



# **LAIRG**

# **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**School Handbook**

**2026/27**

**Our address is:**

Lairg Primary School  
Main Street  
Lairg  
Sutherland  
IV27 4DD

<https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/>

**We can be contacted on:**

Tel: 01549 402345  
Email: [lairg.primary@highland.gov.uk](mailto:lairg.primary@highland.gov.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This handbook has been planned to give a comprehensive description of the educational provision at Lairg Primary School and to provide any information required for the welfare of your child.

At our school, we respect each other and value everyone's contributions and qualities. We include everyone in our school and listen to what they have to say, encouraging them at all times. We aim to move forward in a positive way, striving to do the best we can.

We have an open-door policy and if you need to speak with either our class teacher or myself please contact school. If we are unable to speak with you immediately, we shall respond to you as quickly as possible.

We greatly value the support from all our parents, and enjoy working in partnership with you, to provide positive learning experiences for our pupils. We include parents and pupils when developing and producing our school's handbook.

We actively encourage parents to join in with as many areas of school life as they can. If you are interested in coming in to help, in any way, please contact the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school should you require any further information.

On request, we can make our Handbook available to parents as hard copy and, if required, a version in an alternative format e.g. Braille, or translated into a community language other than English can be organised.

Kind Regards,

Miss Lesley Morrison  
Cluster Head Teacher  
[Lesley.morrison@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.morrison@highland.gov.uk)

## Vision Statement

### OUR SCHOOL VISION:

At Lairg School, pupils, staff, parents/carers and community partners work together to:

- create respectful and responsible pupils
- provide learning experiences that helps us achieve as much as we can

### OUR SCHOOL AIMS:

We aim for all children to:

- Become resilient
- Have the courage to keep trying
- Become valued members of our school, our community and our world
- Know that we are all important, unique and equal.
- Be included and nurturing
- Be kind, supportive and helpful

### SCHOOL VALUES:

RESPECT YOURSELF – do the best you can, believe in yourself, look after your mind and body

RESPECT EACH OTHER – treat others how you want to be treated

RESPECT LEARNING – work hard, achieve goals, determined mindset, try our best at everything we do

## Introduction

### Location

Lairg Primary School is situated in the centre of the village of Lairg, Sutherland and is in Highland Council. The school is a non-denominational, mixed primary with a Nursery class within the main building.

### The School Buildings

Lairg Primary is a modern school set in an old building. At one time, the school included a secondary department, but now the whole building is devoted to primary education. Although it may seem to have excess space, every corner is used. Currently there are three classrooms used for primary classes and one room used for Nursery. There is a room called the GP Room where we have room to spread out for assemblies, Art and Music. One classroom is used as an area base for Support for Learning.

We are lucky to have the facilities to cook dinners on premises and we have a separate Canteen. This building also has a Gym where children have P.E. and sport activities. Concerts are also held in the Gym as the room contains a stage. We have a large playing field which children love to use in summer months particularly, but we try to use the outside space as much as possible.

### Organisation

There is a Nursery run by two Early Years Practitioners. There is currently a P1-2 class, a Primary 3/4/5 class and a Primary 6/7 class. Pupils are in the care of their class teacher. We also have several Pupil Support Assistants who help children with Additional Needs, working on specific work programmes planned by our Support for Learning Teacher who visits school twice per week.

The school is linked with Rosehall Primary School and shares a Cluster Head Teacher. The Head Teacher usually spends three days in Lairg and two days in Rosehall. The cluster has a Principal Teacher who is based at Rosehall Primary.

**Pupil Roll** There are currently 57 pupils in the Primary School and 10 in Nursery.

Term dates: [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school\\_term\\_dates](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates)

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

We promote positive behaviour, good relationships and this motivates our pupils to ensure that our pupils learn in a positive atmosphere. Our aims and values are displayed to show what we expect of our young people and staff. We emphasise health and wellbeing and positive behaviour such as restorative, solution focussed and nurturing approaches. We follow our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy where self-discipline and co-operation are encouraged and the development of a caring attitude towards others. Good behaviour is acknowledged and encouraged. If issues arise, we offer a solution focus meeting, parents will be involved in solutions with the pupil, the Head Teacher and outside agencies if appropriate. We support our pupils throughout their learning, meeting individual needs.

[Support for Learners Website](#)

## Positive Relationships

We hope that all our children have positive relationships; however, most children argue and fall out with friends as part of the growing up process. Very occasionally, a child can take matters further and be very mean to others. We do not tolerate bullying in any form and work in line with Highland Council procedures. Should you believe that your child is being bullied at school, please inform staff immediately so that we can investigate any complaints fully.

Please see website for the school's Behaviour and Positive Relationships Policy.

<https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/policy/>

### **Highland Council's anti-bullying policy**

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti\\_bullying\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_schools](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti_bullying_-_guidance_for_schools)

## School Improvement

We are proud of our achievements and share them regularly with you on Seesaw and on the school website. For more detailed information, a copy our current Standards and Quality report which celebrates our successes and progress from last session and includes our priorities for the future, after consultation with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community. This can be requested from school or found on our website.

A School Improvement Plan has been written with staff and a child friendly copy is available. A copy of this plan can be found on our website or requested from the school. The plan is regularly reviewed and updated, when necessary.

In March 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lairg Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the head teacher and staff. They gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- ✓ The respectful and nurturing relationships between teachers, practitioners and children. This supports children to be confident and motivated learners.
- ✓ The range of learning environments in the nursery, both indoors and outside. This supports children to engage well in their learning. As a result they are developing their confidence and independence.
- ✓ The school's links with local partners which enrich children's learning.

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/details?id=3329>

### **Pupil Power and Voice**

Children are at the heart of Lairg Primary School. We believe that it is important they have their say in school matters. We include their views on what they would like to learn about and how they would like to learn. Each child is given a role in school. We celebrate achievement both in and out of school, through awards and certificates.

