity:

We will raise attainment and achievement for all, especially for children and young people from disadvantaged circumstances, including rural deprivation. We will focus relentlessly on improving standards and the quality of learning and teaching, to ensure that entitlement, equity and excellence are delivered across the system.

Empowerment & Leadership:

We will develop leadership skills at all levels of the system, for now and the future, building a culture of empowerment and professional capital.

Relationships:

We will maximise health and wellbeing for all children and young people, to give them the best possible start in life. We will ensure every child and young person feels part of the community they live in.

Opportunity:

We will maximise opportunities for our children and young people, and for the wider Highland community and its visitors, through the provision of high-quality services.

The key priorities outlined in the National Improvement Framework are:

- Placing the **human rights and needs of every child** and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's **health and wellbeing**
- **Closing the attainment gap** between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and **sustained, positive school-leaver destinations** for all young people
- **Improvement in attainment**, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Self-evaluation

To support self-evaluation, quality indicators from the national evaluative framework How Good Is Our School?4 are referenced.

Links to these sources (and others referenced) can be found here:

[National Improvement Framework Improvement Plan](#)
[HGIOS? 4](#) and [HGIOELC](#)
[Health and Social Care Standards](#)
[National Gaelic Language Plan](#)

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%

We are pleased to present our Standards and Quality Report for Session 2024-25. This report provides important information regarding our school's progress to date and our next steps in school improvement.

Self-evaluation for self-improvement is at the heart of what we do. We continue to develop our practice in making robust use of evidence as a basis for judgements regarding the impact of our work on our learners. All staff understand that self-evaluation is an integral aspect of our approach to continuous improvement through addressing the 3 key questions:

- How well are we doing?
- How do we know?
- What are we going to do now?

Throughout the year we continuously evaluate what we do and how it makes a difference to our learners. We want to know what is working well for our school community and what needs further improvement. We inform decision making and actions through a continuous process of looking inwards, outwards and forwards.

Looking inwards - starts with those working with our children and young people

We focus on the impact on outcomes for learners. Our self-evaluation processes triangulate information, data, people's views and observation of practice to measure impact and inform planning for improvement.

Looking outwards - learning from others

Looking to others for new ideas that challenge our practice and support continuous improvement allows us to learn from what works and what doesn't. This includes practice in other schools, learning communities and learning from educational research.

Looking forwards - creating a vision and planning for implementation

Through leadership at all levels, we anticipate challenges and explore creative solutions. This helps us to create an aspirational vision for our school which shapes our actions and provides a focus for improvement.

Our children and young people are actively consulted and involved in this process. We also give staff, parents/carers, and other partners the opportunity to participate in discussions and activities to shape our improvement journey.

When we develop our improvement plan, we use key questions at scheduled review times throughout the session to know how well we are progressing towards achieving these positive outcomes and changes.



Together we are working hard to ensure the Highlands is the best place for children and young people to grow up safely, learn, develop and achieve.

With positive experiences, our children and young people will always see the Highlands as home.

Le eòlasan deimhinneach, bidh ar cloinn is ar n-òigridh daonnan a' faicinn na Gàidhealtachd mar dhachaigh.

Kate MacArthur
Head Teacher
School

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
95%

Average Class Size
10

Meeting PE Target
Target Met

Pupil Numbers
10

Teacher Numbers
1.2 Full time
equivalent

Pupil Teacher Ratio
10:1

Loch Duich Primary School is located in a rural, coastal setting serving the small villages around the loch, extending from Letterfearn to Keppoch.

There are 10 children attending the school ranging from P2 – P7. They are taught together in a single multi-stage class. There has been a change to school staffing this year, with the PT returning from maternity leave.

The headteacher has overall leadership responsibility for Loch Duich Primary School and Glenelg Primary School. The headteacher is supported by a principal teacher. Staff and children 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 good. Children achieve appropriate CfE levels in literacy and numeracy and, across the school, a few children are exceeding nationally expected levels.

Overall children are making the following progress:

Reading

Good progress

Writing

Good progress

Listening and
talking

Satisfactory progress

Numeracy

Good progress

We have had no exclusions this year.

School vision, values and aims

Lèirsinn, luachan agus amasan na sgoile

Our Overall Vision: (our 'why')

Ready Respectful Safe

To provide experiences that nurture a sense of wonder, open-mindedness and challenge for learning and in life.

Our Values: (how)

Being Ready – ready for school, punctual, prepared with resources.

Being Respectful – mindful of others, kind, building up each other, rights respecting, being fair.

Being Safe – protected, risk considered, careful with each other, knowledgeable.

Our Aims: (what)

Using our unique context for learning: we live in a rural, coastal peninsula with interesting heritage sites and places of natural beauty. Pupils will use these unique spaces, interactions and experiences available to them.

Supporting our community: our community and school are mutually supportive, pupils benefit from the experiences of supporting and working for their wider community.

Building knowledge, understanding and skills: learning through literacy and numeracy and allowing development of understanding in wider concepts.

