

Newton Park Primary School and ELC Handbook 2025/26



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Head Teacher

Laura Harper

School and ELC roll – 358 (Nov 2024)

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Newton Park serves the area of Wick, south of the river. It was established in August 2016 and moved to a new campus, shared with Wick High School and community facilities, in April 2017. There are currently 297 pupils in P1-7 and 61 in the Early Learning and Childcare Centre. The school is non-denominational and caters for both boys and girls. The Early Learning and Childcare Centre caters for children from age 3 until they start school.

The building is on one and a half floors with the primary entrance on the single storey section at the east side of the building. The ELCC has two rooms and a kitchen and has its own entrance adjacent to the school entrance. The primary has 13 classrooms, one expressive arts room and three break-out areas as well as small additional support rooms, reception, offices, staffroom and a large hall. We also have excellent facilities for our Enhanced Provision with a classroom, play area, dining room and kitchen, multi-sensory room, therapy room and laundry.

Our grounds consist of a small car park for nursery parents and visitors and a drop off zone for everyone; a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area); a garden with 20 raised vegetable beds; a poly tunnel; a wildlife area and a sports pitch. Fixed adventure equipment has been installed in the main playground.

School and Early Learning Childcare Centre Hours

Primary 1-3 day: The day starts at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 2:30 p.m. Break is 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. and lunch is from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

Primary 4 day: The day starts at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 3:00 p.m. Break is 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. and lunch is from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

Primary 5-7 day: The day starts at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 3:00 p.m. Break is 10:50 to 11:05 a.m. and lunch is from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m.

The Early Learning and Childcare Centre is currently open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day.

Term Dates

These can be found on the Highland Council website:

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

School Security

Pupils may enter the school playground by either gate. Parents and other adults are asked not to enter the school playground, but to leave their child at the school gate. For security, the school gates are locked at 9.20 a.m. and unlocked just before the end of the school day at 2.25 p.m.

If children are going home at lunchtime they should leave the school by the main Primary School door at Reception and return this way. There is no exit or entry through the High School at lunchtime and, as the bottom gate is locked, there is no way into the building from the Campus Car Park.

Pupils leaving at the end of the day are reminded to come back into the school for help if no one arrives to collect them.

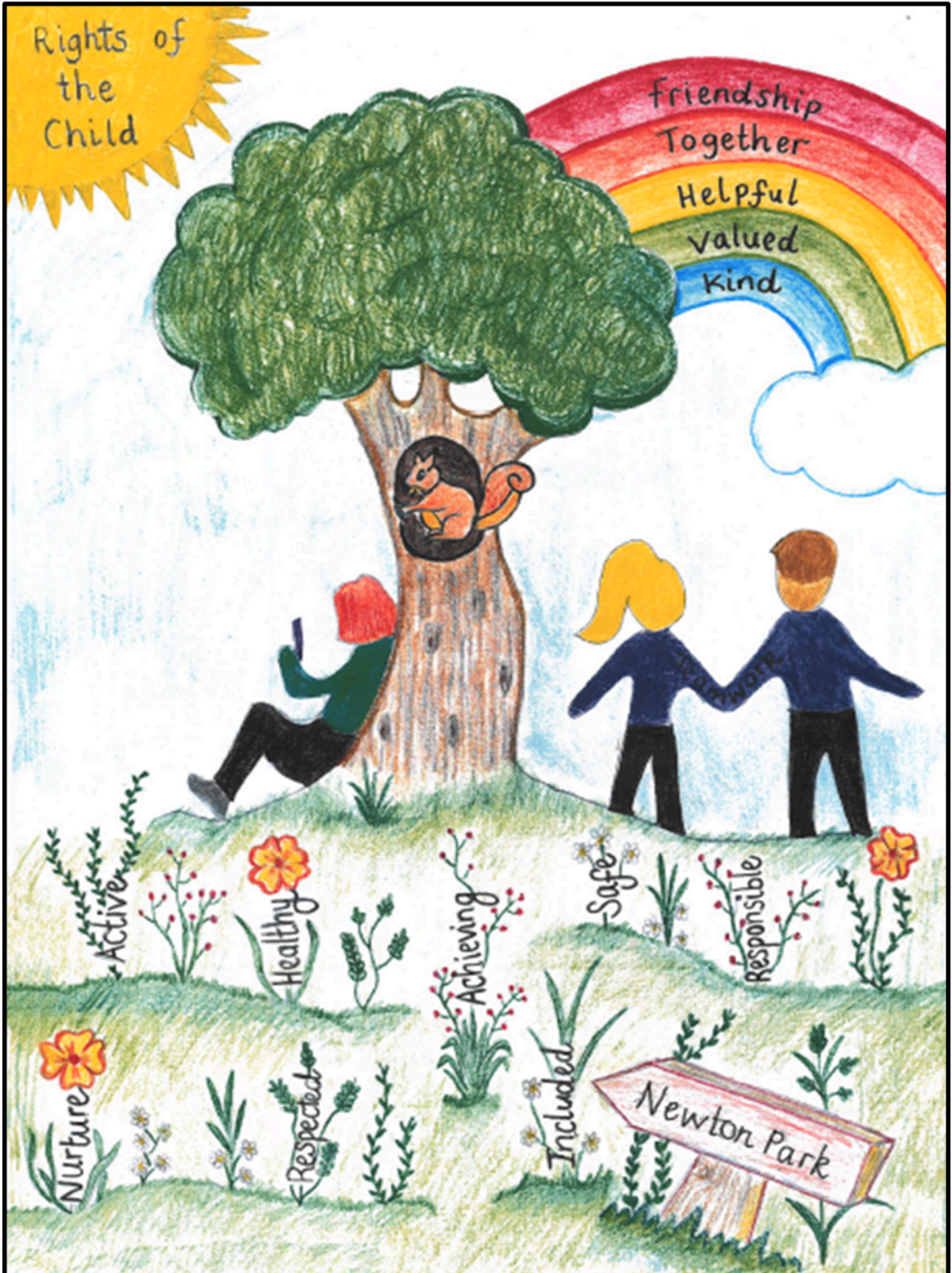
Children are requested to leave the school grounds at the end of the school day at 2:30 / 3:00 p.m. School gates are locked again at 4.00 p.m. for overnight security.