#### **Rights Respecting Schools –**

**Eco Committee** – working on 'eco' issues in and around school and in the local community.

**JRSO** - Junior Road Safety Officers, encouraging others to use roads safely.

**Pupil Council**- Meeting to offer opinions on how school can be improved e.g., work on the Golden Rules, themes in learning and lots more!

**Digital Leaders**- Internet Safety and helping digitally in class.

**Play Leaders**-Organising sports and games within the school.

## Staff at Lairg Primary

Miss L M Morrison	Head Teacher	
Mrs E Howell	Early Years Practitioner	
Miss M Wilson	Early Years Practitioner	
Miss G Paterson	Early Years Practitioner	
Mrs S MacLellan	Teacher	
Mrs C Gruber /Ms S Fraser	Teacher (part time)	
Mrs Z Livings	Teacher	
Mrs D Custerson	Pupil Support Assistant	
Miss T Sutherland	Pupil Support	
Mrs E Vinni	Pupil Support Assistant	
Miss O O'Reilly	Pupil Support Assistant	
Mrs Zelmira Pearson	Support Worker	
Mr K Whitehead	Support for Learning Teacher	
Miss K MacNeill/S Singer	Principal Teacher based at Rosehall Primary	
Ms Mauchline	Maternity cover Rosehall Primary	
Mrs J Mackay	Clerical Assistant	
Miss O O'Reilly	Playground Supervisor/Support Assistant	
Miss G Paterson	Janitor/Cleaner	
Ms Chrissie Allan	Cook	
Mr S Murray	Piping Tutor	
Mr D Adams	Violin Tutor	
Mr R Hamilton	Drumming Tutor	

## School Information

**Denominational Status:** Multi denominational – this means that children of any religion or cultural background may enrol.

**Associated Secondary School:** Golspie High School

**Stages:** P1 to P7 Present roll: 53

Nursery Present roll: 13

## Coming and Going

Nursery 9.00am – 3.00pm  
12noon- 12.45 pm (lunch)

P1-2 9-00am to 12.30pm (Break 10-45am -11-00am)  
12.30pm- 1.15 pm (lunch)  
1-15pm – 2.30pm

P3-7 9-00am to 12-30pm (Break 10-45am – 11-00am)  
12.30pm- 1.15 pm (lunch)  
1-15pm to 3-00pm

## Getting Started

We follow the Highland Council's admissions policy. All enrolment is now done online at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol\\_your\\_child\\_for\\_school](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school)

Enrolment dates for starting P1 in August and for Nursery enrolment can be found on the above link also.

## Links

School encourages links with the local community e.g., a project with the Active Sports Coordinator, taking photographs with the Countryside Ranger, visiting the local woods, working with East Sutherland Rotary Club. We welcome opportunities to further strengthen links with local groups.

Lairg Primary School socialises with other schools in the area. Pupils and staff in neighbouring schools often work together, particularly on special events such as Sports Relief and Children in Need.

We have links to community groups such as the Luncheon Club. We have made partnerships with organisations such as Lairg Learning Centre, The UNCRC and the Rights of the child shape our partnerships. We aim to achieve Silver in *Right's Respecting Schools*

## Getting Involved

All parents automatically are invited to become members of the Parent Council when their child starts school. Some parents choose to be active members and become involved in supporting the school with things such as fundraising and other local community events. Meetings are held regularly to plan events and to discuss aspects of school life so that parents' views are included in the school's evaluation of how it can improve further. Parent Council meetings are held once a term and any issues you wish raised at them should be passed to either the Chair or the Secretary, who will arrange to have them added to the agenda. Parent representatives are elected at the beginning of every new school year at the AGM. New members are always welcome at any time.

Chair – Mrs Lucy MacDonald

Secretary – Mrs Jenny MacDonald

Treasurer – Mr Shane Sieweke

The Parent Council can be contacted via any of the above parents or through their FB page for parents

## Communication, Parents/Carers as Partners

We communicate with our parents in a variety of ways – parents' evenings, school events, classroom visits, e-mails, website, Seesaw, phone calls and letters. We also value a face to face approach to communication and aim to be an 'open' school – giving parents direct and easy access for continuous engagement e.g. Seesaw comments, open access times – 'drop ins'.

We believe that much of the strength of the school lies in the positive relationships between staff, pupils and their parents. We strive to involve parents in our pupils' education and support the pupil's learning and at key stages, particularly when choices are being made. We gather parent opinion and encourage parents to share their views through surveys, meetings and consultation on matters. These relationships must be nurtured by a healthy exchange of information between teachers and pupils, between home and school. We always welcome parental interest in the welfare of our pupils. Whatever the nature of the issue, you can be assured of our help. We have opportunities for parents to become involved in the school – supporting learning at home, improving home-school partnerships and effective parental representation. The school's approach to Family Learning, what Family Learning is and what opportunities there are to take part.

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

- Parents' evenings and open afternoons
- Progress checks, continuous profiling on Seesaw
- Target Setting
- Information on school website/Seesaw

The support of parents in their children's education is key to the success of young people. Taking time with them, discussing work, practicing language, helping them manage their homework and encouraging responsibility are important ways of supporting children's learning. The school always seeks to involve parents in any key decisions about their child's education and keep parents informed about progress. Parental information is obtained from questionnaires issued regularly at Parents evenings and from Parent Forums.

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected to represent all parents of children at the school. Any parent who wishes to raise an issue for the Parent Council to consider can do so by contacting: Lucy MacDonald: [Lairg.primary@highlandpc.co.uk](mailto:Lairg.primary@highlandpc.co.uk)

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 Parent zone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

If parents have any concerns and want to know how these concerns will be dealt with:

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

## Learning

Lessons are carefully planned to ensure that the four capacities are taught through a series of experiences. Planning also takes into account what is to be achieved as outcomes from the learning and links to Developing the Young Workforce in terms of developing appropriate skills.