Promoting wellbeing: giving pupils skills and knowledge to look after themselves in positive ways and developing understanding and sharing of their rights.

Our Curriculum is built around the four contexts of learning:

- (1) Working to build the ethos of the life of the school as a community,
- (2) Learning through curricular subjects with a key focus on literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing;
- (3) Providing opportunities for personal achievement,
- (4) Developing skills through interdisciplinary learning.

Our vision, values and aims personalise our approach to Getting It Right For Every Child, where we aim for children to be Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Responsible, Respected and Included (SHANARRI), and to become Confident Individuals, Effective Contributors, Responsible Individuals and Successful Learners.

Written in collaboration with our school community Oct 2022

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.

School Priority:

Improving confidence and ability in Numeracy

Purpose:

This improvement project aimed to upskill teaching staff through targeted professional learning. Staff in the cluster participated in 'Numeracy Sprinkles' twilight sessions with the Highland Numeracy Officer and completed an online course from Stanford University: How to Learn Math for Teachers.

Progress:

Impact:

Ready Respectful Safe

- ✓ Professional learning planned in the School Improvement Plan was completed.
- ✓ Numeracy Sprinkle sessions led to further trialling of methods via Teaching Sprints and classroom activities.
- ✓ Professional dialogue, particularly with cluster staff, deepened understanding of low-floor, high-ceiling tasks and the value of open-ended learning experiences.
- ✓ Two staff members across the cluster completed Stanford University's online course.
- ✓ Assessment - including SNSA, SOFA and HNP diagnostics have supported effective tracking of pupil progress.
- ✓ Staff report improved pedagogical confidence and an expanded repertoire of numeracy strategies and digital tools.
- ✓ Class activities have supported deeper conceptual understanding and effectively challenged all learners in our multi-composite setting.
- ✓ Almost all pupils are working at expected levels in numeracy and mathematics.
- ✓ Almost all pupils express confidence and enjoyment in maths.
- ✓ Maths Week Scotland activities successfully linked numeracy to real-world contexts and careers.
- ✓ Pupils participated confidently in a Highland-wide maths competition.
- ✓ Overall, very good progress has been made in this priority area.

Next steps:

- Sustain cluster-wide professional learning in numeracy
- Continue to build programmes that promote deep mathematical thinking and fluency.
- Embed a growth mindset approach, encouraging pupils to view mistakes as opportunities for learning.
- Contribute actively to the upcoming ASG improvement focus on moderation in numeracy.

ASG/School Priority:

Focus on Moderation Practice across ASG

Purpose:

This project aimed to strengthen teacher confidence and consistency in assessing writing through improved moderation practices across the ASG. It also aimed to ensure that children make the best possible progress in writing through clear and shared standards.

Progress:

- ✓ Teachers engaged in regular moderation sessions, both within school and across the Plockton ASG.
- ✓ Moderation activities have focused on planning for High-Quality Assessment and levelling of writing, with facilitation by two QAMSOs.

Impact:

- ✓ Teachers have developed a clearer understanding of national Benchmarks in writing.
- ✓ Pupils benefit from more consistent and accurate professional judgements of progress within a level.
- ✓ Collaborative evaluation using the Moderation Cycle has clarified the next steps in moderation development.

- ✓ Staff expressed a strong commitment to collaborative learning and ongoing refinement of moderation practice.
- ✓ Use of the Highland Council moderation self-evaluation toolkit enabled schools to reflect on current practices and identify areas for development.
- ✓ Planning across the ASG is now more aligned and focused on shared assessment standards.
- ✓ Satisfactory progress has been made in this area to date.

Next steps:

- ASG to shift focus to moderation of numeracy and incorporating pupil voice at the planning stage of Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL).
- Further develop moderation of High-Quality Assessments within IDL contexts.

Progress and impact of Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)

Adhartas agus buaidh Maoin Cothromas Sgoilearan

PEF has been used to address individual learning needs and health and wellbeing needs of pupils. With a small cohort, our efforts have centred on personalised support and enriching hands-on experiences that foster engagement and resilience and inclusion.

Part-time PSA hours have been allocated to provide focussed literacy and numeracy interventions, alongside nurture-based support sessions.

A local third-sector provider was engaged to lead weekly sessions in Bike Ability, woodworking and gardening, developing practical skills and outdoor learning.

Impact:

Support: The PSA has facilitated 1:1 and small group sessions, leading to noticeable improvements in pupil confidence, participation and attainment in core subjects.

Increased Engagement: Practical hands-on sessions have improved motivation, fine motor skills, problem solving and teamwork.

Wellbeing and Inclusion: The combination of academic support and practical learning opportunities has contributed to a nurturing environment where all pupils feel included, respected, and capable of realising their full potential, reflecting the aims of the UNCRC Article 29.

100% of pupils feel PEF-funded initiatives enhance their school experience.

Parents are in agreement that PEF-funding is being used effectively and positively.