Newton Park Staff - Current session

Head Teacher	Mrs L Harper
Depute Head Teachers	Ms D MacBeath and Miss V Bremner
Principal Teacher	Mrs E Sutherland
Clerical Assistants	Mrs K Cook and Mrs V Mackenzie
Additional Support Teacher	Mrs C Fisher
Primary 1	Mrs K Henstridge (2 days) and Mrs L Forsyth (3 days)
Primary 1/2	Mrs S Thomson (4 days) and Mrs K Sutherland (1 day)
Primary 2	Mrs R Shuttleworth
Primary 2/3	Mrs A Swanson (3 days) and Miss C Crow (2 days)
Primary 3/4p	Mrs C Tait (2 days) and Mrs E Sutherland (3 days)
Primary 3/4j	Mrs V Mackay (2 days) and Mrs E Sutherland (3 days)
Primary 5	Mr A Clarke (3 days) and Mrs C Munro (2 days)
Primary 5/6	Mrs M Foubister
Primary 6	Mrs F Ferrier
Primary 6/7	Miss N MacLeod (Probationer) and Mrs A Anderson
Primary 7	Mr C Cormack
CCR	Mrs C Crow and Mrs A Anderson
Enhanced Provision	Mr K Farmer (3 days) and Mr A Clarke (2 days)
ELCC - Graduate Post	Mrs H Sutherland
ELCC - Senior EYP	Miss K Huggins
ELCC EYP's	Mrs L Duncan, Mrs A Foubister, Mrs M Mathieson, Mrs L Miller, Mrs M Miller, Mrs K Sinclair, Mrs S Steven, Mrs Z Sutherland, Mrs V Watt
ELC Support Workers	Mrs A Banks, Miss F Sinclair, Miss E Campbell
Family Link Worker	Mrs M Sinclair
Pupil Support Worker	Ms C Price
Pupil Support Assistants	Mrs J Bain, Mrs M Bremner, Mrs S Graham, Mrs F Gunn, Mrs E Malcolm, Mrs B Marriott, Mrs C Muffett, Mrs K McAdie, Mrs N Anderson, Miss C Miller, Miss M Waring
Pupil Support Assistants (PEF funded)	Mrs L Gunn, Miss E Hamilton, Miss S Levack
Road Crossing Patroller	Mrs N Polson

OUR SCHOOL VISION

During Session 23-24, the school community developed a vision which was created through using the school badge, so all children could understand what the vision of Newton Park is.



OUR SCHOOL VALUES and AIMS

We...

- ★ believe our school is best when there is mutual respect between everyone in the school community.
- ★ aim to provide a secure, safe, calm, positive, purposeful and inclusive environment where our pupils will develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and others.
- ★ aim to create an atmosphere of equality where everyone feels welcomed, valued and is treated fairly.
- ★ believe that the promotion of good behaviour, self-respect and respect for others is fundamental to children's learning.
- ★ aim to create an enriching environment that stimulates learning, whilst being calm, positive and organised.
- ★ believe children thrive on nurture, praise and success. These are all vital to build self-esteem and support each child to reach their full potential.
- ★ believe that having high expectations of pupils raises their attainment and self-esteem and we encourage all children to have high expectations for themselves, both at home and at school.
- ★ encourage all children to understand their rights and respect the rights of others.
- ★ believe every adult should support the social and emotional development of pupils.

Our school values are based on Rights Respecting Schools - Newton Park was very proud to be awarded Silver Accreditation in September 2023. (UNCRC)



We ensure that all children are familiar with the principles of SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included; regularly collating pupil voice around each of these.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Newton Park is a nurturing school, with our Nurture Policy embedded from Nursery to Primary 7. This policy is available on the Newton Park website:

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

Treating others with respect is the message we teach in school. The school was accredited as a Silver Rights Respecting School in September 2023.

