

Session 2025-26

AUCHTERTYRE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Head Teacher: Alison MacLennan

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

Welcome to Auchtertyre Nursery and Primary School. It is hoped that this handbook will provide an insight into the vision, values and aims of the school; explain the routines of the school and be useful as a reference document with elinks to further information.

This handbook is updated each year and is available to any parent. I hope the information contained will promote partnership between home and school.

Yours sincerely,

Alison MacLennan
Head Teacher

June 2025

Aughtertyre Primary School Vision:
Improving learning for the future
With everyone Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Aughtertyre Primary School Values:

We value our children having opportunities to learn, play, investigate and explore in a healthy outdoor environment with close ties to nature. We value all children having equal opportunities. We value our children's voices being heard. We value parent and wider community involvement with the school. We value good examples of behaviour and being respectful and responsible. We value a healthy eating policy and opportunity for active lifestyles and sporting challenge and achievement.

Aughtertyre Primary School Aims
that all pupils, parent and staff team alike:

Promote health, wellbeing and happiness throughout our school community by supporting equal opportunities and inclusion but also by ensuring all feel welcome, safe and valued as individuals by all being kind, embracing diversity and encouraging excellent behaviour.

Embrace new learning and teaching ideas, continuously updating our knowledge, skills and confidence so that we are 'developing the young workforce' and preparing for life beyond our school.

Value everyone's opinions and seize some of the regular opportunities for citizenship and decision making through programmes of work, pupil council engagement, eco-committee work, Rights Respecting School activities, charity events and a range of enterprise and environmental projects.

Help each and every one learn to celebrate their achievements, recognise individual successes, develop resilience and promote self-esteem and ambition so to realise their full potential.

Deliver an innovative, engaging, stimulating and challenging curriculum both indoors and outdoors, ensuring all needs are met hence raising attainment.

Reviewed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff in Nov 2018



This is the Achtertyre Way:



Deiseil, Mochail, agus Sábhaille

Be Kind
Do your best
Respect others and their right to learn
Listen and ask for help
Be organised
Like yourself

Prêts, Respectueux et en Sécurité

In our Learning and Teaching:

- We work out our Learning Intentions and Success Criteria
- We build on what we know
- We work at a good pace
- Our work should challenge us
- We work at our own level
- We put what we know into practice
- We recap on our learning

Ready, Respectful and Safe

Teaching Staff

Head Teacher
Principal Teacher

Alison MacLennan
Fanny Fraser

Support for Learning

Donalda MacRae (consulting)

Primary 1/2/3/4
Primary 5/6/7
CCR cover:

Ruth Mockett / Mairidh Anne MacKinnon
Fann Fraser / Rebecca Loudon / Ruth Constant
Ruth Mockett

Pupil Support Assistants

Diane Barclay
Morag MacKenzie
Krissy Lothian

Nursery Staff

Early Year Practitioners

Fiona Matheson
Kara Smith

Nursery Management Teacher Fanny Fraser

Office Staff

Carol MacKenzie

Janitor

Ryan McAllister

Catering Staff

Liz MacLeod

Cleaning Staff

Deborah Smyth

School Visiting Staff

Piping Instruction
Fiddle Instruction
Drumming Instruction

Niall Stewart
Roxine Llewellyn-Porter
Hugh McCallum

School Nurse

Post vacant

Parent Council Chairperson
Parent Council Email:

Caroline McKellar
Auchtertyreprimarypc@gmail.com

Parent Forum/School Facebook Page:

**Area Office Contact Details**

Mhairi MacDonald
Area Education and Learning Manager
Fingal Centre
Viewfield Road
Portree IV51 9ET
Tel: 07918 842021

School Roll:

The school provides both nursery and primary education, from ages 3 – 12 years.
 The school roll for session 2024/2025 is 51 pupils with 43 in primary and 8 children in the nursery.

The School Day:

	P1/2/3/4	P5/6/7
Monday-Thursday	8.55 - 12.00 12.45 - 15.20	8.55 - 12.45 13.30 - 15.20

Morning Break	10.25 - 10.45	10.50 - 11.10
Lunch Break	12.00 - 12.45	12.45 - 13.30

Friday	8.55 - 12.55	8.55 - 12.55
Morning Break	10.25 - 10.45	10.50 - 11.10

The Nursery Opening Hours:

Monday-Thursday	8.45 - 15.15
Friday	9.00 - 13.00

School Calendar:

School term dates and those of next school session can be found on the Highland Council Website under “school term dates” or by clicking on the following link:

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

Highland School calendar 2025/26

Please note - Dates may be subject to change

August 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
32					1	2	3
33	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
35	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
36	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
37	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
39	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
40	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
41	29	30					

October 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
41			1	2	3	4	5
42	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
43	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
44	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
45	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
45						1	2
46	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
47	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
48	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
49	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
28			1	2	3	4	5
29	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
30	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
31	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
32	27	28	29	30	31		

School holidays
In-service days

School days

Enrolment:

Parents seeking to enrol a child/children in school or nursery should access the following link:
https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/11/school_enrolment

Enrolment for early learning and childcare takes place early February. For more precise dates please click the link below:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/11/enrol_your_child_for_early_learning_and_childcare/2

Enrolment for school takes place in late January. For more precise dates please click the link below:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school

Before starting nursery or school, children are invited to taster sessions prior to the starting date.

