



Caol Primary School

School Handbook

2026 – 2027



Caol Primary School,
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Caol
Fort William
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 caol.primary@highland.gov.uk

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 @Caol_Primary

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Whilst the information in this handbook is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information. For the most up to date information, please contact the school.

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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Caol Primary School,
Glenkingie Street,
Caol,
Fort William
PH33 7DP
Tel 01397 703366

November 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our school community! We are delighted that you are considering enrolling your child in Caol Primary School, and we very much look forward to welcoming you to our Team Caol family.

We are very proud of our school and Early Learning and Childcare Centre; we have a modern building with access to outdoor spaces for learning, playing, and having fun. We aim to provide a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment where your child can fulfill their potential to become confident individuals, effective contributors, responsible citizens, and successful learners in an ever-changing world.

We have strong community links to support and enhance our pupils' learning experiences and we encourage all our pupils to work together to influence positive changes in our classrooms, school, community and beyond!

When asked, 'What makes our school special?' our community (families and pupils) were quick to respond:

Friendly, flexible and fun. The school really feels like a community that children and families can feel part of.

The relationships between pupils, staff and parents are very positive.

It is a lovely school. It's fair, kind and respectful.

I love how the whole school mix, look out for each other and work so well together. Everyone is included equally.

Every child is seen and their own unique needs, wants and skills are embraced, supported and appreciated.

This handbook has been written in consultation with pupils, staff, and parents to provide you with some details and information which should be helpful to you. We have an open-door policy where parents are made to feel welcome and listened to. If you have any queries which this handbook doesn't cover, please get in touch and a member of our team will be happy to help you.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Sharon MacDonald

Head Teacher

ABOUT CAOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caol Primary School is a non-denominational school situated in the village of Caol on the shores of Loch Linnhe. We are surrounded by Highland mountains and glens and are lucky to have stunning views of Ben Nevis from our classroom windows.

The catchment area of Caol Primary School is principally for pupils living in the village of Caol and Lochyside. We currently have 196 pupils in Primary 1-7 and 38 pupils in Nursery and cater for children from the ages of 3-12 years of age.

We share a campus with St Columba's RC Primary School and have a community centre, STEM Room, Room 13 Art Studio and Highlife Highland Library on site.

We have nursery provision for three- and four-year-olds during school term-time.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS (*Being updated during session 2025-2026)

Our Vision:

**Team Caol is Ready, Safe and Respectful
Playing, Learning and Growing Together.**



We identified the following 8 values as those which are most important to us:

Fairness	Friendship	Honesty	Inclusion	Kindness	Learning	Responsibility	Teamwork
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In order to achieve this, we will continue to build upon our positive working relationships with parents. Pupils and staff share a sense of belonging and a firm commitment to the school and we now want to extend this to the wider community.

After extensive consultation with staff, pupils, parents and the community we have a shared purpose which we have translated into our current school aims:

The aims of Caol Primary School are to:

1. *Ensure that school is a safe, happy place where all members are proud to be part of the team; everyone has fun, kid and respectful towards each other.*
2. *Continue to evaluate and improve our curriculum, teaching, learning and resources using our Curriculum Plan and School Improvement Plan.*
3. *Promote Learning for Sustainability through Health Promotion, Eco-Schools, Rights Respecting Schools, Global Citizenship and Outdoor Learning.*

4. *Involve children actively in lessons and employ a variety of strategies which promote the framework of skills we have in place for Learning, Life, Work and Social Skills.*
5. *Continue to implement A Curriculum for Excellence striving for excellence in what we say, write, do and make.*
6. *Raise attainment by enabling our learners to be reflective and successful while we recognise and celebrate achievements in and out of school.*

Right **C** hoices
 Fun **A** ctivities
 Many **O** pportunities
 Everyone **L** earning

We value the partnership between school, parents and community partners and the part it plays in realising our vision. This statement therefore applies to everyone who has a role to play in the provision of education in our school.

A

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 Head Teacher.

ACHIEVEMENT

Pupil achievement is marked in several ways. We have a monthly celebration assembly where certificates are awarded to pupils in each class who have been nominated by their teacher and support staff. These reflect the 4 capacities: Confident Individual, Effective Contributor, Responsible Citizen, Successful Learner, and our Caol Kindness Award and Vision & Values Award.

Pupils also nominate and vote for their Pupils' Pupil of the Month.

Wider achievements are celebrated in our stage assemblies, via our school Facebook page and in monthly newsletters. We encourage participation in local festivals, competitions and challenges. We track pupil wider achievement and signpost access to clubs and community partners

We promote our school vision through issuing stickers and tokens for working hard, being ready and organised to learn, being kind to others, being safe and respectful in the canteen, being respectful in the corridors and for looking

Primary 2 Wider Achievement Profile	
2022-2023	
Name: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> We are proud of our young people for taking an interest in learning new things and developing skills for the learning. Wider achievements include everything that your child learns from hobbies, interests, clubs, and any opportunities to learn in the home and the community.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Signposts: Please talk to your child about the following and record his/her response as a record of wider achievements this year as far as:	
My Hobbies and Interests What do you enjoy doing in your free time? What are your interests out of school?	
Clubs I Attend What clubs do you enjoy going to?	
Skills I've Learned At Home & In The Community What life skills are you learning e.g. long time, reading, sitting, gardening, shopping, baking, making your bed, etc?	
Awards I've Received	
What would I like to be/do when I grow up?	



after our classrooms, resources, and breakout spaces.

Through Curriculum for Excellence, we aim to support our young people to develop four capacities. We have outlined below some of the activities undertaken by pupils throughout the year that have helped to do this.

Developing Successful Learners

- ★ Participation in concerts and competitions
- ★ Presenting information to families at Open Afternoons
- ★ Learning and participating in mixed stage experiences
- ★ Participation in local literacy and arts competitions
- ★ Learning skills for life, learning and work including photography, budgeting
- ★ Entering local gardening and agricultural shows
- ★ Local Maths Bee and Competitions

The Four Capacities



Developing Confident Individuals

- ⊙ Membership of a Committee
- ⊙ Learning drumming skills with Drumfun & performing with musical instruments
- ⊙ Indoor Climbing at the Ice Factor
- ⊙ Outdoor adventure at Glencoe Outdoor Centre
- ⊙ Playing shinty, football & netball for the school teams
- ⊙ Rugby & Basketball Festivals with other school groups
- ⊙ Cross Country races against other schools
- ⊙ Taking part in Dance Platform

Developing Responsible Citizens

- Rag Bag collection for charity
- P6 and P7 Leadership to buddy younger pupils
- Spring Fundraiser
- Participation in Summer Trips to a variety of venues
- Participation in an adventurous residential trip
- Buddying younger pupils - P7 with P1, P6 with Nursery
- Taking on responsibilities in class and around the school
- Community litter picks and kindness initiatives

Developing Effective Contributors

- ⊕ Participating in The Lochaber Music Festival & Local & National Mods
- ⊕ Participating in local charity events and competitions
- ⊕ Participating in outdoor activities at P7 Residential/Nevis Range/Glencoe
- ⊕ Running lunchtime clubs
- ⊕ Representing the class in a committee
- ⊕ Presenting at assemblies
- ⊕ Engaging in problem solving, STEM and team challenges
- ⊕ Performing in shows, concerts and plays

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Class teachers, in conjunction with Additional Support Needs Teachers monitor the progress of pupils with additional support. The needs of such pupils are generally catered for within the normal curriculum but 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:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/230/highland_practice_model_-_delivering_additional_support_for_learners

http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11/co-ordinated_support_plan

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.