Staff understand the importance of health and wellbeing and ensure children's health and wellbeing needs are met. Our Family Link Worker supports wellbeing and behaviour discussions and works with children to identify positive changes.

Bullying, including cyber bullying and any type of racism will not be tolerated in any form in Newton Park. All reports of bullying or racism will be investigated and parents of children involved will be notified. We follow Highland Council's Positive Relationships and Bullying Prevention Policy and Guidance:

[Policies and guidance - support for learners | Anti Bullying](#)

On our school website, you will also find policies which are key in sharing the aspirations and values of the school. This includes our Equality and Diversity Policy and our Nurture Policy.

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

For further information regarding Equality and Inclusion, please see links below:

[Support for Learners Website](#)

[Equal opportunities | The Highland Council](#)

[Presumption to provide education in a mainstream setting: guidance - gov.scot](#)

In summary, our activities in school 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](#).

ENROLMENT IN SCHOOL and EARLY LEARNING CHILDCARE CENTRE (ELCC)

Information and enrolment forms for starting Primary 1 or for our ELCC can be found at www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment. To enrol at any other time for any age group, telephone the school office to arrange a suitable appointment. Pupils whose homes are located in the school catchment area will have priority in being allocated a place.

Pupils in the ELCC are entitled to 1140 hours of childcare per year. This can be split between two or more Childcare providers but you must let each provider know you are splitting the time.

Placing requests:

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 interim Area Education and Learning Manager, Mhairi.MacDonald3@highland.gov.uk

Placing request applications are made online at:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/887/enrol_your_child_for_school/2

Transportation to and from school, for placing request pupils, is a parental responsibility.

If pupils live out with the school catchment area and their parents wish them to attend Newton Park Primary School, they can contact the school office 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.

If you move out of the catchment area once your child has started school, you must then make a placing request for your child to remain in the school if this is your preference. Office staff will advise you about what to do when you inform them of your change of address.

Transport to and from school, for placing request pupils, is a parental responsibility.

For the ELCC, pupils who reside outside the catchment area will be granted places if space exists, however, even if your child is in the ELCC, they are not guaranteed a place in the school and you must still complete the placing request process when they enrol for Primary 1.

PUPIL ABSENCE OR SICKNESS PROCEDURE

Good attendance is vital if pupils are to achieve their full potential. However, if a pupil is absent from school, a parent or guardian should phone the school on the first day of absence giving the reason for this absence and the likelihood of the duration. In the event that a pupil is not able to return as expected then a subsequent call is required.

The Absence telephone number is **01955 609703**. Please speak clearly and give your child's name, class, reason for absence and the expected length of the absence. This should be done by 9.15 each morning, or an hour before their expected start time for pupils in the ELCC.

If a pupil needs to leave during the school day for an appointment, parents should inform the school either in writing or using the number above or the school phone number of 01955 609702. Primary school pupils must be collected from the school office. For those in the ELCC, parents should inform staff when they bring their child at the start of their session, giving the time of collection and the reason for it.

If pupils fall ill during the school day, parents are contacted so they can collect their child, therefore it is essential that we have up to date daytime contact numbers and the emergency contact numbers for all pupils.

Schools are required to keep an attendance register by law. We have a responsibility for the care and welfare of all pupils during the school day and therefore need to know the whereabouts of absent pupils. We will also keep you informed as to your child's current attendance levels - sending out letters if your child's attendance falls below 80%.

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 significant loss of 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;
- will affect school attendance records and efforts to raise standards of attendance;
- under the guidance issued at national level, most family holidays will be coded as unauthorised absence; only in exceptional circumstances will the absence be recorded as authorised.

Parents are asked to consider these points when making decisions on planning a holiday during term time. Please find a link to the term dates on the Highland Council website to aid you in planning any holidays you may be considering. If parents decide to make holiday arrangements during school term, this should be confirmed in writing to the Headteacher.

[School term dates | The Highland Council](#)

UPDATING INFORMATION ABOUT PUPILS

Each year in late August, office staff distribute a copy of the information held on our SEEMiS system to all parents and ask them to check and update this with any changes so that we can keep information up to date. We would also ask that parents notify us of any changes to address, telephone numbers, significant home circumstances which may affect a child in school and any changes to medical conditions when they occur. It is in children's best interest to have this information up to date at all times.

CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

If you are concerned about your child's learning, you should contact their class teacher in the first instance. This can be done using Dojo or by writing them a note. The teacher will arrange a short appointment, usually at the end of the day, where you can talk this over and share a way forward. If the concern persists, then the Additional Support Procedures will be followed.

If you have any complaint about anything pertaining to the school, please contact the school office and this will be passed to the Senior Management Team. You can do this in writing, by telephone or in person, but please call to make an appointment first if you can. The school will always endeavour to resolve issues by listening to parents and seeking solutions in partnership. Should a situation not be resolved, parents can contact the Area Education Manager, North Area Care and Learning Office, Drummie, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6TA.

