



Tore School

TORE PRIMARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK
2026-2027

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Disclaimer: While all information contained in this School Handbook was accurate at the time of being published, it is subject to change, which may affect the information accuracy.



Welcome Letter from Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Tore Primary we take great pride in ensuring that we offer a warm welcome to all pupils, parents/carers and members of the local and wider community. If your child is to join us for the first time we welcome you and look forward to a happy and successful relationship over the coming years. If you already have a child here, we are thrilled to see you again and build on the wonderful relationships we have.

Education at Tore Primary is a team effort. Our dedicated team is made up of teachers and support staff who work in partnership with parents and the community to enable our children to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Throughout the year many activities are organised by the Parent Council and school, giving parents the opportunity to meet/work with us, take advantage of the opportunities for consultation and to contribute to the life of the school. We look forward to meeting you on as many occasions as you can manage. Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it and being a part of shaping it.

The aim of this handbook is to give you a flavour of life at Tore where we hope your child will flourish. Your child's education is the start of an exciting journey and equally so for you the parent/carer! It is important that mutual understanding and trust should be the basis of our shared responsibility.

If you require further information or have any concerns regarding the education or welfare of your child in the future, I will be only too happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Ben Sharp
Headteacher

Tore Primary School and the Surrounding Area

Tore Primary School is a non-denominational rural school which is set in beautiful countryside and has served the community since 1879. It is situated at Muckernich close to the Tore roundabout.

This session we have 13 pupils in a singular P1-7 class. We have very good relationships with our families, who are supportive and place our Tore pupils centrally in all that we do. Our pupils are confident, cared for and enjoy their learning. Outdoor learning is a regular feature in the timetable and our playground is a rich environment which supports learning.

The majority of our children are within catchment and placement requests make up a quarter of the school roll. We have a number of children who have additional support needs and they are well supported through effective use of PSAs, intervention strategies, which are implemented and monitored by staff to ensure continuing progress. Our families come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but at school we strive to create a 'family' atmosphere, where all children can feel a sense of belonging. Our school sits at the heart of the local community and our team; staff, pupils, parents and community endeavour to provide our children with a happy, vibrant education of high quality.

Our strengths from a recent inspection were identified as:

- The caring and inclusive ethos across the school which is supporting children to develop and learn. Staff know children and their families very well and positive relationships are a strong feature of the school community. As a result children feel cared for; are confident and enjoy their learning.
- The commitment of staff to improving outcomes for children. Under the leadership of the headteacher, staff work together well to improve the work of the school.
- The regular opportunities children have to take their learning outdoors and into the local community. This is promoting health and wellbeing and providing enjoyable and relevant contexts for learning.

The main part of the school is an old building which houses two classrooms, ICT suite, a general purpose room/canteen, kitchen and toilet block. Staffroom, office and meeting/resource room are now situated in the refurbished school house. A further class is situated in a porta cabin which is connected to the main part of the school by a corridor.

Our playground is a very rich environment and supports the learning in the classroom. There are two grassed areas, tarmac, a playground area with a purchased adventure trail, veg beds, greenhouse, stage, dens, creative spaces, sensory area, a quiet area to support wildlife, and an outdoor classroom.

Tore Primary has a long and rich history and there is even a book written about it by local historian and former pupil, Sandra Bain. Copies of which can be purchased from the school:

"On the 27th October 1879 Tore Public School opened. Responsibility for running it was on the hands of Killearnan Public School Board - a group of men standing in the Parish-ministers, farmers, business men."

Source: The Story of Tore School by Sandra Bain.

The catchment area for Tore extends from the village of Tore to Glackmore, Kilcoy, Muckernich, Torepark, Tore Mains and Bogroy.

School Vision, Values and Aims

Staff and pupils worked together to refresh our Vision, Values and Aims, in 2018. They are used to create a whole school ethos, celebrate and drive success, and are frequently discussed in class and assembly.

SCHOOL VISION

ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS BY WORKING TOGETHER

SCHOOL VALUES

DETERMINED, CARING, CREATIVE, ACHIEVING

AIMS

TORE TOP TEN

WE SHARE

WE ARE KIND AND GENTLE

WE FORGIVE

WE LISTEN

WE RESPECT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING

WE RESPECT THE PERSONAL SPACE OF OTHERS

WE WORK HARD

WE TAKE TURNS

WE INCLUDE EVERYONE

WE ARE HELPFUL

Quotes from Pupils - What makes Tore Primary brilliant?

It's the best school in the world!

Our football pitch is huge

The PSAs

We have lots of groups and Communities and everybody's in one

The Teachers and Head Teacher

SHANARRI

The Work is Fun!

The Pupils

Lunch and the Food

I love playing outside

We do lots of learning

Writing

Tore Primary Staff Members and Wider Team

Headteacher	Mr Ben Sharp	
Principal Teacher	Mrs Beca Irvine (Main post at Munloch Primary)	
Class Teachers	Mrs Lianne Pirie (Mon-Wed)	Primary 1-7
	Mrs Kate Macdonald (Wed-Fri)	Primary 1-7
Pupil Support Assistant	Mrs Lorraine Dick	
Clerical Assistant	Mrs Carol Hallam	
Canteen Staff	Mrs Mhairi MacPherson	

We are fortunate to be supported by the following visiting staff:

School Chaplains Rev. Terry Burns

Current school roll (as of 01/11/25) is 13 pupils.



School Operation

School Contact Details

Tore Primary School
10 Strand Street
Tore
Muir of Ord
Ross-shire
IV6 7SA

Telephone: 01463 811481

Email: tore.primary@highland.gov.uk

Website: <https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school>

Find us on Facebook: Tore Primary

School Hours

Children are asked to **not** arrive before **8.45am**.

08.55 – 10.30: Teaching time

10.30 – 10.50: Interval

10.50 – 12.30: Teaching time

12.30 – 13.15: Lunch interval

13.15 – 15.00: Teaching time

School Term Dates

For a complete and up-to-date list of term dates and school holidays, please visit The Highland Council School Term Dates website:

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

Car Parking

We need to ensure that each and every one of our children is safe. When dropping children at school, parents are kindly asked to **not park in the school car park**. As far as possible, please be responsible drivers and park sensibly outside the school or in the Hall car park, with consideration for both other road users and children's safety in mind.

School Transport

The heavy traffic on the roads round Tore has ensured that ALL children beyond the immediate vicinity of the school, but within the catchment area, are entitled to free transport. Sneekie Taxis currently hold the contract to transport children to and from school. Telephone: 01463 611111.

Do not assume it will be alright for your child to go on the school bus. All pupils travelling on school transport need to have completed the relevant form:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/12/school_transport

Behaviour on the transport must be acceptable. Any child whose behaviour is found to be distracting the driver and causing a problem may be excluded from the bus for a period of time.