SCHOOL PLACING REQUESTS – PARENTAL CHOICE

Each school serves its own particular catchment area. Pupils whose homes are located in that area will have priority in being allocated a place in the school. However, parents have the right to specify the school in which they wish to place their child. Application are made to the Area Education and Learning Manager (contact details page 6). Placing request applications are made online at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2

Transportation to and from school, for placing requests, is a parental responsibility. If pupils live out with the school catchment area and their parents wish them to attend Auchtertyre Primary they can contact the head teacher to arrange a visit.

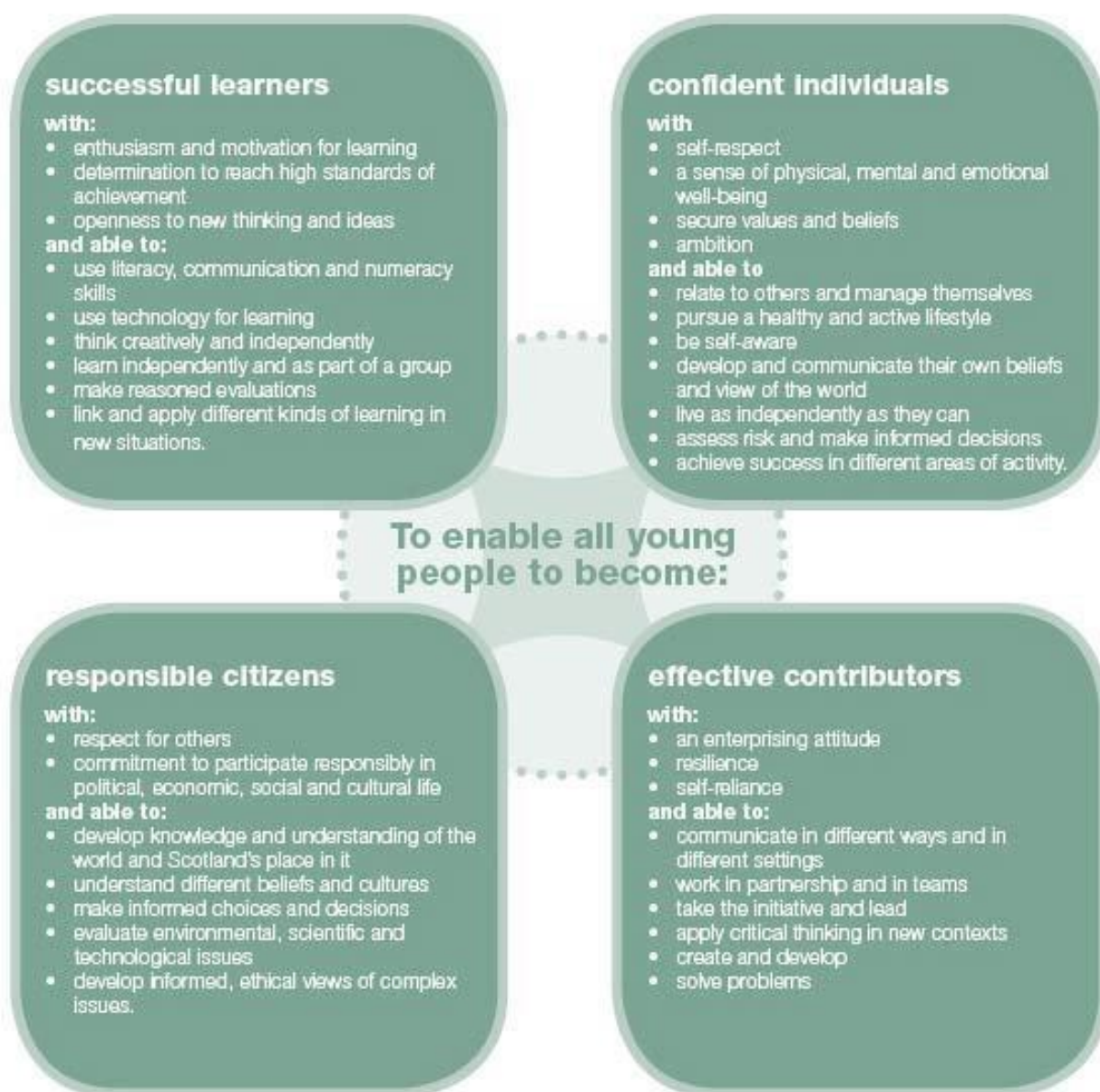
Parents of children with additional support needs, (including those that have Coordinated Support Plans) can make placing requests to any school in Scotland including schools outside of the local authority area they live in. All appeals about placing requests to special schools will be referred to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal.