For children in ELCC, complaints can also be raised with the Care Inspectorate at www.careinspectorate.com/

There is also considerable help and support for parents on Parentline which can be found using this link - www.children1st.org.uk/help-for-families/parentline-scotland/

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

CHILDREN'S PROPERTY

Clothing for School

Children in the primary school are expected to wear school uniform every day. Uniform can be ordered from Border Embroideries – www.border-embroideries.co.uk/ or Highland Workwear - www.highlandworkwear.uk/. Prices are available on these sites.

Free uniform is also available from our local Uniform Bank - details can be found on facebook through looking up Newton Park Uniform (Yvonne Graham).

There is uniform available for our ELCC and many choose to wear this as it gives them a sense of belonging, but it is not compulsory for pre-school children. Very young children learn by discovery and this can be a messy business, so it is probably wise not to wear 'best' clothes to nursery.

Outdoor Clothing

Please provide children with a jacket/coat which is waterproof and warm as the children are outside during the day.

Pupils in the ELCC will go out to play in all weathers so it is important that they also come suitably dressed – waterproof suits are provided by the ELCC but children can still get wet and muddy with these on.

PE Kit

Shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes are required for PE and should be available every day in case timetable changes are required at short notice.

Indoor shoes

The school is almost entirely carpeted and in order to keep this clean and dry, children are requested to change from outdoor to indoor shoes when they come into school. These can be the same shoes which are used as part of their PE kit.

For pupils in the ELCC we ask that they change into indoor shoes before they go into the classrooms. Gym shoes that are easy to put on are recommended as this helps children develop their independence skills.

Change of clothing

Pupils in the ELCC and the early stages of primary school should have a change of clothes in their tray / bag in case of 'accidents' as they much prefer to change into their own clothing if necessary.

Naming of Property

It is vitally important that all children's property is named. If property is named, staff will try to trace it if it goes missing. Please name clothes, jackets, shoes, indoor shoes, packed lunch boxes and gym kits.

Water bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them to school each day – it is important that this is only used for water as children will be drinking from it throughout the day. All new pupils are given a water bottle in their 'House' colour. Pupils in the ELCC have free access to water throughout the day.

Homework Sacs

Children will be given a purple homework sac on enrolment to school. This should be used to keep reading books and any other activities or notes to be taken home.

Phones

We have a 'no phones' policy. Primary aged pupils are not allowed to use phones during the school day, but if they need one after school, then the phone should be handed in to the class teacher at the start of the day for safekeeping and collected at the end of the school day. If a parent needs to contact a child during the school day, this should be done through the school office.

PARENTS / GUARDIANS / CARERS AS PARTNERS

We believe that much of the strength of the school lies in the positive relationships between staff, pupils and their parents / carers. 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:

Class Dojo allows parents and teachers to communicate directly and is used by most parents to keep up to date with their child's progress and to ask quick questions. Teachers use this to share the learning of children with their families as well as let parents know of upcoming events and school news.

Pupil Profiles show children's progress in their learning with sections for All About Me; Personal Learning Targets and Evaluations; Skills for Learning, Life and Work; Health and Wellbeing; Literacy; Numeracy and Mathematics; IDL (Interdisciplinary Learning) and the Wider Curriculum; My Personal Choice. Parents are encouraged to review these regularly with their child when they come to family learning sessions throughout the year or they can ask to see them anytime.

High Quality Assessments (HQA's) show key pieces of assessment which include the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria of a piece of work as well as recording comments by the pupil, teacher and parent.

Shared Learning Opportunities – every term there are opportunities for parents to come into school and share in their child's learning either during the afternoon or in the evening. In the ELCC there are regular 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents to participate in their child's learning.

A Summary Report is issued at the end of the school year. It is a short report which summarises all the information in the Pupil's Profile.

Early Learning and Childcare Centre – parents have opportunity for daily contact with staff and may review their child's Learning Profile at any time. This is kept in a slightly different way to the primary pupil profile, to reflect the age of the pupils. It includes anecdotal and focused observations, staff and pupil comments, photographs and pupil work.

Parent / Carer Voice

There are many ways parents can share the wider learning and get involved in what is happening in the school.

School News – the school uses Class Dojo to communicate regularly with families. Messages about school and wider community events will be posted on School Story for all families to see.

Parent Council and Parent Forum - All parents, who have a child in Newton Park Primary or ELCC, are part of the Parent Forum and are invited to attend the AGM held each year. The Parent Council is elected from this body and meets regularly throughout the year. If you wish to raise something with the Parent Council, you can contact them using the email address NewtonPark.Primary@highlandpc.co.uk or access the Newton Park Primary School PC facebook page.

Parent Helpers are welcomed to support Parent Council organised events and a wide range of other activities run in the school.

School Website - www.newtonparkprimary.wordpress.com is updated regularly and gives information for parents; celebrates successes; posts photographs of things happening in the school; and provides links to websites which parents may find useful and informative.