School Meals

School meals are provided in Tore Primary School and served in the canteen and all pupils in P1-5 are provided with a free lunch. Menus are sent out to all families and available on The Highland Council website: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals

Parents must send money into school on a Monday morning in the provided envelope - the current cost of a school lunch is £2.40. **Packed lunches** are also eaten in the General Purpose Hall. Pupils taking packed lunches are not permitted to use any other area of the school unless directed by the staff. The following notes of guidance:

We request that parents ensure that packed lunches are well-balanced and healthy as we are an Eco and Health Promoting school.

1. All food must be carried in a semi-rigid container with a secure lid e.g. Tupperware, ice-cream containers or similar/packed lunch bag. Containers should be clearly marked with the name of the pupil.
2. Glass bottles or containers are not permitted due to health and safety.
3. Fizzy drinks in cans and bottles are not allowed. Pupils should only bring in water or diluting juice.
4. We encourage children to have waste free packed lunches in order to support the Council's waste goals. However, we understand this is not always possible.

If your child has special dietary needs, please inform the school. Free meals can be claimed under certain circumstances, for information and application form please see

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

Uniform

School uniform is an important part of our school identity and helps unite all pupils under our inclusive Tore banner. At Tore we recommend pupils wear our lovely branded Tore sweatshirts in either black or red, with a black or red Tore polo shirt underneath.

For leg-wear we want children to be comfortable. Dark (blue, black, grey) joggers, school trousers, skirts, leggings, or shorts can be worn (please make sure shorts come half way down the thigh, no 'hot-pants'), but please refrain from wearing jeans. Tights/socks should be worn for comfort and warmth where needed. All children also require a pair of indoor and outdoor shoes.

Clothing grants can be obtained through The Highland Council

(https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/10/free_school_meals_and_assistance_with_clothing), but we also have a collection of second hand tops at school that may also be used.

During autumn and winter the playground and playing field can get very muddy. It is a good idea to furnish your child with a change of clothing or waterproof trousers for playtimes in inclement weather, as pupils can sometimes slip in the mud.

School uniform can be purchased from:

Schoolwear Made Easy

Email: sales@schoolwearmadeeasy.com

Website: www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com

MacGregor Industrial Supplies Ltd

15-17 Henderson Road, Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness, Scotland, IV1 1SN.

Tel: 01463 256935 / **Main Office:** 01463 717999

Email: marie.forsyth@MacGregorSupplies.co.uk

Website: www.macgregorsupplies.co.uk

Shoes

All children MUST HAVE a pair of soft indoor shoes to change into for school and for PE in the hall. The school is carpeted throughout, but it is dangerous for children to walk about in socks.

PE Kit

We request that all pupils have a change of clothes (t-shirt, shorts, leggings) for PE. We would also recommend that older children are provided with a roll-on deodorant – please do not send in aerosols.

Attendance/Absence

Schools are required to keep an attendance register by law and good attendance is vital if pupils are to achieve their full potential. 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.

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 a pupil is absent from school, a parent or guardian must phone the school on the first day of absence before 9.30, on 01463 811481. The school will contact home if a child is absent without previous notice. Thereafter, other emergency numbers will be contacted if no explanation is found. Parents should keep the school informed of any changes of address or telephone numbers, both their own and those of the emergency contacts. Other agencies such as the Police and Social Work may be contacted if no contact with the child's family can be achieved and if there are continuing or emerging concerns about a pupil's safety or wellbeing.

If the child has an appointment out with school it is also necessary to put this in writing/phone the school office prior to the appointment. We ask you, if possible, to try to make necessary appointments to dentist, doctor etc. out with school hours but if this is not possible then at the start

or the end of the school day to minimise the disruption to teaching and learning for your child and their class.

If attendance is unsatisfactory, parents will be contacted. It is our main focus to encourage parents and children to recognise the value of learning and the pitfalls of disrupting learning for the children, the rest of the class and the teacher. Therefore parents should put any requests for leave of absence, such as holidays, family or personal days, during term time, to the Headteacher in writing.

Punctuality

We strive to achieve a high standard of punctuality and expect all children to be on time. Every child should be in the school playground for the bell ringing at 8.55am. This allows the classes to settle into learning immediately with no time wasted in the repetition of instructions. If arriving after this time, children will be marked late in the register.

Personal Property

It is in your interest and very helpful to us if all belongings are clearly marked with the child's name. This is especially important for items which are similar e.g. sweatshirts and gym shoes. It is also helpful to have names on packed lunches and other personal items. Should anything go missing in school please report this promptly. Items which remain unclaimed in classrooms or cloakrooms will be kept in a box. Unclaimed property is cleared out at the end of each school year. Children should be discouraged from bringing items of value to school, as this often leads to upset if they are lost or broken. We expect all pupils to be very careful with all school property.

Electronic Toys/Mobiles Etc.

We request that children do not bring these into school as they can be a distraction, and may also get damaged or lost. If mobile phones are brought in, they must be given to the class teacher for safe keeping until the end of the school day. The school will not take responsibility for their damage or loss. Pupils must not take photos or film other pupils with mobile phones during the school day.

School Fund

Tore Primary School has a modest school fund which is maintained through fund raising activities mainly to pay for buses which cost up to £1700 per session.

Enrolling Your Child

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. If you live within the catchment area and wish to enrol your child to the school please come to the office and with your child's birth certificate. Children who will be five on or before 28th February 2027 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1. Enrolment week for Primary 1 pupils into session 26/27, will take place from Monday 26th January to Friday 30th January 2026. All information can be found on the Highland Council website https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school

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. Applications must be made to the Area Quality Improvement Manager, Annika Jansson, through the following placing request form: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2

Transportation to and from school, for pupil placing requests, is a parental responsibility.

If pupils live out with the school catchment area and their parents wish them to attend Tore Primary they can contact tore.primary@highland.gov.uk 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.

Placing requests are not required for Gaelic Medium education or for those eligible to attend a denominational school.

For all information available to parents please go to the Highland Council website: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/827/education_and_learning/

Transition – Nursery to P1

Our pupils attend nursery in several venues; Munloch Nursery, and North Kessock, as well as other private nurseries. The Headteacher regularly visits the nurseries to get to know the pupils. Other visits also occur from the class teacher and buddies. In term 4 they visit the school for 3 days, stay for lunch and parents attend workshops on what to expect in P1, Curriculum for Excellence, and early, reading, writing and maths.

Transition – Secondary School

The feeder Secondary School for Tore Primary is:

Fortrose Academy, Academy Street, Fortrose IV10 8TW

Telephone: 01381 620310

Headteacher: Nigel Engstrand

The Associated School Group

Tore Primary is part of the Fortrose Academy Associated School Group (ASG). The primary schools in the catchment area for Fortrose Academy are: Avoch, Cromarty, Culbokie, Munloch, North Kessock, Resolis, and Tore.