Highland Council would seek to always work in partnership with parents, 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. In Caol Primary School, the Named Person is Sharon MacDonald the Headteacher. If your concerns continue, there are a number of means of resolving difficulties and disputes and information on this can be found at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners

Thriving Families are also a great source of support. <https://www.thrivingfamilies.org.uk/>

Parents wishing to enquire about a pupil's progress or have concerns about their progress are invited to get in touch with their child's class teacher in the first instance. Regular reviews are held throughout the year.

Transition - generally, for a child with an additional support need we would ensure that there is a comprehensive sharing of information each school year. Additionally, if a child

has a significant support issue and they are going to be moving on to primary or high school then a transition plan would be put into place and include members of the high school at an early stage.

Further Information can also be found here:

1. [Enquire](#) – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning
2. [My Rights, My Say](#) – an advocacy and advice service for young people over 12 with additional support needs
3. [Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance](#) , an advocacy service to support parents and children
4. [Scottish Child Law Centre](#) , an organisation providing free legal advice to young people

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.

Please see our clerical in the school office for relevant paperwork required before we can administer any medicines.

ADVERSE WEATHER

Our adverse weather policy is updated annually and sent out in November each year. We aim to make a decision to remain open or close as early as possible when there is adverse weather and if there is a decision to close the school, this will be communicated via our school Facebook page, via text message and by email to all parents.

There is also a website which will give up to date information on school closures. You can access this at <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> Please click on the relevant geographical area for local school closure information. Local radio stations also provide regular winter weather updates with regard to school closures.

It is the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Council encourages full attendance at school but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important. Parents and pupils are often concerned that important examinations may be missed, but this should not override good judgement. Schools normally make alternative arrangements for missed examinations.

The school updates its procedures for adverse weather closure annually, therefore

- parents should advise schools of an alternative address, as close as possible to the school, which may be used by their children in emergencies

- the school will advise parents of normal local arrangements for school transport and any special arrangements in the event of adverse weather
- the school will establish a system of communication with parents and local transport operators and ensure that parents are fully informed of any revised arrangements. A telephone service is offered to provide parents with up-to-date information.

The Highland Council Website, Facebook and Twitter are sources of information:

- 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.

For pupils using school transport

- Parents should note that the final decision on whether it is safe to operate rests with the driver of the school transport vehicle. Therefore, there may be occasions on which a school is open but some routes, or parts of routes, are unable to operate.
- Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal "pick-up" time.
- Morning journeys may be delayed by an hour if road conditions are unsafe at the normal journey time but have improved within the hour. Before pupils return to a pickup point parents should check the schools telephone information line for updated messages from their schools Head teacher. Please note that for some routes the transport operator may contact the parent directly.
- Drivers are advised not to drop off children where there is a risk that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. This may involve children being taken to an alternative place of safety, agreed in consultation with the school.
- Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at "drop-off" points, they should contact the school as early as possible.

Please note when weather conditions are poor, parents should ensure that children are met at the "drop-off" point, especially where public service transport is used.

ASSESSMENT

As a school, we seek to provide information to pupils, parents and staff to assist in the effectiveness of learning and teaching process and in raising attainment.

Teachers use the assessment process as an evaluative, diagnostic and formative tool to provide evidence of pupil attainment and progress and to inform learning and teaching approaches and pupil targets.

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.

Parents wishing to enquire about a pupil's progress are invited to get in touch with their child's class teacher in the first instance.

We have annual pupil progress meetings in November and June each year and share continuous reporting packs (including pupil profiles and examples of classwork) each term to ensure parents are kept informed.

Pupils also complete national standardised assessments in P1, P4 and P7.
<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/curriculum-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement/>

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is vital if pupils are to achieve their full potential. If a pupil is absent from school, a parent or guardian should phone the school absence line leaving a voice message on **01397 709656** or email the school at caol.primary@highland.gov.uk.

When returning to school after an absence, the parent or guardian must give a written reason for the time absent.

If a pupil needs to leave during the school day for an appointment etc, pupils need to bring with them a note from a parent or guardian. Pupils must report to the school reception and 'sign out.' If returning the same day, they must report again to the reception and sign in. 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 daytime contact numbers and emergency contact numbers for all pupils.

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 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 Headteacher.

BUDDYING

We have a buddying system for new pupils, where younger pupils are paired up with older pupils to ensure that they become familiar with the routines of school, are helped in the canteen and are not anxious about playtime and lunchtime. In the playground, the buddies usually support the children until they feel confident to be independent which will vary from child to child.

P6 children will visit pupils in Nursery for some play sessions to get to know them beginning in Term 3.

The buddy support will continue throughout the year with pupils from P7 participating in a range of buddying opportunities such as paired reading, digital buddy sessions and playground games.

BULLYING

The school appreciates and shares the concerns of parents regarding preventing bullying. Bullying affects everyone, not just bullies and victims. It also affects those other children who may witness violence and aggression and the distress of the victim. It may damage the atmosphere of a class and even the climate of a school. What is more, less aggressive pupils can be drawn into the taunting and tormenting of victims by group pressure and psychological factors.

We have a responsibility to create a secure and safe environment for pupils in which they can develop into confident individuals and responsible citizens. As a Rights

Respecting School, young people and adults in our school learn how the values and principles of the UNCRC help to create a safe and healthy environment. Everyone concerned; pupils, parents, and all school staff, must be in no doubt that bullying is completely unacceptable. It is the responsibility of all of us to help prevent bullying occurring, and to deal with it sensitively and effectively if it should arise.

What is bullying?

Bullying is something which happens in a relationship which involves some form of hurtful abuse of power. It may be:

- Verbal – as in name calling or making inappropriate personal comments
- Social – like not being spoken to or excluded from group activities
- Material – as when possessions are stolen or damaged
- Mental – as when extortion takes place
- Physical – as in physical assault

Caol Primary School adopts the following strategies for dealing with bullying:

- Sets the right ethos
- Encourages the reporting of the bullying
- Raises awareness
- Has links to the curriculum
- Supports all children
- Changes the bullying behaviour
- Deals with problem areas and times
- Communicates policy and strategy
- Monitors, evaluates and records

Our Preventing Bullying Policy can be found [here](#) which links to Highland Council guidance [here](#). Our Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour policy can be found [here](#).

CALENDAR

2025-2026	
SCHOOL OPENS	SCHOOL CLOSES
Tuesday 19 th August 2025	Friday 10 th October 2025
Monday 27 th October 2025	Tuesday 23 rd December 2025
Wednesday 7 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026
Thursday 19 th February 2026	Thursday 2 nd April 2026

Monday 20th April 2026	Thursday 2 nd July 2026
In-Service Dates – 18 th August 2025, 15 th & 16 th September 2025, 18 th February 2026, and 7 th May 2026 May Day Holiday: Monday 4 th May 2026	

2026-2027	
SCHOOL OPENS	SCHOOL CLOSES
Wednesday 20 th August 2026	Friday 9 th October 2026
Monday 26 th October 2026	Tuesday 22 nd December 2026
Wednesday 6 th January 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027
Thursday 18 th February 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Monday 12 th April 2027	Thursday 1 st July 2027
In-Service Dates – 18 th and 19 th August 2026, 14 th September 2026, 17 th February 2027, and 6 th May 2027 May Day Holiday: Monday 3 rd May 2027	

Up-to-date holiday dates and school closures can be found at
https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

CAMPUS

The Caol Campus encompasses Caol Primary School, St Columba's RC Primary School, an Early Learning and Childcare setting, Community Centre, a Youth Centre, Room 13 Art Studio, Newton STEM Room and a Library.

The school has two 'wings' with Caol School in one and the St Columba's School in the other. We have a shared gym and canteen facilities.

Our school was opened in 2016 and is a lovely, open, modern building with spacious classrooms and working areas. There is provision for ASN pupils and a large playground for all to enjoy.