Excursions - Opportunities are provided for pupils to take part in as many excursions as possible as part of their education. All excursions are Risk Assessed in advance. Parents are sent details of local excursions and for longer trips, permission return slips are issued. Excursions include a Primary 7 residential to an outdoor centre, visits to Newton Room in Thurso for STEM activities and participation in local events such as the Caithness Music Festival.

Parent / Carer's Opinions – We regularly try to gather information from parents about the quality of our service, by sending home short questionnaires. We also seek your opinion on matters in discussions with your representatives on the Parent Council.

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.

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

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

THE CURRICULUM

A Curriculum for Excellence is based on the values of -

Wisdom

Justice

Compassion

Integrity

and the purposes of ensuring pupils become -

Successful learners

Confident individuals

Responsible citizens

Effective contributors

It is based on the Seven Principles and Eight Curricular Areas

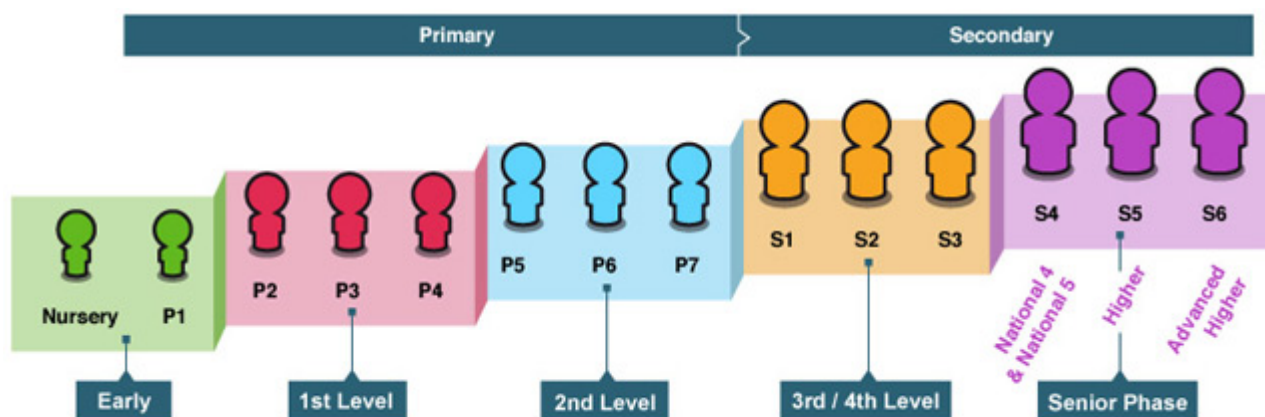
All learning must take account of these principles:

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

The Eight Curriculum Areas:

- Expressive Arts - Art, Drama, Music and Dance
- Health and Wellbeing - Personal, social and emotional health. Also PE.
- Literacy and English - Communicating with others, Reading, Writing and Modern Languages
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Religious and Moral Education - religions, values and beliefs
- Sciences - understanding our planet
- Social Studies - Scotland and the World; past, present and future
- Technologies - Food, Design and Computing

Progress level are banded as follows –



Crossing all curricular areas, we try to give the children the skills they need for **Learning, Life and Work**

These include the **Higher Order Thinking Skills** of Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analysing, Evaluating and Creating.

We also work to develop children's **Personal, Interpersonal, Employability, Leadership, Self-management and Co-operation Skills**.

You can find out more about Curriculum for Excellence using the Parentzone link - <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

When we plan to teach sensitive aspects of learning such as health related topics including relationships, sexual health, parenthood and drugs awareness, we will inform parents in advance using the usual classroom communication methods. We also engage with our Parent Council to ensure that curriculum development is discussed and transparent - it is important that our parents know what the learning looks like for our children at different stages of the school.

Religious Observance – Special arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in religious observance.

We try our best to make use of the outdoor and local environment as much as possible within the scope of our funding for travel. We welcome visitors into the school to enrich our curriculum.



In P7 we offer the pupils an opportunity to participate in a residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre where the emphasis is on team building and adventurous activities.

We strive to provide opportunities across the school for wider learning.



Examples include:

- fundraising days such as Children in Need.
- visiting the Newton Rooms in Thurso for STEM activities.
- Wellbeing days such as Mellow Yellow with recognition of achievements for pupils.
- participation in Feis music activities
- Volunteers / Parents running clubs such as Craft Club, Dodgeball and Badminton.
- Wider opportunities including links with High Life Highland.



ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

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

Class teachers assess learning on a continuous basis. This assessment process is used as an evaluative, diagnostic and formative tool to provide evidence of pupil attainment and progress and to inform learning and teaching and pupil targets.

We use High Quality Assessments periodically throughout the year which

- ❖ **demonstrate breadth of learning** which requires the learner to draw on a range of learning from a number of Experiences and Outcomes across different organisers
- ❖ **demonstrate challenge** which promote higher order thinking skills
- ❖ **demonstrate application** of learning in new and unfamiliar situations.