A Curriculum for Excellence:

The aim of Curriculum for Excellence is to help prepare all young people in Scotland to take their place in a modern society and economy. The curriculum provides a framework for all young people in Scotland to gain the knowledge and skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work that they need.

This means:

- > a coherent and inclusive curriculum from 3 to 18 wherever learning is taking place, whether in schools, colleges or other settings
- > a focus on outcomes
- > a broad general education
- > more opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for all young people at every stage
- > a focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing at every stage
- > appropriate pace and challenge for every child
- > ensuring connections between all aspects of learning and support for learning



Literacy:

Literacy plays a key role in all aspects of learning and children are encouraged to develop their literacy skills in all areas of the curriculum through the enjoyment and exploration of texts whether in written or oral format.

There are three organisers:

- Listening and Talking
- Reading
- Writing

For Literacy & English, we use a wide variety of resources in Auchtertyre from the Highland Literacy Project, Emerging Literacy, Jolly Phonics and Grammar, the Scottish Criterion for writing, WrapAround Spelling, the Literacy Shed, Talk for Writing to mention only a few.

In Primary 1, phonological awareness and fine motor skills are assessed so to have clear targets for development in order to foster and affirm solid foundations in language.

A love and interest for language is encouraged and the fascination of sounds, letters, words and the way it all works together, is followed up by an understanding of the way words are made up with roots, prefixes and suffixes and even some etymology should it prick their interest as early as Primary 3.

Children sharpen their writing skills by writing all types of pieces ranging from letters and poems, to instructions, accounts and fictional prose. Each piece of writing will have clear success criterion or criteria discussed as a group or class, and either group or individual targets which the children know they need to focus on.

Children are encouraged to take pride of their writing and to present their work neatly at all times which enable us, teachers and parents to quickly identify areas they find challenging as presentation tends to be less neat at such times.

Mathematics:

Developing skills in Numeracy and Mathematics is important in our endeavour to understand and interpret matters so to thrive in today's world.

There is no ambiguity in the language of maths once the coding has been agreed, therefore enabling a thorough analysis of problems.

Just as with Literacy, Mathematics is set into three organisers:

- Number, Money and Measure
- Shape, Position and Movement
- Information Handling

To ensure coverage of the curriculum, we follow the Highland Numeracy Progression and use a wide range of resources such as:

- Leckie Maths, Teejay Maths and Scottish Heinemann Maths for practice
- Interactive online resources
- Nrich Maths for problem solving
- Cuisenaire rods, abacuses, ten frames, counting beads, counting sticks, etc
- YouCubed activities
- New Zealand Maths activities

Health and wellbeing:

Good health and wellbeing is necessary for effective learning and steady development. Health and Wellbeing has 8 indicators with powerful messages:



Your children will likely refer to this as SHANARRI and might mention the presentation they have undertaken in whole school assemblies to share their class representation of an aspect of the indicators – each class covering a different one.

The curriculum is set into eight organisers also which are:

- Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- Planning for choices and changes
- Physical education, physical activity and sport
- Food and health
- Substance misuse
- Relationship, sexual health and parenthood

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

UNICEF and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): Auchtertyre school and nursery are proud to be accredited with the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award and are currently working towards Silver through approaches and resources from Unicef, Compassionate and Connected Classroom (Education Scotland), and Recognising and Realising Children's Rights (Education Scotland), which underpin our rights respecting ethos and our rights respecting classrooms.

Click on the link for more information about Rights Respecting Schools:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

Expressive Arts:

Through the Arts, children discover, cultivate and refine new means of expression, become more discerning as to the aesthetics of the surrounding world.

The three organisers are:

- Art and Design
- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Auchtertyre is very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated artist, whose child attend the school, and who volunteers to undertake wonderful art projects.

Dance is often covered through preparation for the Ceilidh dances prior to Christmas and linked to Physical Education classes.

Children love to role play from a very young age however moving further up the school doesn't mean they stop doing it as they often have the opportunity to turn a chapter of their book into a scene and become the characters, therefore putting into practice the intonation and pace they have been practising during their reading sessions.