CARE AND WELFARE

For Health & Safety reasons once your child enters the school grounds we would expect them to remain there until the bell. Children should be picked up and dropped off if they are going home for lunch. If your arrangements at the end of the day change for picking up your child or children, please give us ample notice to inform your child. If your child gets home at the end of the day and no-one is home, and you have not advised them of

an alternative, we advise them to return to school to enable us to keep them safe and for us to use the emergency contacts you have provided.

CHILD PROTECTION

From time-to-time incidents can occur within the school setting which cause concern and could indicate that a pupil is suffering some form of abuse.

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 from the Head Teacher or [online](#).

[Getting it Right for Every Child & Young Person in Highland: Interagency Practice Guidance & Child Protection Procedures 2024](#)

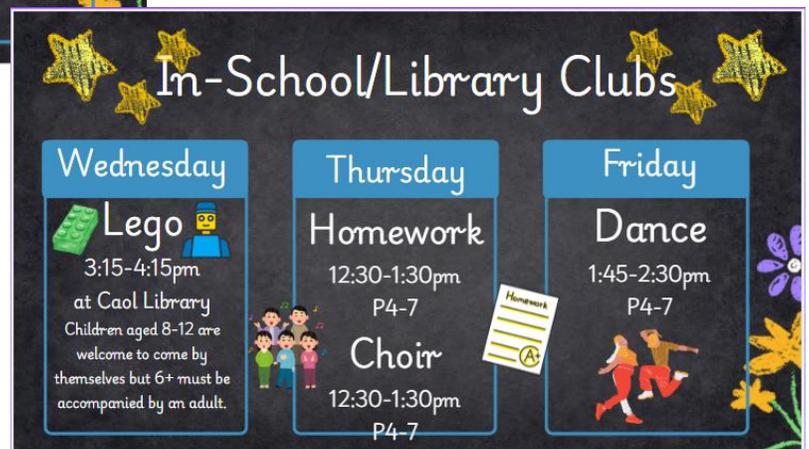
CLUBS

We have a range of clubs after school which are run by parent volunteers or staff in our school building or on Caol Campus.



After School Clubs

Monday	Thursday	Friday
Football 3:30-4:30pm P1-3 4:30-5:30pm P4-7	Netball 3:30-4:30pm P5-7	Shinty 3:30-4:30pm P1-3 4:30-5:30pm P4-7



In-School/Library Clubs

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lego 3:15-4:15pm at Caol Library Children aged 8-12 are welcome to come by themselves but 6+ must be accompanied by an adult.	Homework 12:30-1:30pm P4-7 Choir 12:30-1:30pm P4-7	Dance 1:45-2:30pm P4-7

There are a wider range of clubs available across Lochaber. Contact Lochaber Leisure Centre for further information on 01397 704359. Our Active Schools Coordinator and

Highlife Highland Staff organise a variety of extra-curricular activities and you can be kept up to date by following their [Facebook page](#).

COMMITTEES

To encourage our children to utilise their pupil voice and develop as responsible citizens, we have community time each week when the children work in committees.

Committees are facilitated by staff with ideas taken forward and led by pupils. They are as follows: Eco Committee, Rights Respecting Schools and Young Leaders of Learning.

This year's focus is our School Playground and Service.



COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS/CARERS

Our school places great importance on building strong partnerships with families, and we use a wide range of communication methods to keep parents and carers fully informed and involved. By combining modern digital tools with traditional and personal interactions, we ensure that every parent and carer feels connected, supported, and welcomed into the life of the school.

- **Parents' evenings** are held in November and June each session. In November, parents can book an appointment to meet their child's teacher face to face to discuss progress so far and next steps. In June, our parents' evening is an opportunity for the children to showcase their work and progress over the year.
- **Face to face meetings** with your child's class teacher and/or the headteacher can be arranged by appointment by calling the school office on 01397 703366.
- **Continuous Reporting** packs are sent home in Terms 2, 3 and 4 to keep families informed about pupil progress. A **written report** is shared in May each year and provides a summary of pupil progress and next steps.
- **Open sessions** and **classroom visits** happen termly. Families are invited in to share in their child's learning in class and help families to understand and participate in learning experiences in school.
- **Assemblies** and **Community Events** are valuable opportunities for our children to share learning with families and community members.
- **Newsletters** are shared monthly and sent out by email.

- **Messages in Homework Diaries, posts in Google Classrooms, Certificates, Tokens, emails and phone calls** keep families informed of successes, achievements and if there is a problem to work together on.
- Families are asked to feedback to us via **Google Forms** and Continuous Reporting **Feedback Slips**.
- We use our **Caol Primary Facebook Page** to keep our community informed of current events and successes. Local radio, **Nevis Radio**, and **texts** from school keeps families informed of closures relating to adverse weather.

COMMUNITY LINKS

We are very fortunate to have positive working partnerships with a wide range of community partners. These partnerships ensure pupils' learning experiences are enhanced and relevant.

Current Community Partners include:

Active Schools	Allied Health Professionals	Caol Community Council	Caol Co-op
Caol Library	Caol Youth Centre	Fort William Museum	Glencoe Outdoor Centre
Highlife Highland	Hopscotch	Kodaly Music	Lochaber Environmental Group
Lochaber Leisure Centre	Lochaber Lunch Club	Mosspark Nursing Home	Music As Therapy
Newton Room	Room 13	UHI and West Highland College	Youth Music Initiative

Pupils are encouraged to be active community members by taking an interest in local events, making use of local amenities, and taking pride in their local area. We welcome visitors including the emergency services personnel, local businesses, allied health professionals, charity workers, volunteers, environmentalists, and conservationists.

While we are a non-denominational school, we are visited by our partners from the Faith Mission, Kilmallie Free Church, Kilmallie Church of Scotland, The Salvation Army and Scripture Union.

We promote our community as much as possible through our weekly committee time. We are also working towards re-accreditation through Eco Schools, Rights Respecting Schools, Fairtrade through opportunities for Inter Disciplinary Learning around Global Citizenship and Global Development Goals.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If a parent has any concerns, they should contact their child's class teacher or their Named Person, Sharon MacDonald (01397 703366).

The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership. If you have tried reporting the problem and it has not been resolved, you can make a complaint in the following ways:

- [Make a complaint using our online form \(external link\)](#)
- By Phone - **01349 886606**
- In Writing - Customer Resolution & Improvement Team, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX
- [Visit a Service Point](#)
- [Contact your local councillor](#)

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 public.transport@highland.gov.uk.

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

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We aim to enhance professionalism of staff by

- Ensuring that all staff have opportunities for Continuing Professional Development and training relevant to their roles
- Undertaking staff development courses which respond to individual needs and school priorities
- Liaising with colleagues and staff in other schools to share good practice

CURRICULUM

[Highland Curriculum for Excellence information](#)

In Caol School, our Curriculum Rationale is based on the four contexts for learning from Curriculum for Excellence [Curriculum for Excellence | Education Scotland](#). We aim to provide a curriculum that is broad, balanced, relevant and helps our children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century



We aim to enable pupils to become

The current curriculum and subjects have been grouped into eight curriculum areas and will be refreshed and re-focused in accordance with the purposes of the curriculum, the principles underlying the curriculum, and an emphasis on cross curricular activities. Updates related to the Curriculum Improvement Cycle will be reflected in our practice through our school improvement plan.

The curriculum areas are

- Expressive arts
- Health and wellbeing
- Languages & Literacy
- Mathematics
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies



The **EXPRESSIVE ARTS** encompass a range of activities and experiences – art and craft, music, movement, drama and dance. In each of these areas, the children experience a broad range of activities to ensure the progression of skills and the opportunity to be creative. We benefit from having Room 13 located nearby on campus. The artist in residence, Richard Bracken, works with pupils and class teachers to deliver art lessons. Interested pupils can participate in photography lessons and are responsible for taking our school photographs every annually. We are supported by the Youth Music Initiative in P5 and Kodaly Music in P3 to deliver music sessions. Every class participates in Scottish Country Dancing in our second term.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING is central in ensuring our young people develop physically, emotionally, socially, and mentally.