Experiences' and 'Outcomes' are taught through a broad general education covering eight curriculum areas: Languages, Mathematics, Health and Wellbeing, Expressive Arts, Sciences, Social Studies, Technologies and Religious and Moral Education.

Learning takes place both in and out with the classroom environment and some topics may involve a visit to somewhere local to further motivate children and stimulate their learning.

More information about Curriculum for Excellence can be found at: -

[Curriculum for Excellence | Education Scotland](#)

## Standards and Quality Report

Our current Standards and Quality report which celebrates our successes and progress from 2024-2025 and includes our priorities for the future, after consultation with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community. The Standards and Quality Report is available to parents: the full document can be found online on our website, contact the school or through the Highland Council.

<https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/standard-and-quality-report-2023-2024/>

## Data

School performance data can be found on our Standard and Quality Report which shows how the school has improved standards in relation to literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. Details of how the school has worked to close the poverty-related attainment gap is also in this report. Copies can be requested from the school or from the link below -

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools\\_-\\_general\\_information/26/school\\_quality/5](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_-_general_information/26/school_quality/5)

Information regarding the local school's performance at local and national level can be obtained through, Education Scotland Parentzone School information Dashboard.

<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/>

## School Improvement Plan

- Improving attainment in literacy, particularly writing
- Digital Profiling

<https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/school-improvement-plan/>



*Lairg and Rosehall Primary School*



*Parent & Child Friendly School Improvement Plan 2025-2026*

Each year school staff must identify areas to focus on within the school, these are linked to Quality Indicators (QI's) & gives us areas to improve on throughout the year.  
(QIs are set out in 'How Good is Our School?' 4<sup>th</sup> Edition which is created by Education Scotland & used for self-evaluation of the school and for inspections.)



Focus 1 <i>Improving attainment in literacy, particularly writing.</i>	Focus 2 <i>Digital Profiling</i>	<i>Other/ongoing developments</i>
<p><b>Why?</b> This project was originally developed in the response to dips in attainment in Writing. We would like to continue the good work done from last year's SIP, refresh our literacy skills and be given time to implement the changes and continue the progress which is being made in this area.</p>	<p><b>Why?</b> To improve communications &amp; engagement with home, regarding what your child is learning To document achievements more effectively and share success</p>	<p><b>Why?</b> To keep up with latest developments &amp; meet the needs of our youngest learners in ELC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Demonstrable improvement gains for P1, P4 and P7 learners achieving success criteria aligned to explicit teaching aims</li> <li>✓ Learners are empowered to see themselves as writers and engage in writing activities.</li> <li>✓ Learners confidently talk about their learning intentions and success criteria and next steps.</li> <li>✓ Learners have a firm grasp of the Tools for Writing and can create a variety of texts for different purposes.</li> <li>✓ Learners can use complex sentences and rich vocabulary to convey their ideas and relevant information.</li> <li>✓ Increase in P1, P4 and P7 Writing attainment.</li> <li>✓ Narrowing of attainment gap between the least and most deprived group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide learners with a reflective summary statement of achievement.</li> <li>✓ Publicly recognise progress in learning and achievement.</li> <li>✓ Challenge, motivate and support all children and young people to achieve their best.</li> <li>✓ Build learners' skills and capabilities to reflect on their learning.</li> <li>✓ Support and inform transition.</li> <li>✓ Inform on progress and achievement across all curriculum areas.</li> <li>✓ Inform on progress and achievement in literacy and numeracy, and in health and wellbeing.</li> <li>✓ Create a learner's statement.</li> <li>✓ Record of qualifications and awards.</li> <li>✓ Track further and wider achievement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff working in ELC will engage with the new Quality Improvement Framework for Early Years; becoming acquainted with the new quality Indicators and striving to appropriately meet the needs of our youngest learners.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

## 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 on the first day of absence,

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

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

In conclusion, we would ask parents to be aware of these considerations when making decisions on planning holidays during term time. We have enclosed a link to the school term dates on the Highland Council website to aid parents in planning any holidays they may be considering

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school\\_term\\_dates](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates)

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/171/children\\_missing\\_-\\_absence\\_policy](http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/171/children_missing_-_absence_policy)

## Uniform

The pupils, parents and staff at Lairg Primary School firmly believe in the benefits of a school uniform. We believe it helps children to develop a sense of belonging and pride in their school and at the same time avoids competition that can arise from fashion and become so expensive. We have selected clothing that we believe is smart, practical, not too expensive, and suitable throughout the year. Uniforms with the school logo can be purchased online from Highland Embroidery.  
<http://www.highland-embroidery.co.uk/>

- Dark trousers/skirt/pinafore
- White/pale blue shirt/blouse
- Navy sweater, sweatshirt, or cardigan
- Shoes should have low heels and be appropriate for play.

We do not allow high heels or shoes/sandals with no back in them as we do not consider these to be safe for children both inside and on the playground.

Please help us by writing your child's name on clothing.

Physical Education

black slip-on pumps/trainers  
T-shirt /shorts  
PE bag

Swimming lesson

swimming costume / trunks  
towel  
(long hair should be tied back)

Jewellery

Children should not wear jewellery in school. Experience has shown that we cannot guarantee their security, and they can cause accidents. If ears are pierced only stud type earrings should be worn in school. This rule is for reasons of safety.

[Free school meals and assistance with clothing | Free school meals and assistance with clothing | The Highland Council](#)

**All clothing MUST be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.**

## Transport

Transport to and from school is provided for pupils under eight years of age who live more than two miles from the school and for those over eight years of age who live more than three miles away.

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 Lairg Primary School, they can contact Lesley Morrison: 01549 441214 to arrange a visit.

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](mailto:public.transport@highland.gov.uk).

At the end of the day in order to keep your child safe, those pupils in P1-3 will only be released from class into the care of a bone-fide adult. Please inform school in good time if another adult or young person is collecting your child. If there are any difficulties, please speak to the school.