The schools in the ASG liaise closely on curriculum issues, through regular headteacher meetings, joint transition events, and projects. P7 pupils attend many events through their final year; after school clubs, basketball festival, ceilidh, disco, week long visit to Fortrose Academy, joint ASG residential, etc. Teachers from Fortrose visit the school throughout the year to ensure a smooth transition to the Academy.

Communication and Working in Partnership with Parents

We believe that much of the strength of the school lies in the positive relationships between staff, pupils and their parents. These relationships must be nurtured by a healthy exchange of information between teachers and pupils, between home and school. The majority of a child's learning comes from the home and the education of your child is a joint responsibility. We need to work together to provide the best we can for your child. Research shows that children are more likely to do well at school if their parents support them. Parental interest really does make the difference.

Parents/carers are encouraged to become involved in the life of the school through many means such as attending open afternoons whereby your child/children will showcase their learning. During open afternoons and throughout the session we also hold family learning events. These have ranged from internet safety, child protection, spelling approaches, Words Up, school improvement planning process, our curriculum, approaches to early reading, maths and writing, starting P1, transition and any other areas parents identify in evaluations.

We pride ourselves on an open door policy where by appointment families can contact relevant members of staff. We also have traditional parents' meetings each year and, performances, pop up cafes, events etc. with families invited. We use our school website to share up-to-date information and latest news. Emails are also used to support clear communication. They contain features about the life of the school and includes information about important dates, events, and progress on school improvement planning. Although we try to be a 'paperless' school, letters may sometimes be sent home in schoolbags, so please check your child's bag daily. Usually the eldest child in the family will receive correspondence.

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>

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged and very welcome to participate in school life e.g. by coming and sharing their talents/interests etc. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming involved. All parents working regularly with children are required to undertake a PVG check. We gather parents' opinions through questionnaires, focus groups, and 'post its' for comments at various school events, which feed into our school improvement planning process.

Children 1st have a national, confidential helpline, providing advice and support to anyone caring for or concerned about a child. If you have any concerns, about a child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

<https://www.childrenfirst.org.uk/get-support/support-line/>

Parent Council

Tore Primary does not currently have an active Parent Council.

The aim of the Parent Council is to further enhance the education of the children by organising fundraising and social events and help build a stronger relationship between the school and community. The Parent Council, as a statutory body, has the right to information and advice on matters which affect children's education. If you would be interested in starting up the Parent Council, please email the school office: tore.primary@highland.gov.uk

The Community

Tore Primary has links with members of the school community e.g. with Community Police, local councillors, local shops and services. Visiting speakers with specialist expertise or life experiences are frequently invited into the school to speak to and share these with the pupils. A number of sporting and expressive arts organisations also contribute to providing a variety of experiences for the children at the school e.g. Eden Court, Ross County. Fund-raising activities are often run by individual classes to support charity groups in the local/wider community

Complaints and Requests for Service

Any problems or complaints should be discussed in the first instance with your child's class teacher. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome following your discussion with the class teacher you are then welcome to make an appointment to see the Headteacher who is the named person. Contact can be made via the school office.

The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership. If any parent/carer feels that a complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily, ultimately the Area Quality Improvement Manager can be contacted:

Annika Jansson, Area Quality Improvement Manager, Area Education Office, Highland Council Offices, High Street, DINGWALL, IV15 9QN

Please note that transport is not a school responsibility and any queries should be addressed to: **Caro Munro, Transport Officer**, Highland Council, Kingussie Courthouse, High Street, Kingussie PH21 1HZ or school.transport@highland.gov.uk

The Curriculum

Many things have changed since we were children and school is no exception! A different kind of world requires a different kind of education. A good deal of our teacher's time and effort is being directed to making sure that the education your child receives is relevant for the world today and tomorrow. Curriculum for Excellence is intended to help children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century, including skills for learning, life and work. It enables teachers to teach subjects creatively, to work together across the school and with other schools, to share best practice and explore learning together.

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's 'learning journey' from 3-18, helping their progression from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and beyond, ensuring the change is smooth. They'll ensure children continue to work at a pace they can cope with and with challenge, to help them thrive.

Curriculum for Excellence balances the importance of knowledge and skills. Every child is entitled to a broad and deep general education, whatever their level and ability. Every single teacher and practitioner will be responsible for literacy and numeracy – the language and numbers skills that unlock other subjects and are vital to everyday life. Teachers plan under the 4 Contexts for Learning: Discrete subjects, Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), Opportunities for Achievement, and Contributions to the Ethos and Life of the School. This presents all pupils with the opportunity to contribute to decision making and improvements by being members of different Citizenship Groups .e.g. Pupil Council, Eco, Fair Trade etc. Pupils are involved in planning IDLs through rich contexts- such as planning a pop up café - pupils would need to plan, resource, manage, allocate jobs and the class teacher would act as the facilitator.

Ultimately, Curriculum for Excellence aims to improve our children's life chances, to nurture successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens, building on Scotland's reputation for great education.

The Principles for Curriculum Design

There are seven key principles behind the design of the curriculum 3-18:

- Challenge and Enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and Choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

3-18 Curriculum Levels are set as follows:

Level	Stage
Early	Pre-school and P1
First	The end of P4, but earlier for some
Second	The end of P7, but earlier for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some
Senior	S1-S4

The areas covered by a curriculum for excellence are:

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

More information regarding Curriculum for Excellence can be found through Education Scotland:
<https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/>

Skills For Learning Life And Work

We have introduced the Meta Skills. Pupils identify what skills they will use in a lesson - evaluate how they used them and set targets across a variety of subjects. Skills are also planned for in IDLs and evaluated.

Meta-skills



Language

Language is at the heart of a child's education and is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities for the individual in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work, and contributes strongly to the development of all four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture. Through language, children and young people can gain access to the literary heritage of humanity and develop their appreciation of the richness and breadth of Scotland's literary heritage. Children and young people encounter, enjoy and learn from the diversity of language used in their homes, their communities, by the media and by their peers.

The four areas of Language work in school; listening, talking, reading and writing cannot be taught in isolation. They are all linked together in the various activities that the teachers plan for their pupils. Pupils are taught the skills they need to successfully develop their reading, writing, talking and listening skills cooperatively. All these skills are reinforced across the curriculum.

Reading In School

In P1-3 children will be practising their reading four/five days a week including reading aloud for fluency and for expression, word and sound recognition and comprehension. They will be learning how to use their knowledge of phonics to decode words and will also be given opportunities to read fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Furthermore, writer's craft and reading for information are studied in addition to the core reading sessions. The core reading scheme at the early stages is phonic based which offers the children a variety of different story types, broadening their reading experience. This structured programme is supplemented by a variety of fiction and non-fiction books such as Four Corners and Big Cats. Primary 3 also study "real books" where they explore how an author crafts a novel. Phonic teaching follows Wrap Around Phonics. This progresses to formal spelling using Wrap Around Spelling and common words.

