

## The Highland Council

Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee  
11 June 2014

Agenda Item	12.
Report No	NBS/16/14

### Kingussie High School Associated School Group Overview

#### Report by Joint Director of Care and Learning Service

##### Summary

This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Kingussie High School Associated School Group (ASG), and provides useful updated links to further information in relation to these schools.

## 1.0 ASG PROFILE

The primary schools in this area serve over 500 pupils, with the secondary school serving 419 young people.

There is currently one Head Teacher vacancy in the ASG and all schools receive support through the Quality Improvement Team and the Area Office.

### 1.1 Attainment and Achievement

#### 1.1.1 Kingussie High School

[Link to Kingussie High School webpage](#)

Kingussie High School is at a time of transition. This has included a physical transition with the new extension being completed in September 2013 and significant changes to staff in the last 24 months. A new Depute Head was appointed in June 2013 and new Head Teacher appointed in October 2013. Three new principal teachers will be appointed before August 2014 as well as a number of unpromoted staff.

The school remains supported by Education Scotland following a full inspection in October 2012 and follow-through inspection in December 2013. Education Scotland is expected to carry a second follow-up inspection of the school between June and September 2015 where the school will be required to evidence significant improvements to attainment.

#### Attainment – Performance Summary

National Priority Measures

Level 7 = Advanced Higher

Level 6 = Higher

Level 5 = Standard Grade Credit / Intermediate 2

Level 4 = Standard Grade General / Intermediate 1

Level 3 = Standard Grade Foundation / Access 3

Kingussie High School has performed in line with national averages in many key areas. There are areas where it is ahead of national averages but also some important areas where it has done less well in relation to its comparator schools.

Points to note

- The percentage of pupils gaining English and Maths level 3 and 5+ level 3 awards has steadily improved over the last 5 years and is well above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils gaining 5+ level 4 awards and 5+ level 5 awards remains steady and is above the national average.
- The percentage of pupils gaining 1, 3 or 5 Highers has room for improvement.

### **By the end of S4**

The percentage of pupils gaining English and Maths at Foundation or Access 3 level has fallen slightly at 97%. This is in line with national averages and better than comparator schools over a three-year average. The school can detail the specific circumstances of the two pupils who did not achieve in this category.

The number of pupils achieving 5+ Foundation or Access 3 awards by the end of S4 requires further investigation as this figure fell from 99% last year to 92% this year and sits in the bottom 20% of schools nationally. Similarly, the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ Credit or Intermediate 2 awards sits at 33% which is below national averages.

The percentage of pupils achieving five General or Intermediate 1 awards remains above national averages though below comparator schools.

### **By the end of S5**

Awards in English and Maths at level 3 and those achieving 5+ at levels 4 and 5 remain in line with or above national averages.

With regard to performance at 3+ and 5+ Highers, attainment at Kingussie High is in line with national averages but below that of comparator schools.

### **By the end of S6**

The percentage of pupils gaining English and Maths at Foundation or Access 3 level sits at 99% and remains ahead of comparator schools.

The percentage of pupils gaining 5+ awards at Standard Grade General or Intermediate 1 remains steady and is above the national averages while figures for Standard Grade Credit or Intermediate 2 remain steady and in line with national averages.

The percentage of pupils gaining 1+, 3+ or 5+ Highers by the time they leave school remains a concern and is below national averages and comparator schools.

The percentage of pupils gaining at least one award at Advanced Higher is well below national averages. The numbers presented are low so one pupil makes a big difference to the percentage and these figures should be viewed with caution.

Overall the picture for Kingussie High School is mixed. The new Senior Management Team and Quality Improvement Officer are challenging and supporting staff and pupils to bring about improvement in all areas.

Analysis of the exam results shows that boys tend to be doing well/very well while girls are doing significantly less well than expected both in school and national terms across S4-S6. The school recognises this discrepancy and will be using a number of strategies to bring about improvement. Assessment for Excellence data will be used to give sharper focus to tracking and target setting with all pupils. Support for Pupils will keep this as an area of focus and the Senior Leadership Team are planning the introduction of a girls' support group.

Better use will be made of Assessment for Excellence data and Unified Points Scores to set challenging but achievable targets for pupils and departments. A more robust system to monitor progress throughout the year is being developed. There is a real emphasis on raising aspirations through motivational assemblies and learning conversations in tutor time. The improvement agenda is also now a standing item on departmental meeting agendas.

As the school progresses its monitoring and tracking systems for the Broad General Education and the new National qualifications, it is hoped that pupil attainment will improve. The school's new self-evaluation structure will check on this progress throughout the year. The education authority's Quality Improvement Team will continue to engage with the school to monitor and support the improvement agenda.