Physical Health explores physical factors in relation to our health and looking after ourselves e.g., exploring changes in the body, identifying ways of crossing the road safely and recognizing the harmful effects of smoking, alcohol, solvents, and illegal drugs.

Emotional/Mental Health explores emotions, feelings, and relationships and how they affect our mental well-being e.g., learning to share and care for others and reflecting on experiences and ways of dealing with problems, e.g., change, loss, bullying, conflict.

Social Health explores the interaction of the individual, the community, and the environment in relation to health and safety e.g., dealing with litter, practising personal safety strategies and exploring ways of helping the school to be a health promoting school.

Physical Education is vital to ensure all pupils are active and know what their body needs to be fit, mobile and agile. All pupils receive a minimum of two hours PE lessons per week. This is through an hour's PE session and 2 x 30 minutes Fit Kids sessions per week. The children experience a balanced programme of gymnastics, games, athletics, movement, and dance. Our P6 pupils benefit from swimming sessions in the Spring term and P7 pupils have the opportunity to participate in outdoor challenges in partnership with UHI Outdoor Adventure students.

Parents will be informed when sensitive areas of learning are to be covered and are encouraged to contact the school should they wish further information.

Health Promoting School

As a Health Promoting School, we also encourage pupils, staff and parents to think about healthier lifestyles. Healthy living is a regular topic in classes and we promote safe and healthy routes to school. Staff take part in health promotion activities. We value all the activities that make up a healthy and happy community.

LANGUAGES & LITERACY experiences consist of Talking, Listening, Reading, and Writing and they are central to all learning.

Talking experiences include exploring sounds, patterns, rhythm, rhyme to be able to communicate effectively with others. This includes taking turns to talk and being able to respond to others.

Listening experiences include the development of listening and attention skills, phonological awareness, listening for information and listening to follow instructions.

Reading consists of core reading sessions 3-4 times per week, reading for enjoyment, reading for information and the sharing of class novels, poems, and short stories to develop a love of literacy and extend vocabulary. We have recently introduced Essential Letters and Sounds to teach phonics. Reading resources used include Big Cat decodable books, Floppy's Phonics books, Group Novels, Non-Fiction texts, Graphic Novels and Poetry books.

Writing is a current focus for improvement through the implementation of Talk for Writing across the school. Handwriting begins with mark-making and when ready, letter formations are taught using Nelson Handwriting. From P3, the children are taught to join their handwriting.

Spelling is an ongoing focus, through the use of Wraparound Spelling and Morphological Spelling.

Modern Languages we teach include French from P1 -P7 and Gaelic in P5-7. We teach through a wide range of activities including songs, games, role-play and direct teaching of simple vocabulary and language structures.

MATHEMATICS experiences and outcomes link to the following organisers:

- Estimation and rounding
- Number and number processes
- Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages
- Money
- Time
- Measurement
- Data and analysis
- Ideas of chance and uncertainty

We use White Rose Maths, Leckie and Leckie Maths and TeeJay Maths, supplemented by an extensive bank of teacher-prepared materials which relate to real life situations. The main aim in mathematics is to encourage enthusiasm, confidence, understanding and accuracy in dealing with mathematical ideas and processes. There is a particular emphasis on problem solving and mental calculation. Teachers refer to the Highland Numeracy Progression to ensure foundational knowledge and strategies are taught.



RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION is taught throughout the school and there are opportunities for Religious Observance at termly assemblies for Primaries 1-7. A whole school assembly is held weekly, and we visit church at Easter and Christmas. Parents who wish their children to be withdrawn from religious education are requested to call in at the school to discuss alternative arrangements.

Experiences in religious and moral education encompass three areas:

- Christianity
- World Religions
- Development of beliefs and values

SCIENCES, SOCIAL STUDIES and **TECHNOLOGIES** - Much of this work will be approached through topics and will be taught in an integrated way. In all such studies, we are concerned not only with factual content but also with the development of skills, ideas, and attitudes through which real understanding is achieved and which will form the basis for future study. We aim to develop enterprising attitudes and skills, and we encourage curiosity, independent thinking, and positive attitudes to entrepreneurship.

It is not normal policy to charge for equipment, books or materials.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) - At our school, we embrace Interdisciplinary Learning as promoted by Education Scotland, recognising it as one of the four contexts for learning within



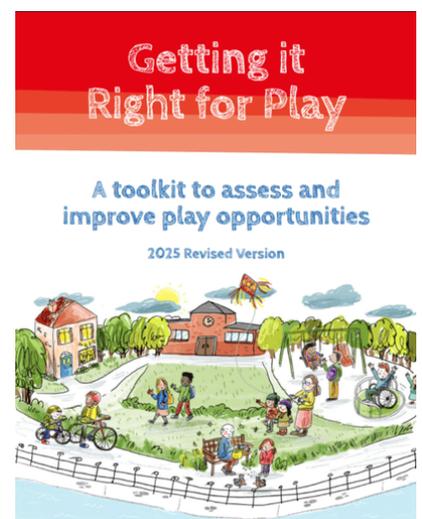
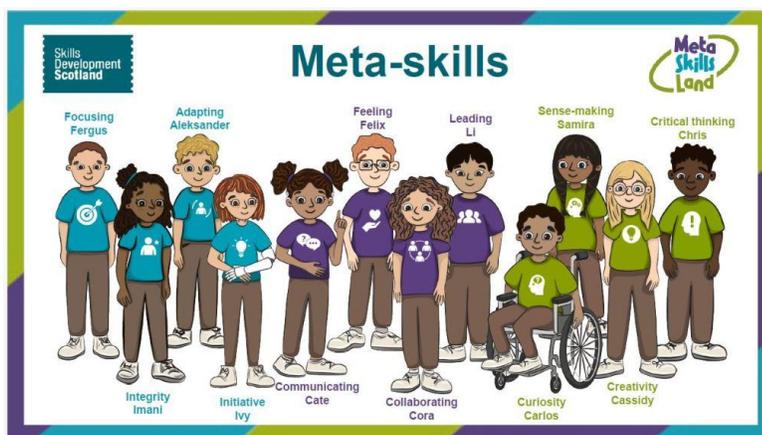
Curriculum for Excellence. IDL allows pupils to make connections across subjects, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and deeper understanding by applying knowledge in new and ways. Through carefully planned projects and collaborative activities, children explore themes that link areas such as science, technology, literacy, and the arts, helping them to see how learning is relevant to everyday life. This approach not only develops transferable skills but also prepares pupils to thrive in an increasingly complex world by fostering curiosity, resilience, and confidence in their learning journey

Curriculum for Excellence Levels provide a very broad indication of how children progress in their learning from ages 3 to 18. Expected levels of progression are as follows:

Level	Stage
Early Level	The pre-school years and P1, or later for some.
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some.
3rd / 4th	S1 to S3, but earlier for some.

Meta-skills

In Caol Primary, we help children develop *meta-skills*—the flexible, lifelong abilities that sit behind all other learning. These include skills such as self-management, social intelligence, and innovation, which enable pupils to adapt, communicate, and think creatively in a changing world. By nurturing qualities like resilience, teamwork, curiosity, and problem-solving, we prepare children not only for success in school but also for life beyond the classroom. Meta-skills are woven into everyday learning experiences, giving pupils the confidence to face challenges, embrace opportunities, and thrive in their future education and careers. We are working on embedding our Play Policy to enhance our environments indoors and outdoors to empower and engage children across their play and learning.