Pupils should use the assessment process to motivate them in their learning within a supportive environment. This should inform next steps for the improvement of their own learning. Children are fully involved in self-assessment of their work and reflect on this in regular learning conversations with their teacher and parent and by ensuring their Profiles are kept up to date.

Further information is available:- [Highland Curriculum for Excellence information](#)

Children in P1, P4 and P7 undertake the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). For further information, see the website

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

We are continually reporting to you throughout the year about your child's learning and progress, and providing opportunities to review their learning and we will also issue a short summary report in June each year.

The open sessions we provide throughout the year are for sharing your child's learning with them and talking to the teacher about this learning. If you have any concerns about their progress, you can contact the class teacher for a meeting at any time.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING (ASL)

Class teachers, in conjunction with the Additional Support Needs Teacher 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:

[Highland Practice Model - delivering additional support for learners](#)

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

[Support for Learners Website](#)

For young people with severe and complex needs, we have an Enhanced Provision as part of our school campus. Applications for this specialist provision can be made to the Caithness Admissions Group, through your child's Named Person or Lead Professional.

As part of our school staff, we are extremely fortunate to have our own Family Link Worker, funded through Pupil Equity Funding. Mrs Sinclair works with children across the school with a particular focus on social and emotional support, helping to ensure our children are more ready to learn. The support she provides is not only for the pupils within our school, but for our families too.

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.

[HCPC Child Protection & GIRFEC Guidance 2024](#)

Highland Council would seek to work in partnership with parents at all times, but sometimes you may have a concern that you don't feel is being addressed, or will want to talk to someone out with the school. Should you have any concerns that your child's additional needs are not being met, you should contact your child's Named Person in the first instance, Mrs L Harper, Head Teacher for school pupils and your Health Visitor for children in the ELCC.

If your concerns continue, there are a number of means of resolving difficulties and disputes and information on this can be found at:

[Additional support for learning | The Highland Council](#)

There are links included below for further information and support for parents of children and young people with ASN:

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

It is important that every school continues to make improvements in the quality of educational experiences they provide for their pupils. These priorities are based on National Advice, Local Priorities and the school's own need. Each year we write a School Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan, which summarises this information and provides us with a number of targets to meet. All developments are relevant to the primary school and the ELCC. You can see the full documents on our school website at:

<https://newtonparkprimary.wordpress.com/parent-information/>

Our priorities continue to be supported financially by Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). This money continues to provide additional Pupil Support Assistant time and our Family Link Worker.

Our attainment in the core areas is measured by the % of children attaining a level in P1, P4 and P7.

Subject	% attaining the level in 22-23	% attaining the level in 23-24
Reading	72%	76%
Writing	69%	75%
Listening & Talking	88%	89%
Numeracy	73%	74%

Our SNSA results show results achieved in 2023 and 2024. Table shows % of pupils who completed the National Assessments and attained medium or high bands.

Subject	P1 22-23	P1 23-24	P4 22-23	P4 23-24	P7 22-23	P7 23-24
Reading	96%	97.5%	83%	83%	93%	93.5%
Writing			86%	71%	85%	78%
Numeracy	100%	95%	82%	73%	88%	82.5%

Our assessment data shows high levels of attainment within our standardised assessments. Following Writing being on our School Improvement Plan last session, we are starting to see an improvement in results - this is an area that we are continuing to develop through our School Improvement Plan in Session 24-25.

More statistical information about the school can be found on

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

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

Our School Improvement Plan for Session 24-25

Newton Park Primary School

School Improvement Plan
2024-25



DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Last year we developed Digital Profiles for every P6 and P7 pupil. This year we are going to make sure everyone is using these to help track and share learning.

We will also start to look at Digital Profiles in P5 and how we use Class Dojo Learning Profiles with all of our classes.

We will also be developing the use of Project Evolve across the school – a resource which looks at a wide range of digital learning and e-safety.



UNCRC

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Last year we got awarded the Silver Award for Rights Respecting Schools. This year we are going to work hard to try to achieve our Gold Award and make sure all the children in the school know about their Rights.



LITERACY

Last year the staff attended Stephen Graham writing training and this has helped to support writing across the school. Staff have 4 more training sessions to attend this year and we are going to create a writing programme for Newton Park to help improve writing for all.

Staff will also be undertaking Literacy for All training to support recognition of and interventions for children who display persistent literacy difficulties.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We will be looking at the SHANARRI indicators across the school and listening to pupil voice about what we are doing well and what we could be doing better.

We will be reviewing our Health and Wellbeing programme and making sure it is up to date and supports quality teaching and learning within HWB.

We will be developing a whole school nurture approach from the ELC to our P7 classes and ensuring Nurture for All within Newton Park.

TRANSITIONS

Almost all pupils make a transition each year when they move to a new teacher or stage in the Primary School. We try to ensure this is as smooth as possible by letting pupils know who their next teacher will be, whenever possible, and giving them the chance to work with this teacher for a short time before the summer.

Pupil profiles are passed on to the next teacher, along with assessment records and these provide the next teacher with the starting point for each learner.