### **1.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes**

#### **Secondary – Kingussie High School**

Particular successes from the December 2013 Inspection Report:

- Young people report a more positive ethos around the school. They value the improvement in dress code and behaviour.
- House groups have been re-established. As a result, young people have a fuller sense of community.
- The school has increased the pupil voice to enable young people to give more feedback on the quality of their learning experiences.
- Across staff and young people there is now a shared understanding of the key features of an excellent lesson. High profile expectations are further communicated with a poster in all classrooms across the school.
- The school continues to strengthen its links with a school in Malawi. Young people are proud of their work to support those less fortunate.
- The school is recognising young people's achievements regularly and more widely across the community through newsletters, revised websites, etc.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and Saltire Awards are now available to young people in the school.
- Young people report an increase in the range of opportunities for wider achievement.

Kingussie High School continues to celebrate wider achievement including these recent examples:

- Re-establishment of the Christmas Concert (December 2013) and School Show (June 2014).
- Participation in 'Rock Challenge'.
- Kirsty MacKintosh, Rhona Convery, Samuel Appleby, Caitlin Holmes, Heather Kellie, Ellie Tait, Hannah Robertson and Iona Wright represented the school in the Highland Youth Music Festival at the end of November.
- Kirsty Adam, Samuel Denman, Camryn Swan and Ellie Tait (all S4) took part in the recent '*Maths in the Pipeline*' event in Inverness.
- Paulina Palugova, Agnesa Palugova and Christiana Sheffield were selected to represent Scotland in Japan with Scottish Scouts.
- S1 Geography classes continue to make exemplary use of digital technology (including Skyping with an expedition at the North Pole).
- All sports teams (in particular Football and Shinty) continue to do well.
- KHS Shinty team remain Wade Cup champions.
- Erin Watson and Dean Hargreaves are part of the RYA National Windsurfing Development Squad.
- Eilidh Robinson and Tyawra Tait Davis have been selected for the Highland U14 Hockey Team.
- Charlotte McKee achieved a gold medal in the North of Scotland Kick Boxing Championships.
- Sammy Denman and Josh Peters were selected for the North of Scotland Schools' Football Team.
- Fourteen S2 pupils took part in the Highland finals of the junior Heptathlon in Inverness. They achieved second place.
- There were recent medals in a variety of categories at the Highland Schools' Gymnastic Competition for Sofia Burnett, Jack Anderson, Ruairidh McDonald, Hannah MacIver and Hollie Gibson.
- Jack Anderson, Shannon McWhirter and Hollie Gibson have all attended and passed their Level 1 Gymnastics Coaching Award.

In charitable work Kingussie High continues to support Mary's Meals (S6 Nominated Charity) and national Events such as Children in Need and Sports Relief. This year the school has also supported the Leanne Fund (Cystic Fibrosis) and also continues to support Muloza Community Day School (Malawi) though wider work with the British Council and Malawi.

The school has an active Parent Council who have a new energy to support and fundraise for the school. The school has offered a number of information evenings for parents on Internet Safety and Responsible Use, Drugs and Alcohol Education and Curriculum Pathways.

Kingussie High School continues to develop its Partnership Work. Current partners include:

- Alvie Estate
- Caberfeidh Horizons
- Cairngorm National Park
- Cairngorms Skills Project
- Glenmore Lodge
- Hydrasun
- Highlife Highland
- Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC)

- RAF
- RSPB
- Scottish National Heritage
- Skills Development Scotland
- St. Andrews University Geo Bus

The school also engages with and is supported by a number of work experience partners.

## **Primary by school: Alvie Primary School**

### **Opportunities for Wider Achievement**

The location of the school, at the foot of the Cairngorms and Glen Feshie, is the key to its curriculum rationale. Outdoor Learning, the natural environment and links with the local community are the driving force for much of what the school does. Throughout the year the children are given a wide range of experiences and opportunities which enhance the school curriculum. Over this school session the children have enjoyed:

- Skiing with the Badenoch and Strathspey School Snowsports Association on Cairngorm.
- Watersports at Loch Insh including raft building, sailing, kayaking, canoeing and windsurfing.
- School sports teams - shinty, hockey, cross country running, gymnastics.
- P7 pupils attended a residential experience at Alltnacriche Outdoor Centre.
- Theme days - Roald Dahl Day, World Book Day, Burns Night Celebrations, Chinese New Year Event.
- A wide range of music including Kodaly, tin whistle, group Gaelic singing, Gigajam guitar and drumming tuition and fiddle tuition.
- P6/7 took part in a Play in a Day experience delivered by Eden Court and gave a performance of Beowulf for parents and P4/5.
- P6/7 visited the local war memorial as part of research into World War 1. They submitted their research of local servicemen and women to the online Imperial War Museum data bank. They entered the Royal British Legion WW1 Schools Competition, sending a power point presentation detailing information about soldiers and other service personnel from Kincaig and Alvie Estate.
- The whole school took part in the Big Bird Watch event in January, reporting their survey results to the RSPB online data bank.
- P4/5 and P6/7 entered the BBC Radio 2 Chris Evans 500 Word story writing competition.
- P7 attended the Safe Highlander event in Inverness.
- Class trips to extend understanding of the biodiversity in the school grounds – P1-3 trip to Insh marsh to study water insect life (to better understand the creatures in the school pond); P4/5 and P6/7 joint trip to the Floral Hall to study sensory planting schemes and vegetable crop rotation.

### **Achievements**

The school has celebrated the achievements of small groups and individuals throughout the year. Recent achievements have included:

- The school entered a team in the MacDonalds Aviemore Cross Country Race and were placed as follows: Alastair Douglas 1st, Calum Douglas 1st, Kimara Tait Davis 1st.
- Alastair Douglas won 1st in the P6/7 MacRobert Cup Cross Country event in Inverness; Calum Douglas came 2nd in the P4/5 field.
- Alastair Douglas entered the Baxters 5k Run and came 7<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 1000. He also entered the Scottish Primary Schools Cross Country Championships and was 8th.
- Alvie School Novice Ski Team won the Glenmore Inter-schools Dry Slope Qualifier at Glenmore Lodge; the Experienced team were 2nd with Kimara Tait Davis and Iain Lynch winning silver medals. The Novice Ski Team won the Ski Qualifier on Cairngorm, with Struan Ross (gold), Callum Douglas (silver) and Ewan Forbes Leith (bronze).
- Badenoch Tigers hockey team (Alvie team) won the Inverross Cup and North Schools Competition (between Highland and Moray). They are representing Highland at the Scottish Primary Schools Hockey Festival in Edinburgh.
- Struan Ross signed for St. Johnston Football Club in November and plays for their Youth Team.
- Kieran Christie entered the Moray Kickboxing 3 Series competition and won a bronze medal.
- Alvie P6/7 Shinty team won the regional Indoor Shinty final, the P4/5 team were 2nd and the P6/7 Shinty Team were 3rd in the Scottish Primary Schools Finals in Fort William.
- Each class entered choirs and creative dance competitions in the Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival. P4/5 won the Creative Dance competition.
- P6/7 completed their Youth Leadership Award (delivered by the Active Schools Coordinator).
- P7 children entered the Rotary Club Schools Quiz and were joint runners up.
- Children from across the school entered a Highlife Highland competition - A collection of tall and true tales gathered by Highland school children through talking to older members of their community. Seven Alvie children won and their stories were included in a publication entitled 'Cows have Passports.' The book launch was at Inverness Library in December.

### **Community Partnerships**

The school has strong links with community partners. These include:

- The SSPCA visited the school and did presentations on Farm Animal Welfare with P6/7, The Big 5 with P4/5 and Keeping Pets with P1-3.
- The RSPB ranger visits on a regular basis and has done an Owl Workshop with P1-3 and P4/5. P6/7 have adopted a local wetland area to monitor wading birds and have had several sessions with the RSPB ranger to survey the area and count birds.
- Loch Insh Watersports centre provided P6/7 six days of watersports activities.
- P1-3 had a visit from the Community Police.
- The Community Nurse worked with P6/7 to explore Health and Relationships.
- The school has an on-going programme of visits from the Kincaig Forest Playgroup and has done some joint fund-raising this year.
- The Highland Countryside Ranger has been advising the children on Pond management and eradication of Himalayan Balsam. He did a workshop on the Big 5 with P4/5. He is also advising on the development of an authentic Highland Wild Flower Meadow and butterfly stations.

- Scripture Union have visited assemblies and organised a lunchtime club to extend this.
- The local SNH bat specialist has presented a workshop on Brown Long Eared Bats and gave advice before building work started at the school.
- The Cairngorms Food for Life Development Officer from CNPA arranged training for staff on keeping hens in school and sourced funding to buy equipment and hens etc. for the school to keep 3 hens.
- The school held a successful community Nativity concert and a Daffodil Tea at the local community hall.
- P1-7 designed and made Christmas card invitations for Kincaig Community Council to send out for the Kincaig OAP Christmas dinner.
- The Scottish Ambulance Service ran CPR training for P7.