Feis tutors deliver traditional music tuition in the primary 5-7 class, while in the P1-5 class children learn the makings of music through the Kodaly method. Children will have the opportunity of perform in front of a wider audience during assemblies and/or concerts.

Technologies:

ICT and Digital Learning

The arrival of Chromebooks to the cluster during the session 2018-19 has changed our approach to digital learning.

Primary 6 and 7 pupils have access to one Chromebook each since the session 2018-19 whereas Primary 1 to 5 pupils who only had access to shared Chromebooks at a ratio of 1/5, now have access to one Chromebook each since session 2020-21.

All children have been allocated their own Associated School Group Google Account which allows them to access their work both at school and at home. This Account will follow them throughout Primary and Secondary School.

The children also have access to iPads, and therefore to alternative forms of documents and applications, which encourages them to embrace the different approaches adhered to by technologies and pushes them to reason differently with each machine they access.

Prior to accessing Chromebooks, children learn about the Google Suite for Education but also how to keep their information secure, how to be safe online and how to use the Internet responsibly.

Other technologies, Science and Social Studies:

Auchtertyre has its own three-year curriculum overview document which ensures a thorough, varied and rolling coverage of the curriculum. Far from being prescriptive, it allows the school to invite children to have their input as to not only the topic they study within a context but also as to the direction the learning will take while still ensuring experiences and outcomes are met.

Religious and Moral Education:

Religious and Moral Education is approached through a series of topics. These cover beliefs, values, religious practices and traditions of Christianity and other world religions. Moral Education is included within these topics and considers the common values of fairness, respect for others, honesty, etc. Pupils are encouraged to form their own opinions but also to be tolerant and show respect for the opinions of others.

Religious Observance assemblies are held on the first Monday of each calendar month. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from the latter can do so by informing the school so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Languages and 1+2:

Children in Scotland learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue hence the 1 (mother tongue) + 2 (additional languages). Plockton High School Associated Schools Group has opted to learn Gaelic and French.

In Auchtertyre, French is our second language (L2). French is learned as early as Nursery through games and songs, and will continue all the way to secondary school. As it is our L2, children will have some lessons in French but will also learn daily classroom routines in French.

From Primary 5 at the latest, children are to start learning their third language (L3) which is Gaelic. The composite nature of our classes where primary 5 pupils share a class with the Primary 3 and Primary 4 pupils, means that in Auchtertyre children learn a third language as early as Primary 3.

Since the start of the 2018-2019 session, Auchtertyre is linked to the École Marcel Bouquet, a French Primary School in the Académie de Versailles, and staff have collectively planned a programme of activities for the children to learn from each other's school day, learning approaches, traditions and culture.

Skill days:

On skills days - often Friday mornings - we focus on wider achievements with Junior Duke Awards, gardening or woodland school for example, through Bloom's Taxonomy, Shanarri Wellbeing Indicators and Developing the Young Workforce.

Assessment and reporting to Parents

Children from the Early Level learn to work to set learning intentions and success criteria before measuring the work undertaken against the said criteria and learning to undertake self and peer evaluations.

Assessing peers' work against a criterion or criteria helps children develop a clearer understanding of how to systematically overcome and master the targets; in doing so, they strengthen their own learning. Parents/Guardians will often see their child's work evaluated by themselves, their peers, their teacher or even sometimes a combination of all three.

But checking learning is constant and takes many guises; it could consist of children being asked to show 'fist to five' to share their understanding or their enjoyment of the lesson, being asked to quickly give an adjective while lining up for lunch or being invited to work as a team and take turn with their friends to state all the multiples of a particular time table against the clock. It also regularly consists of the evaluation of a skill recorded in a Learning Snapshot traffic lighted as Green – Got it! – Amber – Getting there! – or Red – Not quite there yet but working on it! – or drawn emojis, smiley face, straight face, persevering face.

This learning is then shared with parents/guardian for their perusal and comment and then kept in the children's Learning Journey Folder.

Children also undertake assessments online such as the SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments) when in P1, P4 and P7 or the SOFA (Scottish Online Formative Assessments) as opted in by Highland Council when in P2, P3, P5 and P6, both giving further information as to the progression, strengths and areas for development of each child therefore providing, along with the less formal ongoing evaluations, a full picture of each learning journey.

Education Scotland has further information for you here:

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

Parents' Meetings

Parents are encouraged to attend Parents' Evenings, which take place in term 2, 3 and 4, as they are a wonderful opportunity to share and discuss the progression of children before identifying next steps.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any concerns regarding your child's wellbeing or progression.