Moving into P4-7, children work on consolidating and improving their reading skills during reading sessions. This will range from discussing aspects of a whole class novel, interrogating text as a group, individual work and reading for enjoyment sessions as well as reading for information across the curriculum and non-fiction reading texts. These sessions encourage development of the higher order reading skills which they will need for secondary school and in later life. Specific tasks aim to help children grasp literal meaning (looking for main ideas and specific details), to read 'between the lines' (to be aware of inferences), to read 'beyond the lines' (to be able to predict what will happen next), to distinguish fact, fiction and fantasy, and to read critically and thoughtfully. They will also be looking at the author's craft such as style, character analysis, development of settings and using this to help improve their imaginative and personal writing. They will be tackling follow up activities based on the text and will be practising their punctuation, grammar and spelling. Novels are used in P4-7 and the children are encouraged to engage with the texts through higher order questioning, independent and collaborative activities.

In P1-3, whilst in the process of learning to read, children need to be given as much practice as possible. We therefore ask that you help at this crucial stage by practising what has been taught in class that day. This may include:

- Reading the book to your child and talking about it.
- Reading the book with your child (at the same time).
- Listening to your child read. Remember to praise them.
- Practising sounds and words.

Most pupils in P4 – P7 no longer take their group reading books home to practise. Research has shown that by this age, children need to have a choice in what is read at home, how much is read as well as when and where reading takes place, otherwise there is a real danger that they may simply lose the pleasure in reading and in turn, the motivation to become a better reader. Pupils do however bring home separate books that they have chosen themselves.

You can lay excellent foundations for reading by reading to your children from an early age, perhaps discussing pictures and pointing out some of the words. Children often love to make up stories and draw pictures and you can help by not only providing the paper and pencils but by talking with them about their efforts and praising and encouraging them. It can be comforting to children to have a parent sitting next to them, listening while they read aloud. A long journey by car or bus can be made more interesting by playing games, spotting things beginning with different letters of the alphabet or using car registration numbers for maths or word games. You can play and work with your child on a one-to-one basis – when they come to school they are one of twenty-something pupils who have to share the teacher's time.

Writing

Written skills, too, need to be highly developed to meet the demands of the increasingly complex society in which we live. When we talk about 'writing' we are talking about two things. One is the

ability to use a pen or a pencil - the secretarial skills - and the other is what the child is trying to communicate through his writing - the composing skills. We aim to teach our children to write legibly, with fluency and speed at all stages of instruction. Our main aim is to improve the ability of children to communicate through writing.

Early handwriting skills are developed with frequent handwriting lessons in P1-2 and weekly in P3-P7. Writing is taught through the "Talk for Writing" approach. A key feature is that children internalise the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text'. The approach moves from dependence towards independence with the teacher using shared and guided teaching to develop the ability in children to write creatively and powerfully.

Pupils are given opportunities to write on their own, as a class and in groups. They are given time to discuss their work with others and all children are encouraged to respond positively and constructively. From pupils' cold task, teachers assess what aspects of grammar and features of the genre such as character description need taught.

Listening and Talking

Listening and talking have been recognised as vital communication skills. We try to teach the pupils to listen – to stories, to instructions and most importantly, to other people's views. Classrooms may seem noisy at times but there is valuable work going on.

Modern Languages 2+1

Pupils in P5-7 receive weekly lessons in conversational French. In P1-3 pupils learn daily routines in French such as the calendar and weather. We have a successful international partnership with a school in Paris to share ideas, communication, culture and language to mutually enrich our children's experiences. Scots language is taught through contexts such as focus days, songs, poetry and books.

Mathematics

Learning mathematics gives children and young people access to the wider curriculum and the opportunity to pursue further studies and interests. Because mathematics is rich and stimulating, it engages and fascinates learners of all ages, interests and abilities. Learning mathematics develops logical reasoning, analysis, problem-solving skills, creativity and the ability to think in abstract ways. It uses a universal language of numbers and symbols which allows us to communicate ideas in a concise, unambiguous and rigorous way.

Mathematics equips us with many of the skills required for life, learning and work. Understanding the part that mathematics plays in almost all aspects of life is crucial. This reinforces the need for mathematics to play an integral part in lifelong learning and be appreciated for the richness it brings. At Tore Primary we develop mathematics through the Highland Numeracy Progression, Big Maths for mental maths, Leckie Maths, Sumdog, and a variety of other tools. This is supplemented by a variety of suitable material such as Numicon and maths recovery resources.

At all stages teachers are making assessments on how well the children have understood the work involved. Because children do not all develop at the same rate, the teachers gear their work to meet the needs of groups of children and individuals, building on what has gone before.

Parents can help in the mathematical development of their children by allowing them to use money - playing shops - allowing them to give out change, counting on to check that the correct money is given. They can allow even young children to help with cooking and baking. This will involve reading instructions, measuring out ingredients using scales, perhaps doubling or halving quantities, setting the oven to the correct temperature and timing. Children can become involved in measurement within the home if new curtains or carpets are bought. They can look at telephone bills, electricity

bills, cheque books, etc. They can be encouraged to use time - looking up the newspaper to find out when the local library is open etc. They can help in the weekly shopping by considering cost as compared to quantity, etc.

Social Studies

The experiences and outcomes are designed to stimulate the interest and motivation of pupils to become involved in their local community and in the wider world. The areas covered are:

- People, Past Events and Societies
- People, Place and the Environment
- People in Society, Economy and Business

Through social studies, children and young people 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 of how it has been shaped. As they mature, children and young people's experiences will be broadened using Scottish, British, European and wider contexts for learning, while maintaining a focus on the historical, social, geographic, economic and political changes that have shaped Scotland. Children and young people learn about human achievements and about how to make sense of changes in society, of conflicts and of environmental issues. With greater understanding comes the opportunity and ability to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship.

Science

Scotland has a long tradition of scientific discovery, of innovation in the application of scientific discovery, and of the application of science in the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment. The science outcomes are:

- Planet Earth
- Energy
- Communication
- Forces and Motion
- Life and Cells
- Materials
- Tropical Science

Expressive Arts

The expressive arts are rich and stimulating, with the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages, interests and levels of skill and achievement.

Art and Design encourages the pupils to develop their capacity to invent, create and interpret images and objects, design and make and then evaluate their work and gain insight into technological processes.

Drama builds on the natural process of using imaginative play to explore, order and make sense of the world around us. We regularly perform shows especially at Easter and Christmas.

Music can enrich the lives of pupils through providing opportunities involving a variety of instruments as well as voices, listening and responding to music of varying kinds and learning musical skills.

Through Dance learners have rich opportunities to be creative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. Creating and performing are core activities and taking part in dance contributes to physical education and physical activity. Pupils have to opportunity to develop a wide variety of

skills: technical skills, movement, imagination and creativity as well as evaluation of their own work and that of their peers.

Religious And Moral Education

Religious education is concerned with the development of the understanding of religion as a significant area of human experience. It is also an aspect of personal growth enabling the individual to explore questions concerning the meaning of life.