Pupil Choice

At our school, we place great value on pupil choice, recognising that children learn best when they are actively involved in shaping their own learning journey. Through Curriculum for Excellence, pupils are encouraged to make decisions about topics, projects, and activities that interest them, giving them ownership and responsibility for their learning. Opportunities for choice are built into classroom tasks, interdisciplinary projects, and wider school life, allowing pupils to explore their strengths, develop independence, and build confidence. By listening to pupil voice and offering meaningful choices, we create a learning environment where every child feels motivated, respected, and empowered to achieve their potential.

More information about Curriculum, can be found here: [Highland Curriculum for Excellence information](#)

DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION AND DATA POLICY

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 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](#)

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.

Data Protection Contact: Sharon.Macdonald@highland.gov.uk

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis at ScotXed@scotland.gsi.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.

ENROLMENT

Children who are due to begin school in August are enrolled the previous February. Enrolment week is advertised in advance in the local press, and we also pin up posters in the local area. Parents who are considering enrolling their children are most welcome to visit the campus to meet the Head Teacher and tour the school. An appointment can be arranged by telephoning the school.

Parents can enrol their children using the Enrolment Link here:

[Enrolment in a school outside your catchment area | Enrol your child for school | The Highland Council](#)

EQUALITY & INCLUSION

Our school Promoting Diversity and Equality Policy can be accessed [here](#).

Up-to-date information from Highland Council can be found [here](#).

In summary, we aim to ensure our activities in school:

- 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.

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/>

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](#).

FAMILY LEARNING

Family learning, as described by Education Scotland, is an approach that engages families in learning together, with benefits that extend to both children and adults. It focuses on intergenerational learning and aims to improve outcomes for the whole family.

Throughout the school year, we survey families to identify a preferred focus for Family Learning. Family Learning so far has included Online Safety workshops, Early Literacy, Maths Support Sessions, Raising Children with Confidence sessions and Family Nurture sessions.

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY – SCHOOL EVENTS

The safety and protection of children are key concerns. In line with Highland Council Guidelines, we ask parents to advise the school if they do not wish their child to be photographed or filmed by any spectator or member of an audience at a school event. If any parental objection is received, alternative arrangements will be made for these individual children.

FRIENDS OF CAOL SCHOOL

Every parent of a child in this school is a member of our Parent Council. The decision of the Council was to form a representative group which would be called 'Friends of Caol School.' The group is another channel for parents to communicate with the school. Fund raising, social and educational events are organised by the committee members. They are very keen to encourage more parents to become involved in their activities and any ideas for fundraising would be welcomed.

The Annual General Meeting is usually held at the end of September and new members are elected at this point.

The recently elected Parent Council are as follows:

Office Bearing Members:

Chairperson – Helen Cree

Secretaries - Calley Colyer and Lisa Vickers

Treasurers – Lyndsay MacIvor and Leona Coull

Advisor: Sharon MacDonald (Head Teacher)

Staff Reps: Kerry Lamont (DHT) and Fiona Wilson (Class Teacher)

Meetings are generally once per term alongside several fundraising events which take place over the course of the year. We benefit from parents volunteering their time to support with school and fundraising events and are always looking for more parents to get involved. Please get in touch if you can give your time.

Meeting minutes will be posted to our school website.

Contacting the Parent Council

Please remember if you need to contact the parent council you can speak with any member you see in/around school, email caol.primary@highlandpc.co.uk or drop a note into school for the attention of the Chairperson who will contact you. If your query is specifically related to your child, the Parent Council encourages dialogue with the school initially. However, if you think it is a widespread issue, please do not hesitate to contact them directly.

HEAD LICE

Unfortunately, headlice are often a problem within the school and the wider community. Weekly wet combing is advisable for all children throughout their school years. If head lice are detected, pharmacists are able to advise. Please remember that children are entitled to free prescriptions and insecticide lotions and the “Bug Buster” Kit (a non-insecticide alternative) are both available on prescription.

We would be grateful if you would contact us if your child has headlice. Children should be returned to school once treated. We will contact you personally by letter if we detect head lice and we will be able to give advice about treatment.

Newsletters will contain any updated information with regards to head lice treatments.

HEALTH CARE

Pupils are looked after by the School Medical Officer and a team of nurses based at Fort William Health Centre. School Nurses makes regular visits to the school to check eyesight, hearing and personal hygiene. Each year more thorough medicals are given, if necessary, by the Community Pediatrician.

Routine matters of first aid are attended to by our staff. For any more serious matter the child is taken to the out-patient dept. of the Belford Hospital.

If your child has any serious health problem, or one that you feel may affect his/her schooling, please contact the Head Teacher.

Our school is a “Nut Free Zone” because a number of children suffer from life threatening allergies. Even if your child does not have this problem, please do not allow him/her to bring peanuts to school.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We believe that much of the strength of the school lies in the positive relationships between staff, pupils, and their parents. These relationships are nurtured through regular communication between school and home. We welcome and value parental interest in the welfare of our pupils. Whatever the nature of the issue, you can be assured of our help.

We have an open-door policy where parents can contact the school to make an appointment with their child’s class teacher, our ASN teacher or the head teacher as required, and we will do our very best to support you.

HOME LEARNING

At the request of our families, we have created a Home Learning website which families can access if their child is absent from school. The site can be accessed here:

<https://sites.google.com/lochaberhigh.org.uk/caolprimaryschool/home>

HOMEWORK & SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

We believe that learning does not stop at the school gates, and we actively encourage parents and carers to support their child's education at home. Families are provided with guidance, resources, and practical ideas to help reinforce classroom learning through homework and everyday activities such as reading together, exploring numeracy in daily routines, and engaging in creative projects. Our staff share strategies that build confidence and make learning enjoyable, while regular communication ensures families feel supported and informed. Working together support families to play an active role in their child's progress and achievement.

Homework provides an opportunity for parents to support and encourage their children with their schoolwork as well as providing families with an insight into some aspects of the curriculum. It is of great practical necessity for certain kinds of activity – memorisation of number facts, practice of spelling, organisation, developing fluency in reading. Our pupils worked in Focus Groups during 2021-2022 to update our homework policy to ensure it is more flexible to meet family needs.

Caol Primary School
Updated Homework Policy 2021-2022

We have gathered the opinions, thoughts and ideas from our Pupils, Parents and Staff in the creation of our updated Homework Policy as discussed and agreed by our Pupil Focus Groups.

Pupil Surveys and Jamboard

- Homework helps us to practise what we learn in school.
- Some of us have clubs after school, so homework needs to fit into our busy lives.
- Most pupils, parents and staff agreed on 2 homework tasks per week.

Parent Surveys

- It helps if we can choose when we do our homework.
- Everyone surveyed agreed reading should be a focus for homework.

Staff Surveys

- Talking to us about our learning helps.

What? When? How much?	Homework Pack	Homework Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 tasks per weekHomework is given out on a Monday to be handed back in on a Friday (if possible) or the next MondayTasks may include 2 of the following: reading phonics/spelling mathsExtra tasks are optional	Homework packs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A task sheet (or a homework diary if in P7)Homework jotter or worksheetReading book or library bookA grid of optional tasksA pencil, rubber and resources needed	School staff will <ul style="list-style-type: none">Model how to complete homework tasksCheck we have what we needHelp if we are stuck (we just need to ask) We'd love it if parents could <ul style="list-style-type: none">Help us find a quiet space to do our homeworkTalk to us about our learning and homework

caolprimary.wordpress.com #caol_primary 01397 703366 caol.primary@highland.gov.uk

HOUSES

The school is organised into ten houses. The children are awarded tokens for good work, respectful behaviour, kind deeds and they collect these for their house. Points are then counted during the year and added to the points won on Sports Day to see which House has performed the best.