You will find more information about the **school's curriculum, skills for life and the four capacities** on <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

School Improvement:

The Highland Council is working on a three-year improvement cycle from 2022-2025 where:

- We will raise attainment and achievement for all, especially for those children from disadvantaged circumstances including rural deprivation.
- We will maximise health and wellbeing for all children and young people to give them the best possible start in life.
- We will ensure the highest quality of learning and teaching for each and every learner.
- We will develop leadership skills at all levels of the system for now and the future.

Auchtertyre school and nursery improvement plans for 2024-25:

- 1. Continue to embed the curriculum to meet national expectations. (Focus on updated HC Literacy / Numeracy Tiles progression)
- 2. Develop and embed a more strategic approach to improving learning teaching and assessment – Focus on Literacy and Writing)
- 3. Embed prompt and structured actions to raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy, as well as other areas of the curriculum (Focus on Moderation and Assessment across ASG) Moderation of Writing - ASG and HQA

The main improvements in the school can be found in our website under [school improvement](#). You'll find there the latest [Standards and Quality Report](#) and [School Improvement Plan](#) alongside parents' leaflets.

Our recent School Inspection Findings can be found: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

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

The school has been working on closing the poverty-related attainment gap:

Link to School Improvement Plan:	Interventions / actions linked to spend below:	Measurement evidence:
Projects 1 and 3	Stephen Graham Writing (whole class teaching) Extreme writing approach for volume	<i>SOFA / SNSA PM Benchmarks HQ Assessments</i>
Projects 1 and 2	PSA Time Dandelion Readers – Comprehension / Spelling	<i>SOFA / SNSA PM Benchmarks Blackwell Spelling</i>
Projects 1 and 3	PSA Time Phonics (Dandelion Readers)	<i>SOFA / SNSA PM Benchmarks Emerging Literacy- Phonological Awareness</i>
H&Wb – increasing focus and engagement / Curriculum	Wellbeing – Craft resources / Intergenerational project?	<i>Wellbeing Questionnaire</i>
H&Wb – increasing focus and engagement / Curriculum	Gardening -through Eco Focus group / Intergenerational project?	<i>Wellbeing Questionnaire Parent Questionnaire Seemis - Attendance</i>
Supporting Change, loss and bereavement	Seasons for growth	<i>Wellbeing Questionnaire</i>

Anti-bullying Strategy:

We believe that bullying in any form is unacceptable.

Very useful information can be accessed at 'Respect Me – Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service'
<https://respectme.org.uk/bullying/>

'Bullying is both behaviour and impact; what someone does and the impact it has on a person's capacity to feel in control of themselves.'

Anyone can be a victim. If bullying happens, it should be reported to a staff member. If it relates to events outside school, parents should be informed.

When bullying does occur, it will be investigated, discussed and hopefully resolved restoratively. If incidents persist, active parental involvement will be strongly encouraged. It is vital that we work together.

Here's a link to the Highland Council's Positive Relationships and Bullying Prevention Policy and Guidance: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19358/anti_bullying_-_guidance_for_schools

Equality and diversity:

In Auchtertyre we actively teach, practise and embrace differences; we ensure everyone has the necessary tools to access the curriculum, that all have a voice and can make themselves understood.

Summary of our duty in Equality and Diversity

Eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; promote good relations. Activities should not discriminate against any 'protected characteristics.as follow:

Age
Disability
Race, Religion or Belief
Gender
Sexual orientation
Gender reassignment
Pregnancy
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.

For further up-to-date information please see:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/313/equal_opportunities
and
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-presumption-provide-education-mainstream-setting/pages/1/>

Homework:

Once the school routine is settled homework is handed out weekly. It should, however, be a relaxed experience where children share their learning and are further supported in their development by their parents/guardians/older siblings.

Homework will comprise of daily reading and basic maths knowledge practice which we encourage you to support at home as acquiring automaticity will enable your child to quicken and widen their learning.

Additional Support :

If you have any concerns about your child, please do contact the class teacher or the head teacher to discuss any issues.

You will find information on the Highland Practice on the following link:

<http://www.forhighlandchildren.org/5-practiceguidance/>

And further information on:

(a) Enquire – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning

<http://enquire.org.uk/>

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

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

Home, School, Community Links and Partnerships:

We welcome parental and community help in our school life and are fortunate to have volunteers sharing their time and skills for the benefit of the pupils.

For those who regularly participate in schools, a PVG certificate is necessary and easily obtainable by contacting the head teacher in the first instance.

We in turn regularly support our community ventures and enjoy the mutual benefits.

Our school also works in partnership with Lochalsh Active Schools, The National Trust for Scotland, Cool, Keep Scotland Beautiful (Eco-Schools), Unicef (Rights Respecting Schools), Community Resilience, Road Safety Scotland (JRSO), Lochalsh Community Council, UHI and Creative Scotland with YMI (Youth Music Initiative) through Feisean and Fèis an Earraich.