The main areas covered are:

- Christianity
- Other World Religions
- The Development of Values and Beliefs.

Pupils should also be encouraged to develop understanding and respect for people of other faiths and people who adopt a non-religious stance. When planning for religious and moral education, we take account of community and the context in which the children and young people live. A whole school Assembly is taken once a week, taken by the Headteacher and the pupils themselves. The Assemblies usually have a moral theme, specific class led assemblies, visitor led or are celebration assemblies.

Religious Observance – Withdrawal

We often have a Religious Observance Assembly led by our school Minister. Whilst Religious Education is required by law to form part of the curriculum, parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious observances with prior notice to the Headteacher in writing. Special arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in religious observance. Parents are asked to contact the school if they wish for this to happen.

Technologies

As children study aspects of technology, they learn about its impact in the home, in school, in industry and in the wider community. Information technology should involve children in, for example, using and learning about audio-visual equipment (such as CD and DVD), digital cameras, ipads, chrome books, computers and a variety of computer software. All of our P6 and P7 pupils have 1:1 chromebook devices. The rest of the school has a shared allocation across the stage.

Health And Wellbeing

Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Health and wellbeing is seen as fundamental to the education process. Our health education programme takes account of the stage of growth, development and maturity of each individual, and the social and community context and covers the following areas:

- Mental, Emotional, Social & Physical Wellbeing
- Planning for Choices and Changes
- Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport
- Food and Health
- Substance Misuse
- Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood.

When sensitive issues are being discussed e.g. sexual health, parents will be informed in advance and asked if they wish to view the material prior it being used with a group or class.

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

At Tore Primary pupils will experience, social subjects and health, technologies and sometimes wellbeing through interdisciplinary learning (projects), which is when links are encouraged with other areas of the curriculum to provide learners with a deeper, more enjoyable and active experience. Where possible, speakers/visits to places of interest are arranged to enhance pupils' learning. Science, RME and HWB is mainly taught as a discrete subject-(standalone). IDLs are carefully planned to take account of the knowledge and experience already gained by the pupils and we aim to build on this at each level, raising the pupil's awareness of their surroundings, not only locally but in global terms.

Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport cover the main areas of gymnastics, games, team sports and athletics. Physical activity is essential to the growth and development of children. PE offers opportunities for the development of physical and social skills, fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Primary 5 to 7 pupils receive a block of swimming each year

We aim to assist pupils to make informed decisions which will enable them to become healthy and responsible citizens. The school as a community has an influence on the health and wellbeing of each pupil. By creating a warm, caring, supportive atmosphere in school we try to help everyone involved know that they are valued.

Children will learn through:

- a planned programme of health topics
- circle time
- opportunities for achievement
- daily access to healthy meals, fruit, milk and water
- taking part in contributing to the ethos and life of the school

We make a point of celebrating success at school assemblies. Certificates are presented to individuals for behaviour and achievements, photos are displayed of individual pupils who have been recognised for their wider achievements outwith school, such as Tae Kwon Do and Judo and musical events.

Play

Play is a very important part of primary education, especially in the Early Stages, but it also has a place in Primary Four to Seven. Educational play is not the opposite of work, it is work! The play of young children is a natural way for them to learn. The pupils may think they are playing but the teacher is ensuring that a great deal of valuable learning is taking place by providing appropriate materials and guiding the activity in a structured way.

Play is important because it can:

- Help develop language
- Provide opportunities to practise basic skills
- Help pupils become self confident
- Develop concentration
- Stimulate interest
- Help pupils to learn to work with others.

Outdoor Learning

Our pupils have regular opportunities to take their learning outdoors and into the local community including joint cluster outdoor learning days. Learning is planned for beyond the classroom with

children regularly taking their learning outdoors and into the local community e.g. Active Mornings, enterprise, termly cluster outdoor learning days on focused themes e.g. problem solving, literacy with a storyteller. Trips such as - ballet theatre trip, Film Festival, UHI, ASG Residential, Castle and Wildlife Park visits, enhance children's learning experiences and extend their range of skills.

Pupils in P6/7 take part in a summer residential with schools in the ASG where they partake in waters sports, skiing, mountain biking, problem solving and many more activities. We believe strongly that it helps the children in their transition to secondary school as well as helping them appreciate the importance of both personal responsibilities, self-reliance as well as working together in teams to develop social cohesion and awareness of one another's differences and diversity. Our refreshed curriculum will offer many opportunities to visit relevant places to enrich learning such as the Scottish Parliament, Tour of the Black Isle, Local castles, Fort George, Culloden Battlefield etc.

More information on the Scottish curriculum can be found at:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/>

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/local-national-work/highland/>

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education/policy-drivers/cfe-building-from-the-statement-appendix-incl-btc1-5/what-is-curriculum-for-excellence/>

Extra-Curricular Activities

These are activities that children can be involved in after school. The types of activities vary depending on the expertise available, parent involvement and the time of year.

Please refer to our latest newsletter in regards to current activities. If any parent has a special interest or expertise and would like to help with the organisation of an activity, we would be please contact Active Schools.

Homework/Family Learning

The school views homework as an introduction to a regular period of private study and a valuable discipline for the future. It provides an opportunity for reinforcement of work covered in school time, provides structured opportunities for parental involvement and trains pupils to plan and organise their time.

Parents, pupils and staff views have been sampled and homework agreed. Their views have been gathered through a homework survey for staff, pupils and parents and views from our Parent Council. Our family learning includes Story Sacks in P1-3 and Curiosity Kits in P4-7. Pupils in P1/2 will have set reading, phonics, spelling and maths online. Pupils at this stage require support from their parents in the form of hearing reading, practising phonics and sharing books daily. All pupils are encouraged to develop a love of reading for enjoyment through a challenge. Homework will not be given to children when they are ill (short-term) or when they go on holiday during term time.

How Parents can Support their Child at Home

- Let him/her know how much you love them even when they are not achieving all that you wish. This is really important as it helps to develop security and stability in later life.
- Encourage a range of hobbies, interests and self-expression.
- Spend time with your child talking about a range of issues and playing various games such as cards games, board games, baking, visiting the park and walking as this lets the child know that you think he/she is really important to you.

- Explain to your child why you have taken certain courses of action – both rewards and sanctions. This helps the child to understand why he/she should do or should not do certain things, and should lead to fewer problems in later life.
- Read to your child regularly (daily if possible) and encourage him/her to read for pleasure. This will help to develop a love of literature, which will help the child both socially and educationally.
- Take your child to a variety of places to develop their interests e.g. castles, museums, the beach, the theatre, the library, country walks, places of interest etc.
- Encourage your child to keep fit and healthy by taking regular exercise, eating healthy foods and drinking water.
- Show an interest in what your child is doing in school as this lets them know that you value education.
- Check that your child is doing any homework, which has been set.
- Encourage independence and responsibility: getting clothes and school bag ready, setting the table, feeding a pet, making a sandwich, peeling vegetables etc.
- Establish a good bedtime routine: no screens an hour before bed, wind down- reading, sharing a book in bed, sharing the best parts of the day, regular set bedtime

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment is an important and integral part of the learning and teaching process. During the school session all children will be involved in both formal and informal assessment across the curriculum. Assessments assist and provide information to pupils, parents and staff in how to raise attainment and are carried out in a variety of ways for different purposes. It could be a daily and ongoing observational assessment by the teacher or a summative assessment at the end of a block of work. It may be to provide information on pupil progress, to diagnose an area of difficulty or to communicate to parents and pupils their areas of strength or concern.

