

Standards and Quality Report

2023/24



An Cala Intensive Support Centre

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL, WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI, CARMICHAEL WAY, FORT
WILLIAM, PH33 6AN

This report is provided to families and partners to identify our achievements this session. The next steps in our improvement journey are also outlined.

Throughout the year we continuously evaluate what we do and how it makes a difference to our learners. We want to know what is working well for our school community and what needs further improvement.

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

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

An Cala ... Our context

An Cala provides part time support to young people who are at risk of missing out on their education due to the nature of their individual challenges. We are situated on the West Highland College Campus in Fort William and serve the High Schools of Lochaber. We have capacity to support between 5 and 10 young people normally between S1 and S4. At present there are 12 young people attending An Cala. Our staffing is made up of the following, full time manager, full time children services worker, 0.9 teaching post, two full time pupil support assistants and 0.4 admin assistant.

We implement the principles of GIRFEC and Curriculum for excellence. We work alongside partner agencies in Education, Health, Skills Development Scotland, Police, Colleges as well as parent/carers, voluntary sector, and employers to ensure that individual needs are met.

An Cala takes a child centred approach, we work on the principle of providing a safe and supportive environment in which young people can achieve their potential while planning for their future. We encourage an ethos of mutual respect between all staff and young people.

All young people have an individual plan agreed with the school, young person and parents which may include supporting curricular subjects, vocational training, skills for life and work, outdoor learning, and post school transition.

A large part of our work involves supporting families and offering emotional support to the young people.

An Cala... Our Vision, Values and Aims

Working in partnership to enable young people to achieve their potential by engaging in learning while planning for their future in a safe and supportive environment.

To....

- Provide appropriate programmes based on individual needs.
- Provide high quality learning and teaching.
- Set realistic and achievable goals.
- Provide ongoing evaluation and review.
- We set good examples by providing appropriate role models.
- We ensure staff development is ongoing and relevant, improving practice.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.
- Promoting personal achievement.
- Promote equality of opportunity.
- We form good links with partnership agencies and maintain good working relationships.
- Identify local resources e.g., colleges and employers.

- We ensure parents/carers are involved in all aspects of their child's development and learning.
- We involve the young people in the decision-making process.

Pupil Voice: what is working well in our school?

Our children and young people identified the following strengths for our school this session:

Feedback from An Cala student's questionnaire March 2024:

- All students agreed they enjoyed being at An Cala.
- 100% of students said they felt safe, secure and are treated fairly in An Cala.
- 91% of students reported that at least one staff member knows them well.
- All students said, 'staff listen to what I say.'
- All students say 'I know what to do at An Cala if there is something worrying me.'
- 100% of students agree, 'staff explain things clearly and tell me how I am getting along with my work.'
- Most students agreed, 'I have a say in deciding how to improve An Cala.'
- All students agree, 'An Cala helps me to keep myself safe and healthy (e.g. by teaching me about healthy eating, personal relationships and the dangers of drugs, alcohol and smoking.'

"Coming to An Cala makes me feel I can achieve anything I want."

S3 Student

"I like our breakfast check in."

S1 Student

"I like coming to An Cala to learn and see other people."

S5 Student

Pupil Voice: what changes would you like to see made?

Our children and young people identified the following changes they would like to see and the difference these changes could make.

Feedback from student forum:

- 'We would like new x-box games to play at break and lunch, 'the ones in An Cala are well old.' Having new games to play at break and lunch would give us something to do as it is always raining.
- Can we have a basketball and hoop. It would help me move around when I can't sit in class.

Our Improvement Journey Headlines Session 2023/24

These projects are linked to the vision and priorities for Scottish Education based on delivering excellence and equity. Parent/Carer information is available [here](#).

Improvement Project 1:

Primary focus: Curriculum and assessment

Year of Project: 1

Purpose: Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

Progress and impact:

Content:

√ We develop and refresh our curriculum on a regular basis, involving all staff, taking into account the views of parents and learners. Our curriculum is in tune with the values and principles of GIRFEC and Curriculum for Excellence. This ensures progression and coherence. In addition, we offer individual learning experiences through Distant Learning programmes, Dynamic Youth Awards as well as outdoor learning, including the John Muir Award. We will improve our practice in this area by working in partnership with the relevant high school to ensure each young person receives a holistic, individualised curriculum.

√ We work closely with the relevant high school to support the learning of core subjects such as Maths and English, which each young person would be studying if attending school. We utilise the expertise of outside agencies, for example, outdoor learning, art and music to develop individual abilities as well as interests. Our team takes a joined-up approach to improvement, all staff are committed to giving the best opportunities An Cala can offer to each young person attending. We are willing to implement change and are sensitive to the effects of different practice.

√ Our individual education programmes support the young people of building confidence and addressing barriers to learning. What works best for the young people as a general rule is one-to-one support for academic/practical work, emotional literacy, plenty of opportunity for outdoor learning and personal achievement. An Cala provide a supportive environment where achievement is encouraged, praised and celebrated. Staff adapt their approaches to ensure that lessons are motivating and relevant. All staff have training in in additional support needs and use strategies to support Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autism and ADHD. Staff take into account different learning styles and multiple intelligences.

Evidence

√ Every young person attending An Cala has an individual education timetable set up and agreed by the young person, high school, ourselves. We have developed a workable and accessible planning system which ensures that learners' needs are met. We ensure regular reviews, long term/short term target setting and evaluation. Weekly reports summarise achievements and challenges. The weekly

summaries are sent to parents/carers and appropriate partnership agencies. Parents/carers are always involved in reviews and the decision-making process. It is the responsibility of the relevant school to lead the assessment process. An Cala attend Child Plan meetings where Coordinated Support Plans are discussed. We are partners to the plan of all pupils who attend An Cala.

√ We have improved our record-keeping systems, so they are less time consuming but still offer a comprehensive record of our work with each young person, which inform next steps in learning. Our staff meeting minutes record our continuously rolling ideas for improvement as well as the effectiveness of each strategy currently in place.

Next steps:

- **Ensure the delivery of agreed priorities numeracy, literacy, health and well-being.**
- **Continue to monitor the appropriateness of the curriculum for each young person and make adjustments where necessary.**
- **Ensure regular reviews, long term/short term target setting and evaluation.**
- **Arrange educational visits where appropriate to ensure barriers to transitions are addressed.**

Evaluation of Progress

We believe we have made the following progress this session:

Evaluation:

Quality Indicator	School self-evaluation
1.3 Leadership of Change	Good
2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
3.1 Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good
3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	Good

Our children and young people believe we have made the following progress this session:

Theme 1 Very good
Our relationships

Theme 2 Good
Our learning and teaching

Theme 3 Very good
Our school and community

Theme 4 Good
Our health and wellbeing

Theme 5 Good
Our successes and achievements

Our overall evaluation of An Cala capacity for continuous improvement is:

We are confident in our capacity for continuous improvement.

Planning Ahead

Full details of the school's 2023/24 improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the school improvement plan, which can be accessed on our website [ADD LINK](#) or by contacting the school office.