Pupil Empowerment:

Increasingly we are giving pupils the opportunity to lead in their learning and in giving their views about their school. Currently, we have various committees who are working on different aims to improve our school. We have a rotating Pupil Council (HGIOURS), Eco committee, and RRSA committee. We also focus on Community Resilience, JRSO and Pupils' Voice. In addition to the intervention of all children in one of these groups, we actively encourage pupils to assert their right to an opinion and to be heard (UNCRC articles 12 and 13) by regular vote on a range of matters relating to their class/school life, but also by asking them to evaluate lessons and their learning but also suggesting ways to improve their impact.

After-school clubs:

The Facebook page of [Lochalsh Active Schools](#) will keep you informed of all after-school clubs run by High-Life-Highland Active Schools.

Our local artist often runs art workshops on Saturdays and post dates on our Parent Forum

Facebook page  .

Attendance at School:

Registration takes place every morning. It is essential for parents/guardians to contact the school by 9:15. Should a child be absent or late - without prior notice – the school will endeavour to find out the reason for this absence and follow the Three Day Rule for Unexplained Absences.

The Three Day Rule for Unexplained Absences:

Day 1: the school will make a concerted effort to find out the reason for an unexplained absence.

Day 2: the school will continue to try and obtain a reason for the unexplained absence by contacting a carer or family member.

Day 3: should no contact be established, the police shall be notified of a child's absence; the police will treat this as a missing person alert.

Encouraging Attendance:

In order to ensure continuity and progression, programmes are carefully planned or followed. While the learning is cyclical in order to build on prior knowledge and understanding, and therefore revisited, any absence of any length will result in children missing out on practising strategies, honing skills and increasing readiness for new learning.

Emergency Contacts:

Parents are asked to supply the Head Teacher with a telephone number where they can be reached in an emergency during the school day, should the need arise. Parents should also supply the school with an alternative number. Parents who are not normally at home during school hours, are asked to supply another address that their child can go to should the school be required to close early. If parents cannot be contacted and there is no-one available at the emergency contact number, pupils will have to remain in school until collected by a parent.

It is essential that parents ensure that the school is advised of any change of telephone number etc. in order that information for emergency contacts may be updated as necessary.

Behaviour:

We have three key values in Auchtertyre: **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**

We encourage and expect children to follow these; if there were regular difficulties in some aspect of behaviour then parents are informed so that parents and staff can have a coordinated approach towards improvement. Our stance is that 'behaviour is communication.' For more details please access our Positive Relationships Policy [here](#) which we use in parallel with the The Highland Council's Positive Relationships Framework and Guidance https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/20086/ppr_framework_and_guidance

School uniform:

A uniform fosters a feeling of belonging which is essential to our school's ethos.

While we encourage sweatshirts and polo shirts bearing the school badge we recognize the extra cost involved and will therefore leave this at the parents' discretion.

Sweatshirts and polo shirts with the school crest can be purchased from Schoolwear Made Easy at any time.

<https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/>

We do however ask that children respect the following:

- White or navy-blue polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt
- Grey or navy-blue school trousers/shorts/skirt
- Indoor shoes which can be used for PE (please note that children without indoor shoes will be prevented from playing on the grassy areas of the playground)

PE kit:

Children will do some form of physical education for two hours every week and therefore require to keep a PE kit in school. We encourage pupils to take their PE kit home at the end of every week so that it can be washed.

We will endeavour to find a spare pair of shorts and send you a PE kit reminder, should your child forget their PE kit.

The PE kit should include:

- A plain pair of shorts or leggings
- A plain tee-shirt
- A pair of trainers – please refer to the note on indoor shoes

All clothing should be labelled with the pupil's name and P.E. clothing should be brought to school in a separate bag. Pupils should not come to school dressed in gym clothes or to leave them on after their P.E. lesson.

Children whose parents are in receipt of Income Support/ Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance or Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) may be entitled to help with school uniform. Further information can be obtained from the Head Teacher.

Health Promoting School

As a Health Promoting school we also encourage pupils, staff and parents to think about healthier lifestyles. Healthy living is a regular topic in classes.

As a school, we take part in health promotion activities such as the Daily Mile where staff and pupils alike endeavour to cover a mile in 10 minutes, 10 minutes hula hooping or 10 minutes skipping – every day weather permitting. This teaches all that with application and dedication, one can improve skill, stamina and endurance.

We value all the activities that make up a healthy and happy community.