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

At Tore School we encourage the active involvement of pupils in their own learning from entering school in P1 to moving on to the Academy at the end of P7. In lessons teachers share the learning intentions and the success criteria with pupils. This gives pupils the knowledge of what they are about to learn and what is required to complete the given task. The concluding plenary session allows pupils to reflect on the success of their learning and their next steps. Opportunities for self, peer and group assessment are provided. This encourages pupils to be actively involved in their learning, identifying and setting their own targets and evaluating their own successes.

Formative assessment is an important aspect of the classroom. Pupils are increasingly likely to have “talking partners” or “elbow partners” – someone with whom they can discuss solutions or ideas about different aspects within the curriculum. There may be a “no hands up” policy from time to time in the classroom – whereby the teacher will ask pupils to answer or to explain to the rest of the class the process by which they achieved their answer. Having enough time to think through an answer without distractions is very important. Research shows that pupils remember things better when they are explained by other members of the class, so this is becoming more of a feature in classes today.

Assessment of children is on-going, and each child will work at a level which is suitable to his/her stage of development. During the year, parents will be given opportunities to discuss their child/children’s progress with staff.

Reporting to Parents

In line with Curriculum for Excellence, ongoing continuous assessment, profiling and reporting take place to monitor the children's progress throughout the session. Pupils' progress and achievements in learning are shared with parents/carers on a regular basis.

Each child has a Digital Profile which captures each child's achievements within and out-with school. It also contains High Quality Assessments of your child's learning. This profile will cover Early, First and Second level. The Profile will be available to view online by providing your email address. Children regularly review and reflect on their learning so that they can identify their strengths and needs.

The staff track progress using the progress codes that measure achievement in the yearly written report to parents which go out during our last term. Parents are welcome at any time to make an appointment through the school office to discuss their child's progress with staff or to ask for information, support or advice on how best to support your child's learning.

Every term we like to share progress with parents:

Term One – Open Afternoon-Family Learning

Term Two – Parents' Evenings

Term Three – Open Afternoon

Term Four – Written Report

For more information on assessment and reporting see:

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

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/17/school_curriculum

Assessments

Tore Primary, along with all other Scottish Primary Schools also undertakes standardised assessments; National Standardised Assessments for Scotland (NSAs) in P1, P4, P7 in reading, writing and maths. This gives teachers extra information to match against what the children know from their own on-going assessment. Parents will receive feedback on their son or daughter's progress through pupil reports and ongoing profiling and reporting. Pupils will reflect on their progress and achievement in their Digital Profile.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/curriculum-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement/>

Inset and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

A great deal of planning and preparation is needed to develop a sound learning environment. To this end schools have been allowed time every session for the purpose of holding Staff Inset training.

This Inset time is invaluable in affording staff the opportunity to develop the curriculum and to keep abreast of educational publications, and recent developments in the educational field. There may also be times during the school year when members of staff will attend CPD Courses or be engaged in CPD in school and a supply teacher may take the class.

Contribution to the Ethos and Life of The School, and Opportunities for Achievement

Children of all ages are involved in influencing school improvements through Citizenship Time, Pupil Council, class IDLs – fair trade, surveys, focus groups, leading open afternoons and presentations, etc. Our pupils make important contributions to the life and work of the school-their views are valued and staff act on the suggestions that children make e.g. planning contexts for learning. They are consulted on a range of aspects of their learning such as library improvements, paired reading, spelling, writing, non-fiction Curiosity Kits, HWB, school vision, achievements values and wider school improvements. As well as leading enterprising and fundraising events such as pop up cafes, Not So Tough Mudder. Children in P7 enjoy being given the opportunity to become House Captains, Vice Captains and buddies.

Promoting Positive Relations

Our vision, values and aims underpin the life and work of the school and we are currently reviewing our promoting positive relations policy to reflect our school values of:

Determined, Caring, Creative, Achieving

We are fortunate at Tore Primary that most of our pupils come to school well prepared and eager to learn. With good parental support, co-operation and the commitment of staff in promoting positive behaviour ensures that problems with discipline rarely arise. Staff are trained in emotional literacy, Decider Skills and we have a whole school approach to wellbeing to ensure a happy, nurturing school ethos.

We promote positive behaviour by using praise and a range of rewards including stickers, certificates, house points, Tore Stars, Achievement Assemblies and by encouraging leadership through responsible roles within the school.

Promoting Equality, Diversity And Inclusion

Tore Primary Schools is committed to creating an environment for the whole school community that demonstrates shared values of inclusion, equality, fairness and respect. Our school recognises and celebrates difference within a culture of respect and fairness, and aims to meet the needs of every child in line with the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

We work together with our children and young people, families and staff to ensure that inclusion and equality are part of all our activities. 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.

For up-to-date information please see:

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

Sanctions

We believe in restorative practices and solution focused working, and if a child is not following the school's values of honesty, kindness, friendship and bravery the following procedures are applied consistently.

Pupils in P3-7 may be asked to complete an Improving My Behaviour Form and encouraged to discuss their behaviour with their peers and class teacher along this lines of:

- What did I do wrong?
- What did I do?
- What should I have done?

Pupils in P1/2 discuss the behaviour verbally with the PSA/CT. All behaviour incidents are dealt with promptly by staff and the Headteacher, with parents being kept fully informed of more serious incidents.

If you have any concerns about your child's behaviour or the behaviour of other children towards your child, please report this to the class teacher or Headteacher immediately. We are committed to providing an environment where all members of our school community feel safe, respected and valued, and where bullying – type behaviours cannot flourish.

Bullying

Every session we have a whole school focus on what is bullying including cyber bullying. This is discussed in class led assemblies and as part of our HWB programme. Parents and carers should make their children aware of cyber-bullying which is becoming more prevalent through social networking sites which many children access from home.

Bullying is unacceptable in all schools and when it arises we have procedures for dealing with it. The task of staff is to identify bullying and to take action to remedy the situation.

Bullying can occur for no apparent reason or it can be based on prejudices. It can be subtle or it can be obvious, and it can cause short-term suffering or it can have long-term effects. Bullying can affect people in many different ways and this should be taken into consideration.