We work in House teams for social skills. This involves groups of pupils in Primary 1 to 7 helping one another and learning from each other and provides opportunities for the children to develop leadership and social skills.

Children are assigned to a house on enrolment with families being in the same house. Our Houses are as follows:

Arkaig Green	Eil Grey	Lochy Brown	Morar Blue	Ness Pink
Arkaig Purple	Eil White	Lochy Orange	Morar Yellow	Ness Red

INDUCTION

Our 4-year-old children who attend Nursery start the induction process in January-February of each year. The Primary 1 teachers visit nursery regularly and get to know the children. They liaise closely with nursery staff and during the term the nursery children visit the Primary 1 class regularly in small groups. During the summer term a visit to the Primary 1 class is organised for all new entrants and their parents. The children spend some time in the classroom while their parents have an opportunity for an informal chat with the head teacher. Prior to this visit, the Primary 1 teacher will have visited any children from other nurseries/settings in order to meet the children in a setting which is familiar to them.

MAJOR SCHOOL EMERGENCY

Procedures for evacuating the building are well established and practiced routinely during Fire Drills. In the event of a major school emergency children and staff will follow the usual routine and will then be evacuated to Kilmallie Free Church. We will be implementing Highland Council's Major School Emergency Procedures. All staff are aware of procedures to be followed and we would appreciate the co-operation of parents in following the instructions of the Emergency Services. It is essential that all emergency contact details are kept up to date.

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 (headteacher in school, health visitor in nursery).

We have a school Children's Service Worker (CSW) who can support children with social, emotional, and mental health difficulties on a referral basis.

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](#). 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](#). Parents would generally be involved in discussions beforehand, however a young person over the age of 12 can ask for support themselves.

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](#) 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. Here is a link to take you directly to the [Enrolment page](#) which may be particularly helpful.

Our children and young people have co-created a warm welcome to you and your family. Click the links here [Primary School Welcome](#)

Please get in touch with the Headteacher if you have any queries or if you would prefer, contact the MLG (Education) lead [here](#)

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.

MUSIC

We are very fortunate to have visiting music instructors to the school each week. We are able to offer music tuition in Brass, Chanter/Pipes, Drumming, Strings and Woodwind. We also have a school choir.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Fridays
Angus Binnie Chanter & Bagpipes 	Allan Craig Pipe Band and Drum Kit Drumming 	Karen Thomson Woodwind & Recorder 
Heather Hook Brass 		Sara Hamilton Strings 

NURTURING APPROACHES



Nurturing approaches are based on psychological theory, including child development and attachment theory. The approach aims to provide children and young people with attachment figures from whom they develop safe and secure relationships. With this attachment securely in place, the child or young person can fully develop their social and emotional skills, which in turn impact on their academic attainment and mental wellbeing. Boxall (2002) suggests that when a child feels safe, these attachment behaviours are accompanied by explorative behaviours. Furthermore, once children successfully develop secure social and emotional skills, they can go on to develop effective cognitive functioning and successfully engage in learning. Nurture has six underlying principles (Lucas, Insley and Buckland, 2006).

The above principles are based on Attachment Theory and child development and aim to support a child or young person develop self-regulation skills. Nurturing approaches aim to use these principles not only as part of a targeted intervention, but also to help create a nurturing and inclusive community. In Caol School, we aim to have a nurturing approach embedded in all we do.

PARENT LINE

Parent Line is Scotland's free helpline, email, and web-chat service, for anyone caring for or concerned about a child - open until 9pm Monday to Friday. Click here to access the website: <https://www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/>.

- Call free: 08000 28 22 33
- Email: parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk
- Text-chat: 07860 022844 (standard network charges apply)
- Opening Times: Mon-Fri 9 am – 9 pm

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

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, and 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.

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

- Face-to-face Parents' Evenings, Open Afternoons or Stay and Play Sessions
- Progress checks through Continuous Reporting
- Consultations
- Child's Plan Meetings
- Target Setting through the Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing Profiles
- Information on the school website and on Facebook and Twitter
- Parental communication via our Google Classrooms

The support of parents in their children's education is key to the success of young people. Taking time to discuss schoolwork, practice language, help children to be organised and 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.

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/>

If parents/carers would like to discuss anything with their child's teacher or a member of the senior management team, they should contact the school office on 01397 703366 or at caol.primary@highland.gov.uk to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time. We aim to meet promptly where possible to problem-solve any issues together.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

At our school, pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to nurturing the wellbeing of every child, ensuring they feel safe, valued, and supported throughout their primary years. Our pastoral support includes building strong relationships between pupils and staff, promoting positive behaviour, and encouraging respect and kindness across the school community. We provide guidance and support for

children's emotional, social, and personal development, with staff available to listen and respond to individual needs in class, and at break times and lunchtimes. By working closely with families and offering a caring environment, we help pupils develop resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging, enabling them to thrive both in their learning and in life.

PLACING REQUESTS – PARENTAL CHOICE

Each school serves its own catchment area. Pupils whose homes are in that 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 (Kirsty.Clark@highland.gov.uk)

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. If pupils live out with the school catchment area and their parents wish them to attend Caol Primary School, they can contact 01397 703366 to arrange a visit.

Parents of children with additional support needs, (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.

POLICIES

Authority wide policies can be found on the Highland Council website [Authority Policies](#)

Please see below a list of our school policies which are available upon request:

1. General Information for Supply Teachers
2. Major Emergency Procedures
3. Wet Weather Arrangements
4. Closure Due to Adverse Weather
- 5.
6. Administration of Medicines
7. Multi-cultural, Anti-Racist & Cyberbullying Policy
8. Equal Opportunities Policy
9. Guidelines for Drug Related Incidents
10. Child Protection
11. Looked After Children
12. Health and Safety
13. Road Safety
14. Partnership with Parents
15. Promoting Positive Behaviour
16. Discipline / Bullying Policy
17. Induction for New Staff
18. Probationer Teacher Policy
19. Learning Policy



- 20. Quality Assurance & Raising Attainment
- 21. Annual Professional Review
- 22. Forward Planning
- 23. Pupil Induction & Transition
- 24. Reporting to Parents
- 25. Intimate Care
- 26. Volunteering Policy
- 27. Bereavement
- 28. Technologies
- 29. Complaints Procedure
- 30. Staff Use of Social Media
- 31. Autism
- 32. Minibus
- 33. Staffing Arrangements

- A. Numeracy
- B. Literacy
- C. Homework
- D. Health & Wellbeing
- E. Social Studies
- F. Science
- G. Technologies
- H. Expressive Arts
- I. Religious and Moral Education
- J. Support for Learning inc. ASN
- K. Learning for Sustainability
- L. MLPS
- M. Living Policy
- N. Outdoor Learning



PROMOTING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND BEHAVIOUR

In Caol School, we focus on Being Ready, Safe and Respectful. We always promote positive behaviours and do so by focussing on the relationships we have with the children.

Responsibility for promoting positive behaviour lies with all members of our school community including pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community. Pupils, staff, and parents are expected to always model excellent behaviour and a positive attitude. All members of staff are responsible for discipline. Minor matters are dealt with by the Class Teacher; more serious or persistent matters may require the child's name to be inserted into the 'incident log' and then referred to the Head Teacher. If a child's name appears two times in one term a letter will be sent home explaining the problem.

We aim for consistency when managing behaviour and follow five steps:

1. Reminder
2. Caution
3. Last chance
4. Time Out
5. Repair

A copy of our Promoting Positive Relationships Policy can be found [here](#).

Highland Council Notes: Possible Exclusion

Procedures for dealing with major breaches of discipline can be found [here](#).

REPORTING TO PARENTS

We share information about pupils' progress throughout the school year with formal parent meetings in November.