## Cooked Meals

A two-course meal and drink are available to children at Lunch Time. Meals are of a high standard and are cooked on the premises to recommended nutritional guidelines for a child. The children are offered a choice of meal which is available to be seen at school or on the Highland Council website. We prefer that lunches are purchased on a weekly basis and that dinner money is sent on a Monday morning. **Currently P1- 5 children receive a meal free of charge.** Please contact the school canteen for the cost of a meal for P6-7. Money **must** be sent to school in a separate envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and amount

enclosed. If your child is absent missed meals are credited. Please inform the school if for any reason your child requires a special diet as this can be provided. School Meals cost £2.40 Free meals can be claimed in certain circumstances, for information and an application form please see

[School meals | School meals | The Highland Council](#)

## Packed Lunches

Alternatively, your child may bring a packed dinner from home. You should provide a balanced meal with a drink.

**Bars of chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks are discouraged.**

## Meals at Home

Parents are responsible for pupils who decide to go out with school grounds at lunch time.

## Drinks

Water is available to all children throughout the school day. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to keep well hydrated. This will support their learning and helping them to be alert and able to concentrate.

## Health Care

The Health Service carries out health checks all pupils in P1 and a selective examination of P7 pupils. In both cases, parents are notified in advance and invited to attend when the doctor and nurse visit the school.

Further services including eye and auditory tests from the age of five are provided. A speech therapy service is available.

Parents must inform the school of any medical problem that may affect their children during their school day. Should children become ill in school, parents will be contacted, so that their children may be taken home.

Occasionally a child has a bump or a graze from an accident. Small accidents are treated in school but for more serious injuries the parent will be informed immediately and /or paramedics called. 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 provided will always be contacted and you will be advised to collect your child from school.

**Please ensure that the school has up-to-date emergency contact details at all times. If this is a mobile phone number, this must be kept switched on or regularly checked.**

## **Administration of Medicines**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Minor Injuries

School will only deal with minor cuts and bruises; these will be cleaned and a plaster applied. If your child is injured, falls or becomes unwell during the school day you or the emergency contact you have provided, will always be contacted and you may be advised to collect your child from school. Our policies ensure the health and safety of the children at all times. Parents are kept informed by the class teacher of any problems which have arisen during the day and are telephoned in the case of more serious accidents or illness. All accidents are recorded, and parents/carers notified.

### Equality and Inclusion

Our policy on Equality & Diversity can be requested from the school or on our website.

<https://lairprimary.wordpress.com/policy/>

For up-to-date information please see:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality\\_diversity\\_and\\_citizenship/313/equal\\_opportunities](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>

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

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

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

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-2-uncrc-incorporation-scotland-act-2024/pages/3/>

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For further information please see:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality\\_diversity\\_and\\_citizenship/313/equal\\_opportunities](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/313/equal_opportunities)

## Exclusion

Should a child's behaviour be considered to put the safety of other pupils or staff at risk then school will follow the Highland Council's Exclusion Policy: -

[School policies and guidance - school management | Exclusion policy](#)

Highland Council Policy on Bullying and Positive Relationships can be found here:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti\\_bullying\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_schools](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti_bullying_-_guidance_for_schools)

## Transitions

Transitions from Nursery to P1 and P7 to secondary school are made as smooth as possible through our transition programmes. Pupils are given opportunities to visit schools and work on transition projects within their new school setting.

Request for transfer to Secondary Schools out with our catchment area must be made by contacting;

**Area Quality Improvement Manager, Katherine van Voornveld –  
Katherine.Wood@highland.gov.uk**

## Moving On -Transitions

We have close communication across our ELC to High School when making arrangements to support our pupils' making transitions. We value the role of parents, partners, pupils, school and staff.

The majority of our pupil's will transfer to Golspie High School at the end of Primary 7. There is a transition programme for children in P7 to prepare them for secondary education. Staff from the high school visits our school to get to know the children, and staff at Rosehall work

closely with staff throughout the year to ensure that pupils have a smooth transition to S1. The children have opportunities throughout their time in later primary classes to attend events are held at Golspie High School. This helps pupils to become familiar with their surroundings when they move to S1.

Please contact Golspie High School for further information on secondary education: -

Headteacher: **Ms C Brown**

Email: [golspie.high@highland.gov.uk](mailto:golspie.high@highland.gov.uk)

Alternatively visit Golspie High School's website for further information: -

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

### **School Placing Requests- Parental choice.**

Each school serves its own particular catchment area. Pupils whose homes are located 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. Application must be made to the:

Placing request applications are made online at:

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol\\_your\\_child\\_for\\_school/2](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2)

**Area Quality Improvement Manager, Katherine van Voornveld –  
Katherine.Wood@highland.gov.uk**

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 Lairg Primary School, they can contact the School Office (01549 402345) 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.

## Getting It Right for Each Child

We work within the Scottish Government's guidelines on 'Getting It Right for Each Child' (GIRFEC) to support children and their families to ensure children are: -

**Safe...** protected from abuse, neglect or harm.

**Healthy...** experiencing the highest standards of physical and mental health, and supported to make healthy, safe choices.

**Achieving...** receiving support and guidance in their learning – boosting their skills, confidence and self-esteem

**Nurtured...** having a nurturing and stimulating place to live and grow.

**Active...** having opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities – helping them to build a fulfilling and happy future.