Bullying behaviour can include:

- Being called names, teased, put down or threatened face to face and/or online
- Being hit, tripped, pushed or kicked
- Having belongings taken or damaged
- Being ignored, left out or having rumours spread about you (face to face and/or online)
- Sending abusive messages, pictures or images on social media, online gaming platforms or phone
- Behaviour which makes people feel like they are not in control of themselves or their lives
- Being targeted because of who you are or who you are supposed to be (face to face and/or online)

Bullying Legislation

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against people with a 'protected characteristic'. These are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Race
- Sex
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation

Prejudice-based bullying includes the protected characteristics, but prejudice can include other groups for example:

- Additional Support Needs;
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees;
- Body Image and Physical appearance;
- Gypsy/Travellers;
- Care Experienced Children and Young People;
- Young Carers;
- Socio-economic Prejudice

Pupils are encouraged to talk to someone:

- Talk to your teacher or another staff member - tell them the 'who, what, when and where'. If you don't want to do this where others might hear you, make an excuse to see the teacher about something else, for example your homework, and talk in private.
- Talk to your parents - tell them the 'who, what, when and where' of what's been happening.
- Talk to your friends - they can help you tell a teacher or your parents or just to feel better.
- Be persistent. If you feel the person you choose to talk to doesn't understand how you are feeling, find someone else to talk to.

Online bullying:

- Take screen shots of the online bullying so that you have proof this is happening
- Report all abuse to the relevant social media and online platforms by clicking on the report button. You can also block the user on social media.

Keep a note:

- If you can, keep a note of the bullying incident, what has been said or done.
- Sometimes the bullying will stop quickly, but if you don't do something it may continue until someone is seriously hurt.

How will my school deal with bullying incidents?

- Each bullying incident should be reviewed individually and the person recording the incident will ask for details about what has happened.
- Once reported, the school will record the bullying incident, regardless of the outcome.
- The school might be able to take immediate action to resolve the situation. If this is not possible, a wider investigation might be necessary.
- All reported incidents will be taken seriously, investigated and appropriate action taken.
- They will take on board your the views of the incident and what you would like to do.
- They will decide whether to contact other agencies to ensure that the your needs and the needs of the other young person are met

Will the school tell my parents/carers?

- School staff will consult with you before contacting your parents and will have respect for your views.
- If you are accused of bullying another pupil, it is most likely that your parents will be informed.
- Most importantly, all actions will be agreed with the intention of not making the situation worse.
- The school may implement wider school interventions to ensure that there is not a recurrence of the behaviour.

Further action:

- If the situation cannot be resolved, the Area Quality Improvement Manager may be consulted by the headteacher for advice on how to proceed.
- Police must be notified if it is thought that a crime has taken place.
- Actions by the pupil(s) involved in bullying behaviours may lead to exclusion from school

Expectations - the school aims to:

- Ensure all adults have a responsibility for preventing bullying and listening to any bullying concerns.
- Celebrate diversity and tackle and challenge inappropriate behaviour.
- Make parents and carers aware of organisational and school anti-bullying policies.
- Ensure parents are provided with information on how to raise a concern and the escalation process.
- Offer children and young people a range of ways to report bullying or to talk about any concerns

Highland Council's Anti-Bullying Policy

For more information about anti-bullying policies within the Highland Council please visit:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti_bullying_-_guidance_for_schools

<https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school/official-documents?authuser=0>

Further Educational Support

Highland Practice Model

Everyone has the right to life, to be heard, to feel safe, to an education, to be listened to and to be included, but sometimes things go wrong and young people can be deprived of these basic rights. Getting It Right for Every Child is about ensuring the wellbeing of every child and young person in Scotland. Through the Getting it Right for Every Child programme children and their carers are central to the process of finding solutions and having their needs met.

To achieve this all children need to be Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected and Responsible and Included. These are known as the 'wellbeing indicators' and are remembered by the acronym - S.H.A.N.A.R.R.I. The Getting it Right for Every Child affects the working practices of all Integrated Children's Services (Health, Education, Social Work, Police, Children's Reporter and Voluntary Agencies) who work with children and families, including services to adults who are also parents.

More information about the Getting it right for every child policy and practice can be found at Highland Practice Model: <http://forhighlandschildren.org/5-practiceguidance/high-pract-model.pdf>

Information on Getting it right for every child and child protection can also be found here: <https://hcpc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Highland-Child-Protection-and-GIRFEC-Guidance-2024-FINAL.pdf>

Additional Support Needs

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 wellbeing. Effective arrangements are in place to support pupils with additional needs to make successful transitions between classes/stages/schools. <http://forhighlandschildren.org/>

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

If you wish to find out more about The Highland Practice Model or the Child's Plan you can access more information at: Support for Learners Website: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners

There are also Information sheets available at: <https://thrivingfamilies.org.uk/>

The main source of support in early years and in schools is the staff that through their normal practice is able to meet a diverse range of needs. Every teacher has the responsibility to support the learning of all pupils in their class but some children will require short or long term additional support from our Additional Support team. The type of support offered will vary according to the needs of pupils.

It is the aim of the school to ensure that all children reach their full potential in all areas of the school curriculum. Considerable time and resources are given to achieving this aim and at an early stage parents are involved should a learning difficulty be identified. If a parent considers that his or her child has additional support needs and wishes to make enquiries about this they should contact the Headteacher.

Information about the 2009 Additional Support for Learning Act

2009 Additional Support for Learning Act: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/7/contents>

Legal information

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came into force in November 2005. In June 2009, the Act was amended. These amendments form the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 and it came into force on 14 November 2010.

What does this mean for pupils and parents?

The new Act doesn't change the basic purpose of the 2004 Act – it aims to strengthen some duties under the Act and clarify parts that have been confusing. Here are some of the main changes:

- Under the 2004 Act 'additional support' means support that is provided in a classroom or a school. The 2009 Act changes this to include support that is given out of school but that helps a child get the most out of their school education. This could include a social worker helping a child who refuses to go to school or a mental health nurse supporting a child to cope with issues affecting their school life.
- Children who are looked after by a local authority will automatically be assumed to have additional support needs. For looked after children who don't need extra help this will have little impact. For those who do need help it will make sure their needs are considered as they move through school or if they change school. Local authorities will also be expected to check whether these children require a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) or not.
- The 2009 Act allows parents to ask their local authority for a specific type of assessment at any time. Under the 2004 Act parents had this right only when asking the education authority to identify whether their child had additional support needs or when asking the education authority whether their child required a CSP.

The duties that local authorities have towards young disabled children have been strengthened. Under the new Act local authorities have a duty to assess disabled children aged between 0 and 3 and provide them with additional support, if required, in agreement with their parents.

- Local authorities will have to publish information on where parents and carers can find help, information and advice, including contact details for Enquire. Local authorities will have to make sure that a summary of this information (including details of dispute resolution and mediation services) is available from all schools (and other sites that provide education). They also need to make sure this information is included in school handbooks and on their website.
- There is a section about placing requests that states that parents of children with additional support needs, (including those that have CSPs) 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 (whether the child has a CSP or not) will be referred to the Additional Support Needs

Tribunal. Some of the changes made in the 2009 Act deal specifically with children who have, or may require a CSP, and in particular to disagreements between local authorities and parents about the CSP.