Transition to Primary 1

For those coming into Primary 1, we have a regular programme of visits during the summer term and we begin to introduce them to other areas of the school such as the lunch hall and the large playground. As almost all children coming to P1 have attended the Early Learning and Childcare Centre, they are already familiar with most areas of the building as they use the school gym and play areas regularly throughout the year. Any pupil with additional support needs will have a transition programme tailored to meet their needs.

Transfer to Secondary Education

Most Primary 7 pupils transfer to Wick High School. Information on the levels they have attained and their detailed assessment information is shared with the High School staff during their P7 year. When required, some pupils have a short transition meeting where parents and pupil are invited to meet with relevant High School staff so that any anxieties or additional needs can be discussed. Some pupils benefit from having some focused pre-visits and these are arranged as part of the ASN transition meetings, where required.

As an Associated School Group, all feeder primaries are working with Wick High School to ensure good quality curricular information is passed on so that work can be tailored to meet the needs of the pupils. All schools work collaboratively and moderate their learning programmes.

The Guidance department usually visits our school to talk to Primary 7 pupils and teachers, providing a question and answer session. Pupils in Newton Park have the opportunity to spend a morning in Wick High to meet with some of the staff and have a look at each department. In addition to this, all P7 pupils spend two days in Wick High School in June, following their S1 timetable.

Further information can be obtained from Head Teacher, Mr Sandecki, Wick High School, Wick, Telephone 603333.

Children with significant Additional Support Needs will have a joint review of their Child's Plan along with WHS staff and an Action Plan will be written which focuses on the transition period.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

All kinds of pupil successes are celebrated in each class and as a whole school regularly. This can range from academic success in reading, writing, maths and other curricular areas; individual or team sporting success, which happens in school or in the many clubs pupils participate in; or successes in art, music or drama activities in and out of school.

We actively encourage children to participate in community and charity events.

Celebrating Success in the Classroom

Some examples include:

- ★ Positive written comments on jotters and positive oral comments given to children while they are working or participating in events.
- ★ Stickers put on children's work, on their jumpers and on their sticker charts in the class.
- ★ Certificates given when children achieve success in their learning. Children presented with these in class / assembly, given a house point and certificates then taken home.
- ★ My Personal Choice section in Pupil Profiles.
- ★ Children achieve Dojo points for good work or good behaviour in class.

Celebrating Success as a School

This is approached in three main ways; through assemblies, in displays round the school and using the school website. Pupil Support Assistants are encouraged to identify good behaviour within the playground and children can earn house tokens which are collected monthly.

Celebrating Success at Home

This is perhaps the most important celebration of all. Families can support a child's confidence in the way they celebrate their successes at home. ClassDojo reflects what is happening in the classroom and can be a good way to start discussions about your child's learning. ClassDojo also allows parents to share successes from home through using the Child Portfolio section; these achievements can then be celebrated within the classroom too and builds up communication between home and school.

PUPIL PARTICIPATION GROUPS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Pupils are encouraged to be active in the running of the school. Focus groups meet with teachers and the Senior Management Team so that pupil voice is heard. We also have a number of pupil representative groups that meet regularly and that involve parents.

Pupil Council – all classes are represented and pupils meet regularly with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Rights Respecting Schools Group - working to develop Rights Respecting Schools across the school as we aim for our Gold Award.

Equalities Group – lead learning and projects across the school.

House System – all pupils are a member of Hawk, Kestrel, Eagle or Falcon and there will be house events run all through the year. House Captains and Vice Captains support these activities and are role models for younger children.

We are currently looking to re-establish more groups, to meet the needs of the children in the school. This includes a Technology (ICT) group and a JRSO group to look at Road Safety for our pupils.

Community Partners include

- ❖ Tesco – We benefit from this community partnership, with free fruit being used to provide snacks at break for children who may need this.
- ❖ Abernethy Trust – We hold our P7 residential weekend each year at Abernethy Christian Centre.
- ❖ Scholastic and Book People – We hold Book Fairs each year.
- ❖ DYW – Developing Young Workforce organise a 'Dragon's Den' competition for P7 each year.
- ❖ High Life Highland
 - Active Schools coordinator – arranges sporting competitions and coaching sessions throughout the year
 - Swimming Pool staff give P4 and P5 pupils swimming lessons all year and support our Enhanced Provision sessions.
 - Library Staff organise activities in the library
 - Rangers – provide help and support for our wildlife area
- ❖ Science Festival – provide science development opportunities each year with a range of workshops and presenters during Science Festival week.
- ❖ Lyth Arts Centre – subsidise and organise visiting arts and drama groups.
- ❖ Caithness Toy Appeal - support families who may need at Christmas time.
- ❖ Wick Choral – choir support leading to a church performance at Christmas.
- ❖ Pulteneytown People's Project (PPP) – support our children with an after school club for social activities and meals. Pupils in our Enhanced Provision are welcomed in their café and they also provide entertainment opportunities throughout the year.
- ❖ KLICS - Support some of the Young Carers in our school community.
- ❖ Youth Club - support our children in after school care.