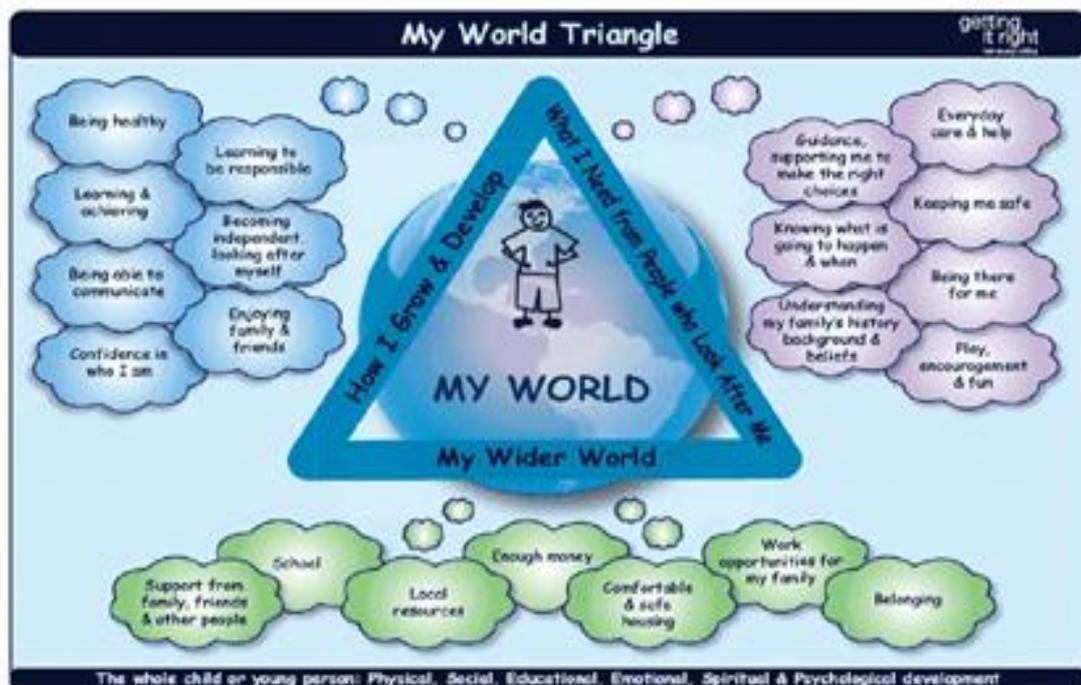
**Respected...** to be given a voice and involved in the decisions that affect their wellbeing.

**Responsible...** taking an active role within their schools and communities.

**Included...** getting help and guidance to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities; accepted as full members of the communities in which they live and learn.

More information on GIRFEC can be found at:-

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00394308.pdf>



## Protection of Children

Lairg Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The Cluster policy on Child Protection can be requested from the school.

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.

Each child in Highland has a **Named Person** who supports each child to achieve and thrive. For P1 to P7 at Lairg Primary this is **Miss L Morrison**.

Our Child Protection Policy is on our website.

<https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/policy/>

<https://hcpc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Highland-Child-Protection-and-GIRFEC-Guidance-2024-FINAL.pdf>

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare\\_and\\_family\\_care/438/child\\_protection](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare_and_family_care/438/child_protection)

## Being a Digital Citizen

Children at a young age, now use tablets, mobiles and laptops/Chromebooks on a daily basis. We are very conscious of the need to educate our children to use IT appropriately. Usage of IT in school is monitored carefully and filters are used via Highland Council procedures and policies. We also understand it is important to support parents to keep their children safe in this ever-increasing world of social media and the internet. Mobile phones and tablets etc. from home should not be brought to school.

**If a child does bring a device to school, it will be placed safely in the school office until home time and will not be allowed to be used.**

More support for parents can be found at:-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/internet-safety-and-online-risk/>

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

## Supporting Children

Class/Subject 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/downloads/file/230/highland_practice_model_-_delivering_additional_support_for_learners)

[Home - Thriving Families](#)

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 work in partnership with parents at all times, but sometimes you will have a concern that you don't feel is being addressed or will want to talk to someone out with the school. Should you have any concerns that your child's additional needs are not being met,

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

All children need support to help them learn. Some children require more help than others. We follow The Highland Practice Model staged approach to assessing, identifying and supporting additional support needs. In this model every child has a 'named person' who is responsible for making sure that the child or young person has the right help to support his/her development and well-being.

If you have a concern about your child in primary school, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or the 'named person', who will usually be the head teacher.

Provision will be made for pupils with additional support needs. All children will have a Named Person, who can be contacted if a parent thinks that a pupil has additional support needs

[Support for Learners Website](#)

**At Lairg Primary the named person is, Miss L Morrison, Head Teacher.**

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. Sometimes a Child's Plan may be put in place to help organise, monitor and regularly review your child's progress.

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

Organisations specified by Scottish Ministers which provide advice;

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

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

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

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

(e) <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/additional-support/the-additional-support-for-learning-act/>

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Staff will support the emotional development and wellbeing of pupils through formal and informal curricular activities. Any concerns about a pupil's wellbeing can be discussed with the named person. There is a website managed by Highland Council that supports a variety of information relating to mental health and emotional wellbeing that can be accessed [here](#). 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.

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

There is also additional information and support available at:

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

The following organisations provide advice, further information and support to parents of children and young people with ASN:-

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

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

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

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

### **Information about the 2009 Additional Support for Learning Act**

2009 Additional Support for Learning Act:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/7/contents>

## **Complaints and Requests for Service**

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

The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership. Should a situation not be resolved, parents can contact :

**Area Quality Improvement Manager, Katherine van Voornveld –  
Katherine.Wood@highland.gov.uk**

ParentLine 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.

Call free: 08000 28 22 33

Email: [parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk](mailto:parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk)

Text-chat: 07860 022844 (standard network charges apply)

Opening Times: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-help/parentline-scotland/>

## When we get it Right

If you are happy with the school, please tell a member of staff. It is good to know when we have got it right!



## School Closures

We try to keep school open as much as we possibly can when we have adverse weather, a power cut or problems with fuel supplies. Occasionally it is necessary to close school early or not to open school on a particular day for safety reasons. It is usually possible to give advance warning to parents of early closing. In some circumstances such as power failure this may not be possible, and parents are asked to ensure that pupils know what to do and where to go if dismissed early from school. We shall contact you or your alternative emergency contact number if we need to close school.