### **Developing Global Citizenship**

- The school continues to be a Crofting Connections school and has an on-going programme of planting vegetables and ancient varieties of local crops. Through Interdisciplinary Learning pupils have studied Cairngorm landscape, soil and biodiversity.
- Each class is involved in the maintenance of the school grounds and garden. The grounds are seen as a vehicle for learning across the school.
- The Eco Committee, Junior Road Safety Officers and Pupil Council have evolved throughout the year and have done various presentations about litter, road safety, and pupil questionnaires.
- Whole school litter picks are done every term and inform data presented by P6/7 at assemblies.
- Whole school awareness-raising of global issues through Walk to School Week continued throughout the year at specified times.
- A whole school interdisciplinary project in term 3 about the Rainforest raised awareness of global issues – Fair Trade, deforestation, endangered species, climate change, child slavery in the chocolate trade, children's rights, UNICEF and the role of the United Nations, refugees, migration and international conflict. Materials and a Power Point presentation about the Rainforest project were presented to parents and the local community at the Daffodil Tea.

### **Enterprising Pupils**

- Whole school fund raising through theme days was done for Children in Need and Clic Sargent.
- P6/7 children organised fund raising for the Disaster Emergency Committee for the Philippines disaster.
- All pupils were involved in designing and creating Christmas cards to sell to raise money for the school fund.
- P6/7 held a Celebration of Reading day to raise awareness of the fun of reading and to raise funds for books for their class library.
- The whole school collected food donations for the Badenoch and Strathspey food bank.
- In June P1-3 are holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic and P4/5 and P6/7 are holding a garden open afternoon to raise funds for the school garden fund.

### **Changes**

- Construction was completed on a much-needed new toilet block a week before the Easter holiday.
- A fence has been constructed across the top of the hill at the back of the school to increase pupils' safety.

## **Primary by school: Aviemore Primary School**

### **Introduction**

In August 2012 pupils and staff moved into a purpose-built community school which has provided a platform for closer community working.

The School Leadership Team has undergone significant change. The long-standing Head Teacher retired in June 2013. The Depute, who was appointed in December 2010, has taken on the role of Acting Head Teacher to date. The Acting Depute was appointed in September 2013 and a new post of Principal Teacher Support for Learning was created in August 2012. This team work together with a highly dedicated and committed staff to foster and promote a very supportive and purposeful ethos in the school for the benefit of all.

### **Community Partnerships**

- The Parent Council has been instrumental in supporting the on-going work of the school, providing a forum for the sharing of parental opinion and supporting curriculum development by raising considerable funds to enable the purchase of numerous resources. They have also enabled children to take part in a broad range of activities beyond the school by providing transport.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of parents who have volunteered their time to enable pupils to enhance learning in the wider community by supporting class teachers on outings.
- School and families have benefitted from the wide range of facilities now available on site and positive close partnership working with Aviemore Community Children's Group, the library, High Life Highland and the Service Point.

### **Wider Community Partnerships**

- There are weekly visits by Scripture Union.
- The school has strong links with Community Policing, including regular visits to enhance the curriculum.
- Badenoch and Strathspey School Snowsports Association enable children to access skiing lessons annually.
- There are outdoor learning links with the Forestry Commission, RSPB, the Highland Council Ranger Service, Food for Life and Cairngorm National Park.
- There is tree planting in association with Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council.
- Feis Spey support the school throughout the year.
- Local businesses have supported the Curriculum/Enterprise Projects, e.g. Mountain Café, Hilton Hotel, Indian Restaurant, etc.
- Children visit to support the Community Café and Food Bank.
- The SSPCA have visited the school to enhance the curriculum.
- The school has successful links with Altnacriche and the Badaguish Outdoor Centres.
- There are links with local charities, e.g. Family Association for Children with Extra Special needs (FACES).

### **Opportunities for Wider Achievement**

Throughout the year pupils are given experiences and opportunities that create new and exciting pathways for their wider school achievements. The children enjoy golf,



Kodaly, tin whistle, cycling proficiency, rugby, shinty, Safe Highlanders, swimming, World Book Day, cooking, gymnastics, a variety of dance opportunities, Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival, skiing, cross country running, Scottish Opera, cheerleading, class assembly performances and the Christmas Nativity performance. There are also class trips to extend learning and develop skills for school and skills for life:

Rainbow: swimming, skiing, horse riding and Brodie Castle.

P1 and P1/2 – Deep Sea World.

P2 – Brodie Castle.

P2/3 and P3 – Milton Woods.

P4 – Culloden.

P4/5 – Various local locations; 3 day trip to Glasgow; Urquhart Castle.

P5 - 3 day trip to Glasgow; Boat of Garten; Dalfaber Golf Club.

P6 – Reindeer Centre; Stanley Mills.