Written reports are issued in June each year. The reports give parents information on their child's performance in all aspects of the curriculum and contain suggestions as to what the next steps in learning should be.

An Open Evening for families is held in June where pupils can bring their families along to look around their classroom and share all the work produced. This is a less formal event and one the children very much look forward to.

We send home Continuous Reporting packs, which include examples of Maths, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing work, three times a session. This gives parents the chance to see what their children are working on and the progress they are making.

The pupils work on their own personal learning plan throughout the year. Nursery pupils' work is shared in digital 'Learning Profiles' in partnership with parents while each pupil in school has Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing Profiles which contain targets and snapshots of learning.

The Head Teacher meets with class teachers during the session to discuss the progress of every individual pupil, discussing targets and next steps.

SCHOOL DAY

Get ready bell	8:55am
Teaching Starts	9:00am
Morning Break	10:30-10:45am
Lunch	12:30-1:30pm
Teaching ends	P1-3 classes finish 2:45pm, P4-7 classes finish at 3:15pm

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The school has a School Improvement Plan and publishes a Standards and Quality Report every session in line with Highland Council guidance. Our Standards and Quality Report is available on our [school website](#).

If you would like a copy of the School Improvement Report & Plan which evaluates the work done each session, please contact the school.

Details of where information regarding the school's performance at local and national level can be obtained through these links:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/>

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

This year's improvement summary includes:

 Caol Primary School & ELC 			
School Improvement Plan Summary 2025-2026			
Highland Council's 4 Key Vision Statements	Quality Indicators from HGIOS4 and HGIOurS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will raise attainment and achievement for all, especially for those children 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. We will develop leadership skills at all levels of the system for now and the future, building a culture of empowerment and professional capital. 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. We will maximise opportunities for our children and young people, and for the wider Highland community and its visitors, through provision of high-quality services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Self-Evaluation for Self-Improvement 1.2 Leadership of Learning 2.3 Learning, Teaching and Assessment 3.2 Raising Attainment Theme 2: Our Learning and Teaching Theme 4: Our Health and Wellbeing Theme 5: Our Successes and Achievements 		
 1. PACE – Improving Pedagogy, Attainment, Curriculum & Ethos	 2. Improving Learner Participation & Wellbeing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our school community will engage in reviewing our Curriculum Rationale, Vision, Values and Aims to ensure it is current and relevant. All staff will be familiar with Literacy and Numeracy pedagogies (ELS Phonics/Spelling, Nelson Handwriting, Mastery Approach in Numeracy/Maths) and quality improvement methods. Support Staff will be familiar with Literacy and Numeracy Interventions to support targeted pupils. Our curriculum will have relevant and engaging pathways for Science, Social Studies, IDL, Technologies and Languages. By June 2026 at least 75%* of P1, P4 and P7 will achieve appropriate levels in literacy and numeracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will develop an understanding of the importance of play through engaging with our working Play Policy, facilitating weekly Fun in 31 sessions as chosen by our young people and participating in professional learning/dialogue around 'engagement.' The purpose and legacy of our Young Leaders of Learning team, Eco Committee and Rights Respecting Schools Committee will continue to evolve through enrolling new members and making decisions related to school improvement and promoting pupil voice. This will be open to P4-7 pupils. Pupils' voice in P1-3 will be captured in developmentally appropriate ways. We will further embed our Leadership Pathways to promote "service" and school improvement across our school community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P7 – House Captains, Sports Captains, Vice Captains, Digital Leaders, Monitors P6 – Nursery Buddies Peer Mediators, Young Carers Champions, Sports Champions Community Links with Partners 		
 caolprimary.wordpress.com	 #caol_primary	 01397 703366	 caol.primary@highland.gov.uk

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals for Primary 6 and 7 are £2.40 and school meals for children in Early Years and Primary 1 to 5 are free. There is no application form involved for a child in Primary 1-5 to have a school meal however you will still need to apply for clothing grants where applicable. For information and an application form please see

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals

If your child has a medically confirmed special diet an application form (available on request from school) must be completed and returned to the Head Teacher.

Pupils may bring packed lunches, but no hot liquids (or glass bottles) should be brought to school. Please do not allow children to bring fizzy drinks to school as these have, on occasions, caused messy accidents.

Children can also go home for their lunch. Pupils tell their teacher in the morning if they are a home lunch. Parents are responsible for pupils who decide to go out with school grounds at lunch time.

The canteen also sells some drinks and snacks at break.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Education Authority does not normally provide transport for pupils who live in the delineated area of another school. For children who live within the delineated area of Caol Primary School but out with two miles, the following policy will be pursued:

Transport will be provided for children

- (a) who are under eight years old and live two or more miles from school
- (b) who are over eight years of age and live more than three miles from school

Parents of children who attend Caol Primary but live out with the catchment area are not entitled to transport costs.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils attending Caol Primary School are encouraged to wear a school uniform including:

- White, yellow, or blue polo shirt
- Blue school jumper, cardigan, hooded top, or fleece
- Grey or black school trousers, skirt, or shorts

- Sensible shoes

Wearing uniform:

- improves school security by making it easier to identify intruders



- builds a sense of identity and belonging to the school
- gives pupils an equality of appearance thereby discouraging competition
- is cheaper to buy than other clothing which pupils may wish to wear
- encourages school discipline and a work ethic amongst pupils

Uniform can be ordered and purchased from our school office. School sweatshirts are ordered in May for the following session.

We recommend that all school uniform clothing is labelled with the pupil's name.

PE kit consists of t-shirt, shorts and gym shoes/trainers. PE kit is kept in class and sent home regularly for washing. Gym or swimming bags and water bottles are also available from school office.

Clothing Grants

Free school meals and assistance with school clothing can be claimed if you are receiving any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit (where the monthly earned income does not exceed £610).
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not in receipt of Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105 (as assessed by the HMRC)
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and an income below £6,420 (as assessed by the HMRC)
- If you are 16 to 18 yrs old and receive any of these benefits in your own right then you can claim for yourself
- If you are an asylum seeker receiving support

A copy of the 'Free School Meals and Assistance with School Clothing' form is available from the

school office or can be downloaded from:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing

SOLUTION FOCUSED GROUP

From time to time, a group meets to consider how best to support the needs of specific pupils/families. This group includes school staff, Educational Psychologist, Area Support for Learning Team Leader and representatives from Health, Police, Social Services, etc. as appropriate.

SPORTS

Through weekly PE Sessions, Active Schools events and outdoor learning experiences, our children have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports.

- Primary 5 children receive a 'taster' climbing lesson at the Ice Factor each year.
- Children participate in a series of swimming lessons in Primary 6.
- Primary 7 children spend 2 nights on a residential trip with outdoor, adventurous activities.
- P4-7 children benefit from the services of our visiting P.E. teacher and during their time in primary, will cover gymnastics, games, dance, orienteering, badminton, basketball, athletics, etc.

The school participates in sporting events for primary schools organised within the Lochaber area. The school has a football team, shinty team and a netball team. Other extra-curricular activities include football, shinty, netball and dance. The school is indebted to the coaches for giving so generously of their time to enable the children to take part in these activities.