Wider achievements

Coileanaidhean nas fharsainghe

Children's Rights and Leadership:

- Progress towards Gold Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) with children actively engaging in fundraisers and donating to charity.
- All pupils have lead assemblies on UNCRC articles, demonstrating their knowledge and advocacy for children's rights and sharing with parents and occasional community visitors.
- All pupils take on leadership roles—from self-directed routines in nursery to P6/7 delivering Junior Sports Leader training and peer-led P.E. lessons.

Community and Performance:

- Successful whole-school Christmas concert, with all pupils showcasing creativity and confidence.
- Pupils have participated in local and regional art.
- In October the school held a coffee morning alongside the community council in Inverinate Hall. The class performed a play and sold craft items and a calendar they had created, raising just over £500.
- Pupils helped their parents run fund-raising events for the benefit of the school, which supported community events, e.g. Dirty 30 and Highland Cross competitions.

Learning Beyond the Classroom:

- P6/7 represented the school at a Highland-wide maths competition.
- Weekly gardening sessions reinforce sustainability; pupils manage composting and recycling.
- Collaborative woodworking led to the repair of a school shed.
- Almost all pupils attained Bikeability Level 2 and completed a community cycle.

Environmental and Community Engagement:

- Participation in local sports tournaments in shinty and football.
- Participation in Highland dance and drama classes.
- All children took part in sports festivals within their own Associated School Group (ASG).
- Children have grown their own vegetables, fruit and improved flower displays in their school grounds.
- All pupils benefitted from music lessons with professional musicians.
- Transition support included a residential outdoor trip to Raasay for P7, funded by community fundraising.
- Voluntary litter picks in the school and wider community.

Broader Experiences:

- Regular local walks and nature-based learning.
- Whole school trip to Eden Court pantomime.
- Engagement with the NTS ranger for den-building and birdwatching.
- Engagement with the NTS ranger deepened understanding of a temperate rainforest.
- Significant experiences in understanding local ecology.
- Artwork and crafts were created and sold through community and school events.
- P7 pupils attended a 'Resilient Kids' programme.
- P4-7 attended a STEM Science Academy Day on coding and robots, provided by the Science Skills Academy.
- The school was gifted an Access Arts membership by local artist Sarah Longley. This was used to run a series of lessons creating shell sculptures during their Seas and Oceans topic.
- Pupils have put together 3 school newsletters over the course of the year using digital technology.
- One pupil prepared and performed Gaelic poetry for the Mod.
- All children have explored Decider Skills to support emotional literacy and wellbeing.
- Pupils have put together 3 school newsletters over the course of the year using digital technology.
- P6/7 represented their school at the Enterprising Mathematical challenge within Highland schools.
- The wide variety of partners working with the school has offered a dynamic and meaningful curriculum for pupils, local Police officer; STEM visits from UHI; activities led by local ranger.

Comments from learners, families, stakeholders and staff

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

Pupil Voice:

- Most pupils identify working with Jake, our 3rd sector PEF-funded worker as their favourite and express a desire for continuing this next session.
- Pupils report progress across all subjects and appreciate having their say about topics to be studied.
- “They like their school, they like the staff, the playground improvements and they like how well they know each other.”

Family and Community Engagement:

- Parents are active supporters of the school, helping with transport, and running fund-raising events.
- The Loch Duich community council helped organise an afternoon tea to raise funds for school, sale where the pupils performed a play.
- Families appreciate the individual attention given to their children, the close community for their children and enjoy their community newsletters.

Stakeholder Observations:

- Visiting professionals consistently note strong pupil engagement during sessions, including science and eco projects, woodworking, cycling and music.
- The worker who led an assembly on refugees commented on how aware our cluster schools are about wider world issues.

Staff Reflections:

- Staff highlight strong progress in school improvement priorities.
- They observe meaningful pupil progress and high levels of engagement.
- Staff feel respected, collaborative, and committed to upholding children’s rights in their work.

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:

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

Our overall evaluation of our capacity for continuous improvement is:

Ready Respectful Safe

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

Sustaining this momentum is dependent on filling 100% of teaching positions, as our principal teacher is about to go on maternity leave and our other teacher is retiring.

Key priorities for improvement planning

Prìomhachasan airson planadh airson leasachadh

- ✓ Further embed the professional learning for delivering high quality numeracy teaching, with new staff.
- ✓ Work on improving listening skills in class.
- ✓ Expand creative and practical opportunities for pupils to make, create, and explore.
- ✓ Deepen staff engagement with the Curriculum Improvement Cycle and updated curriculum framework.
- ✓ In line with ASG plans, moderate open-ended numeracy tasks and embed pupil voice into IDL planning.
- ✓ Maintain and embed Children's Rights as a core ethos, ensuring pupil leadership continues to drive school culture and values.

Planning ahead

A' planadh air adhart

Full details of the school's 2025/26 improvement priorities and actions will be detailed on the school improvement plan, which will be available by contacting the school office.