We also work with other community partners and presenters as opportunities arise.

PUPIL CARE, WELFARE AND SAFETY

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: [Child protection | The Highland Council](#)

Further GIRFEC and Child Protection guidance can be found through the following link:

[HCPC Child Protection & GIRFEC Guidance 2024](#)

Health Professional Involvement

A wide variety of Health Professionals work in partnership with our school. The school nurse carries out reviews, vaccinations and requested health checks. Speech Therapists work with children across our school and support children both directly and through advice for class teachers. The ELCC works closely with the Health Visitors who are the 'Named Person' for our nursery children. We also receive visits from Childsmile, who do dental checks for children across the 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. 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 class teacher / ASL teacher or Family Link Worker. Alternatively, 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.

Illness

If children catch contagious diseases such as chicken pox, it is important that school staff are informed as we have a pupil who has a compromised immune system. For advice on any exclusion period after illness, please contact the school office for advice. For sickness or diarrhoea, children should remain off school for 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Medical Conditions

It is essential that the school is kept up to date with any medical condition which may affect a child's care and welfare in school. Please let us know if your child develops any condition and inform the school if a condition no longer affects them. A medical protocol is required for any condition which needs regular medication taken in school, including inhalers for asthma, or if emergency treatment may be needed. Some medication may be kept by pupils themselves, such as inhalers for older pupils, some kept in classrooms by the class teacher for easy access and some kept in a locked cabinet in the school office for security. A record of date, time and administrator will be kept of any medication taken by a pupil in the school office.

Minor Injuries

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

Administration of Medicines

National Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Schools has been issued by the Scottish Government.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-children-young-people-healthcare-needs-schools/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Road Safety

Staff use the Street Sense Programme to teach and promote Road Safety. The crossing on South Road is well used and there is also a crossing patroller crossing the main road at the West Banks/Northcote Street junction.

Children are encouraged to walk to school whenever possible. Parents dropping off children by car can do so in the drop off zones in either the Primary Car Park at the Seaforth Avenue entrance or in the main Campus Car Park in Newton Road. Parents dropping off children to the Early Learning and Childcare Centre must use the Seaforth Avenue Car Park. Only those with disabled permits on show should use the disabled parking bays as a courtesy to all drivers.

Major Emergency Policy

We hold an emergency evacuation at least once every term to ensure all staff and pupils are aware of the procedure and follow this efficiently. In the unlikely event of a Major Emergency when the school has to be totally evacuated, staff and pupils will transfer to our identified emergency reception centre. Parents will be contacted using emergency contact details, but pupils will not be allowed to leave this centre until permission is given by the emergency services. It is crucial that you keep your emergency contact details up to date at all times.

Adverse Weather

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

This is in addition to schools' own arrangements in place for informing parents of school closures - closure will be shared through ClassDojo and on school Facebook page.

It is an enhancement to the present service and does not replace existing method of giving out information, such as radio broadcasts, described in the schools Adverse Weather Guidelines.

Further information can be found at [Adverse Weather Guidelines](#).

SERVICES AND PAYMENTS

School lunches are free to all P1-5 pupils and available to all pupils in P6-7, wishing to partake of them, currently at a cost of £2.40 per day. For further information regarding arrangements for school meals, eligibility criteria for free school meals, how to apply, and special dietary requirement form, please use the following link:

https://highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals/2

Children book lunches in their classrooms at the start of the day using the interactive whiteboard.

Further information regarding school meals and menus can be found at:

[School menus](#)

The Highland Council operates a 'Cashless catering' system - further details from:

[Pay for school meals](#)

Catering services run a tuck shop for primary pupils at break time, selling toast or bagels – current prices are published in newsletters and on the school website.

In the ELCC, a snack will be provided for the children mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Our pupils are only allowed to choose between staying in school for a school dinner / packed lunch or to go home for lunch.

Free Meals and Clothing Grants

Free meals and clothing grants 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>

School Transport

Free transport to school is available for children living within the delineated area of the school if they are under eight years of age and live over two miles from the school, or are eight years of age and over and live three miles from the school.

Forms are available from:

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

PUPIL RECORDS

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 an application to the Head Teacher.

Data Protection Legislation

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

Transferring Educational data about pupils

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils through the *Pupil Census* to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us. Further information can be obtained from

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

Data policy

Information about pupils' education is collected through 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 the 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, the Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by the 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 the Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by the 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:

[Privacy notices - Enrol your child in school or Early Learning and Childcare setting | The Highland Council](#)

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>

The 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 the 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 this 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 out with the Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

Data 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Military Families

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

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. 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 equality and equity for your Children and Young People within an educational context.

Visit the Highland Council Armed Forces Website for lots of helpful information and support for both families and Educators. The enrolment page may also be helpful.

[Armed Forces - support for families and schools | The Highland Council](#)

[Enrolment page](#)

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](#)

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

Highland Council Policies

Along with the policies shared in this Handbook, Highland council website contains further authority policies.

[Authority Policies](#)

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.

November 2024