School Meals

School Meals cost £2.40. You can access the menus on The Highland Council website [here](#) or by checking the [school website](#). If a pupil has special dietary needs, please inform the school.

Free meals can be claimed in 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

Medical and Health Care:

Administration of Medicines

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If your child requires medication, please note that this will only be administered by staff when there is clear **written** guidance from a parent/carer, using the "REQUEST FOR SCHOOL TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION" form which asks for:

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

Minor injuries

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

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 – the head teacher in primary school. There is a website managed by Highland Council that supports a variety of information relating to mental health and emotional wellbeing that can be accessed [here](#). Schools have access to Highland Council's Primary Mental Health Worker Service and consultation and advice may be sought if there are concerns that might require more targeted support. Counselling is also available for all pupils from age 10. Information on your school's service can be accessed from your child's guidance teacher. Alternately, there is a completely confidential, online counselling service called Kooth for children and young people from age 10 that can be accessed [here](#). Parents would generally be involved in discussions beforehand, however a young person over the age of 12 can ask for support themselves.



Having two trained staff in school, we endeavour to run Seasons for Growth twice a year to support children and provide them with the skills and knowledge to adapt to change, loss or grief.

School Transport

Transport is provided for children in our catchment area who live over 3 miles from school, and for those under 8 years who live over 2 miles from school.

Transport may be provided to pupils on a privilege (non-entitled) basis to pupils who do not qualify for transport entitlement, if spaces are available on existing transport. There is a charge for privilege transport provision

Children may not travel on the conveyance unless they are on the official list. The contractors have been instructed by the Education Department to refuse requests for any informal arrangements. Children from out with our catchment area have no entitlement to transport. Children must wear seatbelts and behave sensibly at all times.

Transport application forms may be obtained online [here](#).

The good behaviour of pupils travelling on school buses is paramount to safety. Pupils, who misbehave and so endanger the lives of other pupils, may be denied school transport.

Please note that transport is not a school responsibility and any queries should be addressed to the Transport Development Officer, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, or public.transport@highland.gov.uk

Adverse Weather – School Closures

The previous dial-in phone service to inform parents of school closures has been withdrawn by Vodaphone. Instead parents can obtain information on the Highland Council school closures webpage <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

School staff will post a message on our Facebook Page  and will phone parents/carers who do not have access to Facebook.

Local radio stations issue news and weather bulletins on traffic conditions and school closures. Parents are advised to remain “tuned in” to ongoing road weather, or school information updates.

In extreme conditions Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions, usually on the hour, to carry emergency bulletins.

Guidelines for Parents on Travel

It is the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Council encourages full attendance at school but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important.

School Transport during Adverse Weather

For pupils using school transport:

Parents should note that the final decision on whether it is safe to operate rests with the driver of the school transport vehicle. Therefore, there may be occasions on which a school is open but some routes, or parts of routes, are unable to operate.

Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick-up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal “pick-up” time.

Morning journeys may be delayed by an hour if road conditions are unsafe at the normal journey time but have improved within the hour. Before pupils return to a pick up point parents should check the schools telephone information line for updated messages from their schools Head teacher. Please note that for some routes the transport operator may contact the parent directly. Drivers are advised not to drop off children where there is a risk that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. This may involve children being taken to an alternative place of safety, agreed in consultation with the school.

Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at “drop-off” points, they should contact the school as early as possible.

Emergency Planning

Each school is required to prepare a plan of the action to be taken if a school building has to be evacuated in the event of a major emergency. The emergency plan requires taking account of all fire drill procedures and security provisions.

Plans in the event of a major emergency are available in school.

Parental Involvement

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. We always welcome parental interest in the welfare of our pupils. Whatever the nature of the issue, you can be assured of our help. The school works very hard to keep parents informed regarding their child's progress and any key decisions being made about their education. This includes:

- Parents' evenings
- Progress checks
- Target Setting

The support of parents in their children's education is key to the success of young people. Taking time with them, discussing work, practising language, helping them manage their homework and encouraging responsibility are important ways of supporting children's learning. To share our practice with families we hold a number of [Family Learning](#) activities every session. During these events, parents and other members of the family can join their children and cooperate with them to solve some activities planned and led by school staff, so to have a further insight as to how we approach activities.

The school always seek to involve parents in any key decisions about their child's education and keep parents informed about progress.

Parental information is obtained from questionnaires issued regularly at Parents' evenings and from Parent Forums.

Parent Forum and the Parent Council

All parents with a child in Auchtertyre primary school or nursery are members of the Parent Forum and can have their views shared through the Parent Council.

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected to represent all parents of children at the school. Any parent who wishes to raise an issue for the Parent Council to consider can do so by contacting the Parent Council Chair on Auchtertyreprimarypc@gmail.com.