P6/7 – Fort George; RSPB Centre.

P7 – Fort George; Safe Highlanders; skiing.

- P7 pupils took part in a week-long residential experience at Alt na Criche.
- House Treats include the Highland Folk Park, Hilton Hotel Fun House and the local play park.
- Pupils have opportunities to lead and enhance the school community through taking on various responsibilities; prefects, pupil councillors, Junior Road Safety Officers, buddies, house captains and playground leaders.
- Pupils have raised money for local charities through house enterprise activities and carol singing in the local community.

### **Achievements**

Pupils take part in a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities gaining recognition for their achievements in a number of different ways. These include:

- John Muir Awards.
- Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival – various classes of awards.
- ASG Cross Country event and MacRobert Cup.
- Skiing – gold medal winners in the Scottish Schools' Ski Series.
- Whole-school Sponsored Walk – raising £3000.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Eco Flag
- Sport Relief Mile – whole school
- Cycle to school week.
- Bikeability Levels 1 and 2.
- Sports agility certificates.

### **Primary by school: Gergask Primary School**

#### **Achievements**

- Individual pupils performed in trumpet, trombone, chanter, solo verse and solo song classes at Badenoch and Strathspey Music Festival and class groups performed in traditional group music making, traditional dance, creative dance and dramatised song classes. Almost all achieved 'Distinction' or 'Outstanding'.
- Pupils from P2-7 took part in the McRobert Cross Country competition. James Slimon and Paul Hilson (P7) came first and second and Katie Slimon (P4) came first in their respective races. Pupils also took part in the Kingussie Cluster

Cross Country competition and James and Paul competed in the South Highland Schools Cross Country championships, finishing very well placed in a very competitive field.

- The school shinty team has performed well in tournaments.
- Zia Pounder's (P3) apple drawing entry in a local competition was chosen by a panel of judges to be displayed on the sign at the orchard site where pupils planted fruit trees to mark the Cairngorm Park 10th anniversary.
- Kirsty Grant (P3) and Paul Hilson (P7) were the 'speed bounce' champions in a competition organised across all local schools by the Active Sports Co-ordinator.
- Alice Lavin (Nursery) and Millie Lavin (P1) raised £250 for the local defibrillator by doing a sponsored cycle.
- All Responsibility Groups are involved in the planning of Gergask Mini Commonwealth Games to be held at end of the summer term.

### **Wider Achievements**

- All pupils were involved in planning and organising the celebration to mark the 140th anniversary of the school.
- All pupils travelled to Eden Court to see a summer theatre performance and the Christmas pantomime and enjoyed a Hopscotch theatre visit.
- A Kilometre Club has been introduced this year. All children run a daily kilometre around a marked route through the village. The school's PE teacher has commented on the marked improvement in speed and fitness of the pupils and has recommended it to other schools.
- P4-6 have completed Young Sports Leader training and organise regular playground activities.
- P7 were involved in residential experience with Newtonmore and Alvie at Alt na Criche Outdoor Centre.
- P6/7 take part in a four week snowsports programme.
- P7 attended the Safe Highlander event.
- Pupils have benefited from individual brass and chanter tuition and classes have enjoyed Youth Music Initiative (P4-7) and Kodaly (P1-3) and Eden Court Outreach Dance and Drama workshops (N-P7).
- As part of the whole-school focus on The Commonwealth Games, Andy McKechnie delivered a Commonwealth Street Jam workshop and pupils performed a range of multicultural aerobic dances to parents and the local community.
- The school has after school clubs in shinty, running and cookery, with most children attending one or more.
- Gordon MacLellan (Creeping Toad) delivered a whole day literacy workshop for N-P7 based on goals, obstacles and achievements to build on the Commonwealth theme.
- Pupils have requested and been given the opportunity to have a 'taster' of some Commonwealth sports – hockey, lawn bowls, gymnastics, table tennis and judo.
- Pupils take part in the Laggan Fun Run, part of the Laggan 10k school fund raiser organised by the Parent Council.
- All pupils are involved in the WoW (Walk once a Week) programme for the summer term with most children walking, scootering, cycling or being dropped off to walk part of the way to school on most days.
- The school makes a quarterly contribution of 'Gergask Waves' to the local 'Splash' magazine.
- Pupils have been actively involved in the development of the school grounds deciding on playground games which were painted by Facilities Management staff.