- The Act extends the reasons that a parent or young person can make a referral (called a reference) to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal. Parents can make a referral when a local authority decides that a child does not need a CSP but also when local authorities have: failed to provide the additional support set out in the CSP; not responded to a parent's

request to find out whether their child needs a CSP within a given time; or, after having said they will consider whether a CSP is required have not made a decision (within a given time) on whether the child needs a CSP or not.

- The Act also gives the Additional Support Needs Tribunal extra powers to force local authorities to provide, or make arrangements providing additional support that is set out in a CSP if they have not done so.

The new Act includes a duty for the Scottish Government to fund a national independent advocacy service (on request and free of charge) to support parents and young people in Additional Support Needs Tribunal proceedings. The above points do not include all the changes resulting from the 2009 Act but simply cover the main points.

If you have any questions about the 2009 Act, please contact the Enquire Helpline on 0845 123 2303 or by email on: info@enquire.org.uk

Further information and support to parents of children and young people with ASN: These organisations are identified under The Additional Support for Learning (Sources of Information) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 as:

- (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

School Improvement Planning

The school's Standards and Quality Report for parents is published on the school website detailing the school's self-evaluation and improvement targets. This is shared with parents at the first open afternoon of the session along with the School Improvement Plan. Updates are shared with parents at Parent Council Meetings. A paper copy of these documents can be obtained on request from the school office.

Standards and Quality Report 2024/2025: <https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school/official-documents>

School Improvement Plan 2025/2026: <https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school/official-documents>

Regular self-evaluation events happen throughout the year which parents are invited in to support such as surveys, seeking views, workshops, open afternoons and a formal parents evening all of which provides opportunities for parental involvement and to see and comment on work and the progress their child(ren) are making.

Our overall evaluation of the school's capacity for continuous improvement

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement. As a school and cluster, self-evaluation is integral to how we work. We closely monitor the impact of developments taking account of Local and National priorities and measuring their impact. From closely tracking pupils' progress, interrogating data, monitoring activities and taking account of observations, evaluations and discussions these projects are having a positive impact on attainment and achievement. Our team; staff, parents, pupils and community are committed to providing the best possible education for our children who are enthusiastic and eager to learn. As long as our staffing remains stable we are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

School Information Dashboard brings together a range of information about the school's performance at a local level:

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

Education Scotland Inspection Reports, provide information on the most recent assessment of a school's performance from a national level:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review/find-an-inspection-report/find-an-inspection-report/?searchFor=schoolsOrganisations&orderAlias=relevance>

Policies

The school holds a variety of policies which are reviewed and updated. Some of the policies which are available in the school for inspection:

- Child Protection
- Administration of Medicines
- Health and Safety
- Bullying and Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Promoting Equality and Diversity
- Emergency Planning Procedures
- Staffing Arrangements and Composite Classes

All of the above policies can be found on the school website:

<https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school/official-documents?authuser=0>

A full list of Highland Council policies can be found here:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/893/schools_general_information/29/school_policies_procedures_and_guidelines

Conclusion

We hope that this handbook provides you with an understanding of our school, our aims and how we endeavour to achieve these. Should you wish to visit the school you will be made most welcome. We look forward to having a happy and successful partnership with you and your child.

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.

Appendices

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/carers, 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 unopened, clearly marked with the directions from the pharmacist and administered as part of an agreed medical protocol.

Information About Headlice

Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't be prevented, but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. Parents and carers should check their children's head once a week during hair washing using your usual shampoo, conditioner, and a detection comb – ask your local pharmacist to recommend a suitable one. Remember that you are looking for living moving lice – the only evidence that your child is infected. If you find a living louse, ask your local pharmacist, school nurse, health visitor or GP for advice regarding treatment.

Parents should advise the school of all cases of 'head lice' and pupils should not be returned to school until their hair has been treated (confidentiality is retained).

Minor injuries

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

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Staff will support the emotional development and wellbeing of pupils through formal and informal curricular activities. Any concerns about a pupil's wellbeing can be discussed with the named person. School 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. Parents would generally be involved in discussions beforehand, however a young person over the age of 12 can ask for support themselves.

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

Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA)

An EMA is a weekly payment worth up to £30 for pupils who are planning to stay on at school after their leaving age. They must complete a learning agreement at school for a minimum of 21 learning hours per week.

In session 2026/2027 pupils born between 1 March 2007 and 30 September 2010 can receive payments from August 2026. Pupils born between 1 October 2010 and 28 February 2011 can receive payments from January 2027. Further information on full eligibility criteria and the online application process can be obtained from the school.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools_-_grants_and_benefits/14/education_maintenance_allowance

Closure due to an Emergency or Adverse Weather

Parents will normally be notified if a departure from normal school hours is to occur. Our general policy will be to remain open where possible.

There will no longer be an automated phone line to provide information on your child's school closure. Therefore, the following methods will be used make you aware of any school closure in the future:

- You will be notified via email as soon as a closure decision has been made. Please inform the school if there are ever any changes to your email.
- The school Facebook page will notify of the closure.
- The school Website will notify of the closure - <https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/tore-primary-school/news>
- The Highland Council School Closure Website will be updated as soon as possible. Please note this can sometimes become quite busy and therefore, may take a while to be updated - www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures

Although we do try to give everyone as much notice as possible, sometimes we hold off making a decision until we see how the weather is progressing. Please note that the decision as to whether a pupil should attempt to travel to school in adverse weather conditions, whether by transport or by foot rests with the parents. While accepting that the education should be interrupted as little as

possible, the Education Authority wish that in severe weather conditions the safety of the pupils come first.

In the event of the school grounds requiring to be evacuated in an emergency pupils will be taken to Tore Hall. Fire drills are held at regular intervals throughout the session.

Pupil Records and Data Protection

Access to Pupil Records

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

Data Protection Legislation

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

Transferring Educational data about Pupils

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

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

Data Policy

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

Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints. As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government.

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

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

Why do we need your data?

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

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

Your data protection rights

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

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

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

Concerns

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

Equality and Inclusion

For up-to-date information please see:

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

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

In summary, our activities in school should ensure that we: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, promote good relations. Activities should not discriminate against

any of the following ‘protected characteristics’ age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has now been incorporated into Scots Law. To find out more about this and the rights for all children in Scotland, you can access information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/statutory-guidance-part-2-uncrc-incorporation-scotland-act-2024/pages/3/>

Protection of Children

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 school office or online at http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare_and_family_care/438/child_protection

Information on Getting it right for every child and child protection can also be found here: <https://hcpc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Highland-Child-Protection-and-GIRFEC-Guidance-2024-FINAL.pdf>

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](#) | [Secondary 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](#).