**It is crucial therefore that emergency contact numbers are kept up to-date.**

Parents are notified each winter of action to be taken in the event of adverse weather. To enquire about school closures in such times :-

- ✓ Contact the school directly through Seesaw
- ✓ Check the Highland Council School Closure Website

You can also find information on Highland Council's website:-

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Listen to Moray Firth Radio

<http://www.mfr.co.uk>

## The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence is the curriculum that is taught in all Scottish schools. The curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future. These are summed up in the detailed wording of ‘Four Capacities’.

### Successful learners

With

- Enthusiasm and motivation for learning
- Determination to reach high standards of achievement.
- Openness to new thinking and ideas

And able to

- Use literacy, communication and numeracy skills.
- Use technology for learning.
- Think creatively and independently.
- Learn independently and as part of a group.
- Make reasoned evaluations.
- Link and apply different kinds of learning in new situations.

### Confident individuals

With

- Self-respect
- A sense of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Secure values and beliefs
- Ambition

And able to

- Relate to others and manage themselves.
- Pursue a healthy lifestyle.
- Be self-aware.
- Develop and communicate their own beliefs and view of the world.
- Live as independently as they can
- Assess risk and take informed decisions.
- Achieve success in different areas of activity.

### Responsible citizens

With

- Respect for others
- Commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life.

And able to

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland’s place in it.
- Understand different beliefs and cultures.
- Make informed choices and decisions.
- Evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues.
- Develop informed, ethical views of complex issues.

### Effective contributors

With

- An enterprising attitude
- Resilience
- Self-reliance

And able to

- Communicate in different ways and in different settings.
- Work in partnership and in teams
- Take the initiative and lead.
- Apply critical thinking in new contexts.
- Create and develop.
- Solve problems.

Lessons are carefully planned to ensure that the four capacities are taught through a series of experiences. Planning also considers what is to be achieved as outcomes from the learning.

Experiences' and 'Outcomes' are taught through eight curriculum areas: -

Languages, Mathematics, Health and Wellbeing, Expressive Arts, Sciences, Social Studies, Technologies and Religious and Moral Education

A majority of lessons are taught through 'interdisciplinary learning' e.g., a class might study a topic on 'The Rain Forest' which incorporates a series of lessons where the majority of the eight curriculum areas are taught over a number of weeks, at the heart of which is Literacy and Numeracy, along with Health and Wellbeing. Topics are planned with children so that lessons incorporate children's interests as well as making sure all curriculum areas are covered within a school year. There are also specific subject lessons to teach key skills.

Pupils develop skills for learning, life and work, including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

Pupils are given choices in what they learn, how they are involved in planning what they learn.

More information about Curriculum for Excellence can be found at:-

<https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/>

National websites for some of this information including Education Scotland e.g.

Parentzone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

#### Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels of Achievement

<b>Level</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Early	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
Third and Fourth	S1 – S3 but earlier for some The fourth level broadly equates to Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4.
Senior Phase	S4 to S6 and college or other means of study

## Literacy and Languages

Literacy and Languages comprises of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Talking and Listening
- Modern Languages

### Reading

We use strategies from the Highland Literacy to develop the basic skills of word recognition and comprehension, foster a love of reading and develop the ability to read for information or to follow instructions and become aware of the purposes of reading.

We endeavour to give the children as wide an experience of books/reading materials as possible through a variety of resources. Each child is supported to learn to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding of material appropriate to their age and personal interest. They are initially taught to read by using ‘synthetic phonics’ – learning the sounds that letters and groups of letters make and then building words by the sounds they see eg c a t, sh i p, t i e. They are also taught words that do not follow phonetic patterns. We call these words ‘tricky words’ and teach them individually.

### Writing

We use strategies and structures from “Steven Graham Writing” and NIWP, The National Improvement Writing Programme to develop the necessary skills of writing, including grammar, punctuation and neat handwriting. Pupils are supported to learn the craft of writing for a variety of reasons and for a variety of audiences and to have a wide and varied vocabulary which can be used in discussion and in written communication. Spelling is given importance and both common spelling patterns and tricky words are taught in a variety of ways both formally and informally. Initially phonics are used to build and break words down into sounds. Then spelling patterns are taught along with tricky words.

The types of writing we teach are: Functional / Personal writing E.g. instructions, recount, letter, diary entry, explanation, newspaper report/journalistic writing, non-chronological report, for/against discussion and persuasive writing. Imaginative / Personal writing E.g. imaginative story, characterisation, creating setting, continuing a story and poetry

### Listening and Talking

Talking, listening, reading and writing are all part of language. We provide experiences where a wide range of communication skills can be practised and used in a variety of situations. Listening and talking skills are developed across all areas of learning through group and class discussion work. Good talking and listening skills are essential to enable pupils to work co-operatively together on collaborative projects throughout their school experience. Children are given opportunities in most lessons to listen but also equally importantly to talk about their work and to share ideas and opinions. By talking and listening, it helps a child to clarify their thoughts and rehearse what they might write. We encourage children to listen to each other also to appreciate that other children may have a different approach or view.

## Modern Languages

Learning other languages enables children to make connections with different people and their cultures and encourages them to become global citizens. Through topic work pupils at any stage may learn basic vocabulary for any language. Children are taught French from P1 onwards and the third language studied is Gaelic.

## Numeracy and Mathematics

We provide a mathematically rich environment for all our pupils and use a range of active and written numerical strategies to ensure all pupils have the necessary mental ability to solve a range of numerical problems. We ensure that each child covers a common core of mathematics, that he/she has a wide experience of basic number facts and is able to apply acquired mathematical skills to real life situations. Children have access to ICT to reinforce their mathematical skills.