- Pupils have worked together to create a wildlife pond and design a crofting area to grow crops.
- Loose materials introduced to the playground have encouraged creative play, e.g. tyres, plastic tubing, logs, cardboard boxes, tarpaulins, barrel pit, mud kitchen and boulders to climb on.
- A fire pit has been designed and will be introduced to allow pupils regular opportunities for gathering together and cooking and eating outdoors.
- Pupils have observed larvae developing through caterpillar stage and hatching as butterflies to be released to the wild.
- N-P7 took part in a Health and Wellbeing visit to the Badenoch Centre and Caberfeidh book shop.
- P1-7 visited Tesco as part of the Eat Happy programme.

### **Community Partnership/Enterprising Pupils/Citizenship**

- While Scots language and culture is celebrated throughout the year, the school made this a particular focus in the week leading up to St Andrew's Day where pupils performed individually, in classes and as a whole school at their St Andrew's Ceilidh to which the community was invited. In the week leading up to Burns' Day, pupils organized and participated fully in a Burns' Supper, again involving the community. £180 was raised through donations for The Red Cross.
- Pupils harvested their potatoes in November and worked together to make potato soup to serve at a soup lunch, raising £180.43 for the Scottish Poppy Appeal.
- A Sausage Sizzle for Children in Need raised £49.50.
- The school was invited to decorate the window of a local Kingussie business as part of the town's Christmas celebrations.
- The school helped switch on the village Christmas lights and invited the community back to school to sing carols and have mince pies round the Christmas tree.
- All pupils performed in the school Nativity.
- Pupils raised £99.50 for Marie Curie by performing their Festival pieces again for the community and baking cakes to serve at their Spring Tea.
- To mark World Book Day the Pupil Council organized for pupils to bring in books to donate to Caberfeidh Book Shop, a local organisation supporting and employing people with learning disabilities, and invited in representatives to collect the books.
- During Fairtrade Fortnight the Eco Council organized and ran a Banana Smoothie stall, selling smoothies they had made using Fairtrade bananas and honey.
- The 'Healthy at Gergask' Group responded to a survey of pupils' views and, with the help of the visiting PE teacher, organized a 'hexathlon' where each pupil did a 'Sport Relief' mile of activities over six events to raise money for Sport Relief. £29.21 was raised.
- Pupils have helped on a rota basis to serve at the monthly soup lunches organized by the Parent Council to raise funds for the school.
- Pupils were given the opportunity to have a voice in the community when they were invited to work with the Local Community Association to help decide on the development of the local play area.
- P7s helped lay a community wreath at the war memorial on Remembrance Day.
- Pupils planted fruit trees at the local picnic site as part of the Cairngorms 10th Anniversary Orchards Project.

- SNH have provided support by organizing a visit to Creag Meagaidh Reserve to see their pond being created then providing pond liner for the school pond. A local contractor donated a morning's time to dig out the pond, following pupils' plans. The Countryside Ranger is working through the summer term on developing the pond and exploring the creatures that will visit it.
- The school made a successful bid for a grant from the National Farmers' Union (Scotland) to buy timber to build raised beds for the croft and safety fencing for around the pond.
- A local contractor has built raised beds for the croft free of charge.
- Crofting Connections – There has been provision of seeds and seed potatoes and ongoing support with the crofting project.
- A greenhouse and polytunnels are to be purchased for the croft from a gift of money from a local resident, raised at her birthday celebration.
- Balfour Beatty (working locally on a pylon line) have provided a container for storage and are involved in plans to develop the school grounds to encourage challenge in play and to develop areas of the croft.

### **Primary by school: Kingussie Primary School**

The school's Vision, Values and Mission Statement was a key development area during session 2012/13. Parents were given the opportunity to contribute, with staff in-service time also being dedicated and an external provider being used as a facilitator to ensure a neutral approach. All pupils took part in the Mission Statement Assembly, with the draft statement being issued through school newsletters, made available electronically on the school website and launched at the summer parents' open afternoon as part of the new Kingussie Primary school handbook.

Using the above work on Vision and Values, the school's Mission Statement is as follows:

At Kingussie Primary School, we RESPECT each other. We are HONEST with each other in a SUPPORTIVE, CONSISTENT manner, ensuring everyone is treated FAIRLY.

The school's 'Dream' is colourfully displayed within the building with a clear shared vision detailing short, medium and long term goals. Reviewing of the 'Dream' to evaluate progress is a school improvement action for 2013/14.

### **Citizenship and Partnerships**

- Pupil voice in the school is strong, with children being consulted through a variety of committees and groups, e.g Pupil Council, Eco Committee, Junior Road Safety Officers, Playground Buddies, Health Committee - this group has been re-established using the visiting PE teacher and a parent representative.
- Parents responded positively to the work of the school when surveyed using HMIe questionnaires to gather opinion.
- The school uses the Kingussie Primary School website to encourage wider pupil, parent and community involvement in children's learning.
- In addition to the Parent Council, school committees and parental questionnaires, school events are used to gather further parental opinion on their children's learning experiences.