STAFFING 2025-2026

Senior Leadership Team	
Headteacher: Sharon MacDonald	Depute Head Teacher: Kerry Lamont
Teachers	
P1: Caroline Haines (2 days) & Kelly Donnelly (3 days)	P4/5: Emily Brown
P1/2: Rachel Bradley	P6: Carol MacArthur
P2/3: Katie Beattie (2 days) & Katie Clark (3 days)	P7.9: Fiona Wilson (4 days) & Kerry Lamont (1 day)
P4/5: Sarah Stephen (3 days) & Megan Backhouse (2 days)	P7.10: Jane Bruce (4 days) & Megan Backhouse (1 day)

P4-7 CCR: Katie Beattie, Katie Anne MacLeod, Linda Lees (PE)		
ASN Teachers		
Kerry Lamont (2 days), Caroline Haines (2 days)		
Pupil Support Assistants		
Amy Callison	Kari Dennison	Nicola Michie
Catherine Sanderson	Kirsty Morrison	Patricia Brown
Coney Ford	Leah Thomson	Shannon MacLeod
Emma Crawford	Melissa Stewart	Taylor Matheson
Ilene Duncan	Michael MacInnes	Wilma Moynihan
	Millie Henderson	
Nursery Staff		
Sandra McElhinney (Senior EYP)	Codie Fraser	Michelle Hervo
Aimee Luxton	Katyann Watson	Shona MacGillivray
Claire MacDonald	Maryann MacIsaac	
Pupil Support		
Andrea MacDonald (CSW)		Rani Chowdhury (Playground)
Clerical	Facilities Management	
Leonie Robertson	On a rotational basis	
Visiting Music Instructors		
Allan Craig (Drums), Karen Thomson (Woodwind), Angus Binnie (Chanter), Heather Hook (Brass), Sara Freudenberg-Hamilton (Strings)		
Canteen Staff		
Anne Mackenzie	Janine Hunter	Moira Sinclair
Fiona Ismail	Margaret Stewart	Jane Barton
	Caroline Murray	
Crossing Patrollers		
Robert Shearer	Roberta Atkinson	Willie Anderson

Cleaning Staff		
Roberta Atkinson	David McCafferty	Michael McInnes
Angela Davidson	Sabela	

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Our school is committed to ensuring that every pupil receives the support they need to achieve their full potential. We provide a nurturing environment where individual strengths are celebrated, and additional needs are met through tailored strategies and resources. Support for Learning staff work closely with teachers, parents, and external agencies to identify needs early and put effective plans in place. This may include small group work, quiet spaces, one-to-one support, differentiated classroom activities, visual timetables, brain breaks, interventions, soft starts, emotional check ins, sensory breaks, Now and Next boards, symbols, or access to specialist services.

More information from Highland Council can be found here: [Support for Learners Website](#)

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

On completion of their primary school career, children normally transfer to:

Lochaber High School
 Camaghael,
 Fort William
 PH33 7ND
 Telephone: 01397 702512

Induction Visits

During Term 4, Primary 7 pupils are invited to visit Lochaber High School for a week where they are introduced to staff members and shown around various departments. During this week the pupils will have the opportunity to experience the High School routines and curriculum, following their weekly timetable and meeting new classmates. In consultation with parents and High School staff, additional visits can be arranged if required.

There are additional Enhanced Transition visits from November in P7 for pupils who would benefit for social and emotional reasons.

Transfer Information

To ensure that transfer is achieved smoothly, members of the Guidance staff visit our school to talk to the children and to answer any questions that they may have. The Secondary Additional Support Needs Department has comprehensive information on

children who have additional support needs and may observe the children within their own classroom setting. Secondary staff are invited to any Child's Plan meetings in our pupils' P7 year so that they can get to know pupils prior to transition.

We send information to the High School about present curriculum levels for maths, reading and writing to help the setting process for 1st year pupils. In addition, we send information on medical issues, siblings, friendship groups, relationships which would be mutually beneficial and relationships that may cause issues.

When a pupil transfers from Primary School to Secondary School, individual pupil records are also transferred.

Primary Seven pupils have the opportunity throughout their final year in school to mix with pupils from other schools at various events including sports festivals organised by the Active Schools Team.

TRANSITIONS

Moving to a new class can be daunting for some pupils, therefore we carefully consider times of transition for our pupils. During Term 4, we include Transition in our curriculum and ensure there is time to talk about our feelings and emotions.

We try, whenever possible, to ensure the children meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom in advance of the summer holidays during our 'Move Up Day.' Pupils requiring extra support with transitions are offered an enhanced transition involving extra support.

Composite Classes are formed by the Head Teacher in consultation with teaching staff, using key characteristics such as educational development, attainment levels, Additional Support Needs, personal and social development & gender (to ensure a reasonable balance in the class where possible). There is a Composite Classes Policy available from the school if required.

We also offer pupils with additional support needs and their families a chance to visit the new classroom during our first in-service day of the new school session. This helps to alleviate any potential worries.

WET WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

Unless the weather is unpleasant, the children will continue to use the playground during wet weather and therefore need to be dressed appropriately with a jacket and outdoor shoes/wellies.

In severe weather, Primary 7 children will be deployed as monitors and a number of adults will also be on duty.

Children will be settled by Class Teachers with something quiet to do before break begins. The role of primary 7 children will be to alert the patrolling adults to any

discipline and/or safety issues. They will NOT be expected to "issue orders" or become involved in discipline in any way.

It must be remembered that being allowed to remain indoors in inclement weather is a privilege and anyone who abuses the system (e.g., through unsafe behaviour or by putting themselves or others at risk) will be sent to the HT/DHT during breaks.

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Are there helpers / monitors in the playground?**

Yes, there are staff in the playground to assist pupils.

- **Can pupils bring a mobile phone?**

We discourage children from taking in mobile phones as they are a distraction and can be a risk to security if used inappropriately. Messages can be conveyed to the children by calling the school office. We understand that parents may request that their child takes a mobile phone if they are going somewhere different after school. This can be arranged by completing a Permission to have a Mobile Phone form and requires your child to store his/her phone at the main office for the duration of the school day.

- **Can my child come home for lunch?**

Children can also go home for their lunch. Pupils tell their teacher in the morning if they are a home lunch. Parents are responsible for pupils who decide to go out with school grounds at lunch time and should pick up and drop off their child.

- **What gym kit is required?**

T-shirt, shorts and gym shoes are required for P6 and P7 pupils. We ask that all children have gym shoes which can be kept in school and are exclusively worn in the gym hall.

- **Where is the best place to park when dropping off children?**

Please park in the large car park which is shared with the Community Centre; there is a drop off area there too. Please do not park near the crossing patroller, in front of the school or in St Columba's smaller car park.

- **Are there helpers / monitors in the canteen?**

Yes, there are several adults on duty.

- **Does the school have assembly?**

The whole school comes together for an Assembly every week. These are taken by the Head Teacher and Class Teachers; sometimes we have visitors. Our Celebrating Success Assemblies take place on the last Friday each month. Pupils are rewarded for good work and effort with certificates. Pupils receive tokens for good work and at the certificate assembly some of these are drawn in a raffle and small prizes won.

- **Are there school trips?**

We have school trips every year and pupils are consulted about where we go. Following Covid, we have focused on local trips and organizing Fun Fortnight in the summer term. This is to reduce travelling costs and time so that the children can spend more time having fun. Previously, we organised trips on a rota basis. Every third year we had a whole school trip. In the alternate years we have locally organised trips around Lochaber. These local visits are related to topic work in class and are equally as enjoyable for the children as the 'big' tri-annual whole school trip.



"It is an absolute pleasure to offer support within your school - I am always made to feel so welcome. All the very best, and with thanks."

"I'm so impressed by the kindness of all the kids in all the years; it's so lovely knowing they are all looking out for the younger ones. Thanks."

"I love the community spirit, how kind, caring and approachable all the staff are and how kindness is taught to everyone."

"I love how the whole school mix, look out for each other and work so well together. Everyone is included. "

"I love the family feel and how you include families."

"A lovely welcoming place with the best staff. Thank you all!"

"The staff as a team work to implement the school values and vision – hand and glove."

"A very nurturing environment with all staff really making an effort to know and work with each pupil as an individual. Very welcoming and responsive to parents/carers."

"I think this is a fun, fantastic and fair school. All the staff work so hard to make sure the children are getting all the support they need and make learning fun."