As a member of the parent forum, you have an important role to play. You'll find useful information for parents and how to get involved in your child's education, how to support the school, information on curriculum developments in the Highland Council: [Parent Forum Presentation](#) and at Parentzone: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

Transition To and From Primary School

Nursery pupils who are enrolled to attend Auchtertyre Primary will have various opportunities to visit the school prior to the start of P1. Teaching staff collaborate with Early Years Practitioners to best plan a smooth transition programme. Developmental Overviews and Learning Journals are passed on to the school from whichever nursery the pupil has attended. There are also information meetings, early on in Term 1, for parents of P1 children.

P7 pupils from Auchtertyre Primary will normally transfer to Plockton High School. All P7 pupils receive a Plockton High School Prospectus in February which provides lots of information.

During the third term, a support teacher from the High School will visit the school and meet the children who are due to transfer. At this time, pupils will be given a list of their subjects, class group and other information about the school. In the fourth term, P7 pupils will spend a week at Plockton, following a timetable and helping to allay any fears and misgivings. The P7 pupils will travel on the Plockton High School bus during the designated week and no charge is made. Primary staff will meet with High School staff to pass on information about pupils, especially those with particular needs, so that any necessary arrangements can be in place at the start of term. There are also extended transition experiences organised for pupils on a needs-based basis. Several cultural and sporting events are held throughout the year at Plockton High School which include P7's from all the feeder schools. This allows pupils a chance to get to know their future classmates.

Plockton High School

Rector: Ms. Jo Scott-Moncrieff Tel No: 01599 530800

Additional Support for Learning

Class/Subject teachers, in conjunction with Additional Support Needs Teachers monitor the progress of pupils with additional support. The needs of such pupils are generally catered for within the normal curriculum but with specialist advice and support as required. If necessary, a child's plan may be put in place to help plan, organise, monitor and regularly review a child's progress. Parents and pupils will be involved in these procedures and in reviews. More information can be found about the Highland Council model for support and child's plans at:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/230/highland_practice_model

Sometimes a Children's Service Worker will be involved in supporting a child. A **Children's Service Worker** is often based at the school and will generally focus on more social and emotional needs rather than issues about the curriculum or classroom learning. They:

- work in collaboration with the support team in school
- work to support families in their own communities
- work with individual pupils and small groups - offering a further level of support

Parents/Carers will always be involved in discussions about any additional support being suggested for their child and any need that may be identified within the school.

Highland Council would seek to work in partnership with parents at all times, but sometimes you will have a concern that you don't feel is being addressed, or will want to talk to someone out with the school. Should you have any concerns that your child's additional needs are not being met, you should contact the Head Teacher. If your concerns continue, there are a number of means of resolving difficulties and disputes and information on this can be found at:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools - additional support needs/1/support for learners](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/1/support_for_learners)

There is also information from organisations specified by Scottish Ministers which provide advice, 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

Further points, support and information can be found on the Thriving Families website:
<https://thrivingfamilies.org.uk/>

Safeguarding and Child Protection:

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

In terms of Highland Child Protection Committee Inter-agency Protection Guidelines, Education Service staff must report such incidents to Social Work Services which can lead to a joint Social Work/Police investigation.

All agencies involved in Child Protection are obliged to make the welfare of children their paramount consideration and this will be the priority for Education Service staff.

Copies of Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Guidelines are available online at <https://hcpc.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Highland-Child-Protection-and-GIRFEC-Guidance-2024-FINAL.pdf>

Recording a concern:

Parents or members of the community who have a concern about a child/children should contact the **Head Teacher** who as the '**Named Person**' will take the necessary steps. Parents or members of the community can also reach to Parentline helpline for further information and advice:

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

and also for contact details:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare_and_family_care/438/child_protection

Military Families

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

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

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

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

A Welcome to Your Children and Young People

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

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

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

Your data protection rights:

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. The Data Protection Act 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.

School Data

Access to Pupil Records

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

Data Protection Legislation

Information on pupils, 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>.

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

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

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.

Comments and Complaints Procedure

We hope you will enjoy your child's time at Auchtertyre Primary School and we welcome comments and suggestions which will improve our service. It is hoped that parents will have little or no reason to complain about either the standard of the education offered or the manner in which it is taught.

On occasions parents may feel that they would like to discuss some matter regarding their child's education more thoroughly with either the class teacher or the Head Teacher. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment – please contact the School Office in order that a suitable time may be found for both parties.

In the unlikely case of a failure to solve a problem, parents have the right to pursue the matter by contacting Mhairi MacDonald, Area Education and Learning Manager at The Area Education Office, Fingal Centre, Viewfield Rd, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9ET, Tel: 07918 842021