We do this through the following Numeracy and Mathematics areas of learning and development:

- Number, money and measure
  - Estimation and rounding
  - Number and number processes
  - Multiples, factors and primes
  - Powers and roots
  - Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages
  - Money
  - Time
  - Measurement
  - Mathematics – its impact on the world, past, present and future
  - Patterns and relationships
  - Expressions and equations
  
- Shape, position and movement
  - Properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects
  - Angle, symmetry and transformation
  
- Information Handling
  - Data and analysis
  - Ideas of chance and uncertainty



## Health and Wellbeing

Experiences of Health and Wellbeing help children to develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes they need for their mental, social, emotional and physical wellbeing now and in the future.

Physical Education lessons are taught weekly for approximately 2 hours in total and during the year cover all aspects of P.E. e.g. Gymnastics, Athletics, Games and Swimming. The daily km/movement session is run each day.

Relationships and Sexual Health is taught by the class teacher and supported by the School Nurse. Parents are informed when such lessons are to be taught. Topics on keeping healthy and safe such as Substance Misuse, Internet Safety etc. are taught through special events such as Choices for Life and Safer Highlander as well as within themed work within the classroom. Parents will be informed when we are going to cover sensitive aspects of learning e.g. relationships, sexual health, parenthood and drugs awareness.

Good health and wellbeing is essential to effective learning and preparation for successful independent living. At Lairg Primary we provide a happy, safe and nurturing learning environment, where all pupils are respected and included in the life of the school. We help pupils achieve good health and wellbeing through learning in the following areas:

- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- Planning for choices and changes
- Physical education, physical activity and sport
- Food and Health
- Substance misuse
- Relationships

## Science

Our pupils are actively encouraged to engage in a wide range of collaborative investigative tasks, which allows them to develop important skills to become creative, inventive and enterprising. Through learning in the Sciences, our pupils develop their interest in, and understanding of, the living, material and physical world. They do this through the following areas of learning:

- Planet Earth
- Forces, electricity and waves
- Biological systems
- Materials
- Topical science



## Social Studies

Through social studies, our pupils develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. They also develop their understanding of their environment and how it has been shaped. The three main areas of study are:

- People, past events and societies
- People, place and environment
- People in society, economy and business

Pupils choose their class topics and are actively involved in planning what and how they will learn. We adopt an interdisciplinary approach to planning topics which will encompass many, if not all, areas of the curriculum. This is essential in ensuring pupils make links and connections across all areas of learning.

## Religious and Moral Education

Religious and Moral Education makes an important contribution to the curriculum in helping pupils gain knowledge and understanding of different religions to reflect the school community and Scotland at large.

Religious and Moral Education is undertaken throughout the school by the teaching staff and is supplemented by visits from the school chaplain from The Church of Scotland, Free Church and local Christian groups.

Areas of study include:

- Christianity
- World Religions
- Development of beliefs and values

We appreciate the implications which local, cultural, religious practices may have on the planning of our programme and in our participation in religious festivals. We respect the wishes of parents in allowing children to participate, or not, in our programme.

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE, Withdrawal** Special arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in religious observance.

## Expressive Arts

The expressive arts are:

- Art and design
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

The expressive arts play a vital role in enabling children to enhance their creative talents, develop their artistic skills and express themselves in different ways. Learning through the arts develops confidence, self-esteem and a good ability to work cooperatively with others.

From P4 onwards, pupils have the opportunity to take up chanter or violin tuition from our visiting specialists.

## Technologies

Learning in the area of technologies enables children to be informed, skilled, adaptable and enterprising citizens who understand the impact of technology in society.

Children will gain skills and confidence to use technologies and become capable of making reasoned choices relating to the environment, to sustainable development and to ethical, economic and cultural issues.

We develop knowledge, understanding and skills through the following areas:

- Technological and developments in society
- ICT to enhance learning
- Business
- Computing science
- Food and textiles
- Craft, design, engineering and graphics

## Homework

Children are given weekly homework activities to follow. Activities and tasks will vary from week to week. Homework is usually given out on a Monday and should be completed for Friday. Homework normally acts as a means of revision of work done in class, as a reinforcement of class work or as an opportunity to practice a particular process or skill. It also gives the parents the opportunity to see some of the areas of work covered by their children in school and to discuss this with their children. The cooperation of parents in providing a quiet area, free from distraction, for the completion of homework is much appreciated. Please let us know how your child gets on with his/her homework.



## Enriching the curriculum

Wherever possible school visits are arranged to enrich and enhance learning. Sometimes we invite specialists; artists, sports coaches, environmental groups and actors into school to help make learning meaningful and fun. We try to give the children a variety of experiences such as visits to a pantomime, working with other small schools both at Lairg and elsewhere. At various times during the year, parents may be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards trips etc. Although the word voluntary is used, visits are unable to go ahead if parents / carers do not pay. We do try to subsidize trips through school funds as much as

possible. Parents with difficulty paying the full amount should see the Head Teacher. No child is ever prevented from taking part in any activity because of an inability to pay. However, if insufficient money is raised, visits will have to be cancelled.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

### Music

Children may learn to play chanter, drumming or fiddle. Information about enrolment can be found on line at <https://www.highlifehighland.com/music-tuition/> from session 21/22, Scottish Government has committed additional funding to allow tuition in Scotland to be delivered free of charge. There will still be a need to purchase music books and occasionally equipment.

### Clubs

Clubs are run by volunteers and parents throughout the year. They vary in topic but in the past have included a Football Club and Sewing Club.

### Sporting Activities

Children are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular sporting events organised by the Active Sports Coordinator for East Sutherland, High Life Highland. A calendar of sporting tournaments with other schools in the area runs every year. These tournaments are mainly held at Golspie High School.

## Making Progress

Each child works with the teacher to set individual learning and personal targets. These targets are reviewed regularly. We encourage parents to be involved in supporting their child in working on individual targets and by using Parents Consultation Meetings to discuss a child's progress with targets.

We track the progress that children are making to ensure that every child is working to the best of his/her ability in Language and Mathematics. We do this by collecting evidence towards our judgements. Usually this includes teacher observations, pieces of written evidence, examples of thematic work, photographs etc. Informal assessment activities are included to provide additional judgements towards the level your child is working within.