### **Opportunities for Achievement**

- Pupil success is celebrated regularly through fortnightly whole school assemblies.

- An end of year Prize-giving has been introduced to promote achievement with local Partners taking an active role in this event. In session 2013/14, achievement awards have been introduced for Literacy and Numeracy in line with school improvement priorities and partnership with the Parent Council to promote excellence for pupils in these areas.
- A new Nursery outdoor area to enhance Outdoor Learning in Early Years is due for completion in the summer holidays.
- An Outdoor Classroom Group has been established with the project to go ahead in the summer months to benefit all children.
- The school has a separate reading room housing circular reading materials financed by the Parent Council and a new school library.

There are continued additional opportunities for children as follows:

- Rock Challenge for all P6 and P7 children.
- Pirates of the Curry Bean show for all P3 to P7 children.
- Children experience opportunities to learn outdoors, with all pupils benefitting from weekly time-tabled curricular Gardening to tie in with the school's Eco Green Flag priorities.
- Pupils have access to a "buddy shed" and extra equipment has been provided for playtimes to benefit all pupils.
- All children from Nursery 3 through to Primary 7 benefit from the new Outdoor Classroom.
- The school's Global Education Ospreys work was showcased internationally during session 2012/13, with upper stages pupils contributing to the presentation and setting up of dedicated email on the school website to run a competition set by the pupils for international guests.
- Pupils take part in the Gym Fest national event in Perth which is open to all upper stages pupils as part of a gymnastics after-school activity.
- The school continues to have success in school shinty at national level.
- There is a school cycling programme for all P5 and P6 children.
- Swimming lessons are arranged for all P4 and P5 pupils.
- Skiing is organized for all P6 pupils.
- Every class from Nursery to P7 takes part in the Badenoch & Strathspey Music Festival.

## **Primary by school: Newtonmore Primary School**

### **Opportunities for Wider Achievement**

Throughout the year pupils are given experiences and opportunities that create new and exciting pathways for their wider school achievements.

- Pupils enjoyed participation in skiing(P6 & P7) golf, tennis, shinty, Kodally, tin whistle, drumming, guitar, Youth Music Initiative, cross-country, gymnastics, Young Leaders Award, Safe Highlander, Badenoch & Strathspey Music Festival, Inverness Mod, John Muir Award and Rotary Quiz.
- P7 pupils took part in a three day residential experience at Alltnacriche along with pupils from Alvie and Gergask Primary Schools.
- P7 Gaelic pupils also took part in a three day residential at Badaguish along with pupils from Inverness and Fort William.
- Pupils from P3-7 have the opportunity to take part in an after school Art Club.
- Pupils at the school have the opportunity to learn violin, chanter and tin whistle.

## **Notable Achievements**

The school and nursery celebrate the achievements of small groups and individuals throughout the year. Pupil work and achievements are recorded and celebrated on the school blog on the school's website.

- The school are currently the Spey Valley Rotary Club Primary Quiz Champions.
- All P1-P7 pupils participated in the Badenoch & Strathspey Music Festival. Several children won competitions for verse speaking (English & Gaelic), Gaelic solos, action songs (English & Gaelic) and tin whistle. Primary 3/4/5 attained the highest mark of the whole festival for their own composition of an action song. Winners were invited to perform at the concert.
- The P4-7 Gaelic class was involved in the Stories in the Land project and were invited to Edinburgh Storytelling Centre to tell their stories.
- P4-7 Gaelic pupils took part in a WWII drama performance at the Highland Folk Park.
- The cross-country team took part in the MacRobert Cup and the P4/5 boys group were placed 3rd in their class.
- A P5 pupil is through to the second round of the 500 word story competition.
- P3/4/5 pupils gained a John Muir Award for their work in the 'Wild Wood'.

## **Community Partnerships**

- The school shinty team works closely with Newtonmore Camanachd Club.
- The school works closely with the Highland Council Ranger Service in developing its own area of 'Wild Wood' at the Highland Folk Museum.
- Scripture Union run an after school club.
- Local community police are involved in both Road Safety Awareness and general safety issues throughout the school.
- There are links with the Cairngorms National Park through developing the school growing beds, planting an orchard and IMBY (In My Back Yard) project on planning use in their community. Members of the Community Council, Parent Council and CNPA Education Officer were invited to the presentation.
- The school nurse works alongside colleagues to deliver aspects of the Health and Wellbeing programme.
- The SSPCA visited the school.
- Sheila Mackay, local Gaelic speaker and member of 'Waulking Group', visited the school.