Currently Highland Council is also using a computer assessment to support teacher judgements. Children in certain year groups are given short, computerised tests. Results are not published and are only used to provide further standardised evidence to how a child is progressing.

Each P7 child leaves the school with a 'Profile' which celebrates their achievements whilst at Lairg including examples of written work, what the child thinks of his/her work including

agreed next steps in learning for secondary school certificates they have gained both in and out of school. Parent views are included in the profile as we very much value your opinions about your child. You know your child better than anyone else!

## Assessment and Reporting

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 will 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.

Each child has a Pupil Digital Learning Portfolio (PLP) which is updated each term and includes PLPs for English, Maths and H&W. This is due to be published. This will be a key piece of school development. The school aims to have a system of continuous digital Reporting and Profiling by December 2025.

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 class teacher. parents' evenings and open afternoons take place during the session and how often pupil profiles are provided to parents on seesaw.

## Records

Records kept are meaningful and worthwhile- Records support the Highland Council's tracking system, "Summary of Pupil Progress" which is completed in November and May each year.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments was introduced from Autumn 2017 in Scottish Schools for P1s, P4s and P7s to show progress towards the end of a Curriculum for Excellence level. Results will not be published and are only used to provide further standardised evidence to how a child is progressing and to set targets for learning in class. Records are monitored throughout the year by the Head Teacher. A timetable of Assessments is carried out and used for future planning.

## School Policies

Link to policies on the Highland Council website [Authority Policies](#)

Our Policies can be found on our website. <https://lairgprimary.wordpress.com/policy/>

## What if something goes wrong?

If a parent has any concerns they should contact their child's teacher in the first instance, or the Head Teacher for more serious issues. The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership with them. Should a situation not be resolved, parents can contact:

**Area Quality Improvement Manager, Katherine van Voornveld –  
Katherine.Wood@highland.gov.uk**

## Employment of Children

The employment of children byelaws regulate the types of occupation in which children under school leaving age may be employed and other conditions of employment. For further information please see:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/19/employment\\_of\\_children](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/19/employment_of_children)

## Public access to information

A full list of school policies are available from the school office which can be viewed at any time as well as past and current programmes of study etc.

Parents may be interested in reading further information available from: -

Highland Council Website <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Parent Zone <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

## Data Policy

### 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.

### Data Protection Legislation

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

### Transferring Educational data about pupils

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

Data about pupil preferred routes, preferred occupations and anticipated school leaving date is also collected from S3/S4 to support planning for leaving school. This information is shared with Skills Development Scotland. Further information about 16+ Data can be found here:

### [16plus Planning | Hi-hope](#)

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 an 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 action 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](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1095920/enrol_your_child_at_a_school)

### **Why do we need your data?**

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

- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils.
- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils.
- better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement.
- share good practice.
- target resources better
- enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of young people in Scotland.

### **Your data protection rights.**

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

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

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

within and outwith Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

## Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis at [ScotXed@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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

## Military Families

Our school welcomes and supports families, their Children and Young People from Armed Forces families: Serving, Reservists and Veterans.

We understand some of the challenges that mobility of service life can bring and we look forward to working with you to ensure a smooth transition for your Child/Young Person coming into or moving on from our School or Early Years setting. Please get in touch with us as soon as you can so we can work with you to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

Highland Council have proudly committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and as such support our Armed Forces community. There is a dedicated Highland Council partnership, **The Military Liaison Group (Education)**, often referred to as "The MLG" which has been formed to promote and ensure the equity and equality for your Children and Young People within an educational context.

Visit the Highland Council [Armed Forces Families Website](#) for lots of helpful information and support for both families and Educators. The [Enrolment page](#) may be particularly helpful.

### A Welcome to Your Children and Young People

Children and Young People from Armed Forces families in Highland have co-produced a 'Welcome' specifically for your Children and Young People moving into Highland. Click these links to view: [Primary School Welcome](#) | [Secondary School Welcome](#)

Please get in touch with your child's named person or the Headteacher if you have any concerns or if you would prefer, contact the MLG (Education) lead [here](#)

Whilst information provided in this handbook is considered correct at the time of printing, it is possible that there will be changes affecting a matter dealt with in the document.  
(November 2025)

## HOLIDAY DATES 2025-26

Highland School calendar 2025/26 Please note - Dates may be subject to change

August 2025							September 2025							October 2025							November 2025										
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31					1	2	3	38	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	44						1	2
32	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	44	27	28	29	30	31			47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	40	29	30														48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026							March 2026										
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1				1	2	3	4	5							1	9							1
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	29	30	31					5	26	27	28	29	30	31		9	23	24	25	26	27	28		13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

April 2026							May 2026							June 2026							July 2026											
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
14				1	2	3	4	5	18					1	2	3	23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	27			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
18	27	28	29	30				22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	29	30						31	27	28	29	30	31			

School holidays  
In-service days

School days

## HOLIDAY DATES 2026-27

Highland School calendar 2026/27 Please note - Dates may be subject to change

August 2026							September 2026							October 2026							November 2026											
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
32						1	2	37						1	2	41					1	2	3	4	45							1
33	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	37	1	2	3	4	5	6	42	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	46	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
34	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	38	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	43	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	47	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
35	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	39	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	44	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	48	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
36	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	40	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	45	26	27	28	29	30	31		49	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
37	31							41	28	29	30													50	30							

December 2026							January 2027							February 2027							March 2027											
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
50								2						1	2	3	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
52	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
1	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	5	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	10	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	14	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
2	28	29	30	31				6	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									15	29	30	31					

April 2027							May 2027							June 2027							July 2027																
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su						
15						1	2	3	4	19						1	2	24						1	2	3	4	28						1	2	3	4
16	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	25	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	29	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	26	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	30	12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	31	19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
19	26	27	28	29	30			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	32	26	27	28	29	30	31							
								24	31							28	28	29	30																		

School holidays  
In-service days

School days