## **Developing Global Citizenship**

- The school was awarded its 3rd Eco Flag and ran a very successful Eco day.
- P3 pupils supported the Blythswood Boxes scheme and also created Christmas gifts for residents at Glen Grove Sheltered Housing complex.

## **Enterprising pupils**

- There has been pupil-led charity fundraising for Children in Need, Poppy Scotland and Highland Wildlife Park adopt an animal scheme.
- P3/4/5 created a DVD of their John Muir action song and Wild Wood experiences which paid for their class trip.

School	Link to School Webpage
Alvie Primary School	<a href="#">Alvie Primary webpage</a>
Aviemore Primary School	<a href="#">Aviemore Primary webpage</a>
Dalwhinnie Primary School (mothballed)	<a href="#">Dalwhinnie Primary webpage</a>
Gergask Primary School	<a href="#">Gergask Primary webpage</a>
Kingussie Primary School	<a href="#">Kingussie Primary webpage</a>
Newtonmore Primary School	<a href="#">Newtonmore Primary webpage</a>

School	Date of latest published report	Link to Education Scotland pages
Alvie Primary School	Aug-10	<a href="#">Alvie Primary Inspection</a>
Aviemore Primary School	Mar-10	<a href="#">Aviemore Primary Inspection</a>
Dalwhinnie Primary School (mothballed)	Jan-08	<a href="#">Dalwhinnie Primary (mothballed) Inspection</a>
Gergask Primary School	Aug-10	<a href="#">Gergask Primary Inspection</a>
Kingussie High School	Feb 2014 (Follow Up)	<a href="#">Kingussie High Inspection</a>
Kingussie Primary School	Dec-07	<a href="#">Kingussie Primary Inspection</a>
Newtonmore Primary School	Feb-10	<a href="#">Newtonmore Primary Inspection</a>

Early Year Centre	Date of Latest Published Report	Link To Inspectorate Pages
Aviemore Community Children's Group	Apr-13	<a href="#">Aviemore Community Children's Group Inspection</a>
Dalwhinnie Primary Nursery		mothballed
Gergask Primary Nursery	Oct-12	<a href="#">Gergask Primary Nursery Inspection</a>
Kincraig Under Fives	Jun-13	<a href="#">Kincraig Under Fives Inspection</a>
Kingussie Primary Nursery	Nov-12	<a href="#">Kingussie Primary Nursery Inspection</a>
Newtonmore Nursery - GM	Aug-12	<a href="#">Newtonmore Primary Nursery Inspection</a>
Newtonmore Nursery - EM	Aug-12	<a href="#">Newtonmore Primary Nursery Inspection</a>
No of Childminders: 3		

### 1.1.3 Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) which is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The most recent return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2013.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Kingussie High School	95.1%	96.6%	91.4%
Highland	89.4%	90.7%	93.1%
Scotland	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%

#### Leaver Destinations for Kingussie High School

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Kingussie High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2010/11	82	2575	54073
2011/12	89	2495	50892
2012/13	70	2580	52801

#### **Destinations of Pupils (%)**

DESTINATION	Kingussie High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13
Higher Education	18.3%	25.8%	15.7%	33.2%	34.6%	33.7%	35.8%	37.3%	36.5%
Further Education	17.1%	27.0%	21.4%	22.3%	21.2%	23.7%	27.1%	26.8%	27.8%
Training	4.9%	3.4%	4.3%	2.0%	2.5%	1.9%	5.6%	4.6%	5.0%
Employment	53.7%	39.3%	48.6%	29.2%	29.7%	31.2%	19.3%	19.8%	20.4%
Voluntary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Activity Agreements	1.2%	1.1%	1.4%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%
Unemployed Seeking	2.4%	2.2%	5.7%	7.7%	5.9%	5.6%	9.6%	8.4%	7.1%
Unemployed Not Seeking	2.4%	1.1%	2.9%	1.8%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%

*Note: National averages have been calculated from the figures for all available local authority and grant-aided schools, whereas the local authority averages are based on local authority schools only.*

There are currently two open Activity Agreements involving former pupils of Kingussie High School.



## 1.2 Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census carried out in September 2013. Pre-school roll information is taken from the Highland Pre-School Census carried out in January 2014.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Primary				16.4%	87.9%
Scotland Primary				22.0%	88.4%
Alvie Primary School	47	<5	<5	15.2%	100.0%
Aviemore Primary School	267	<5	20	11.3%	74.2%
Gergask Primary School	21	0	0	27.3%	60.0%
Kingussie Primary School	88	<5	<5	small school/number	small school/number
Newtonmore Primary School	87	<5	<5	10.8%	100.0%
School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary				11.4%	78.8%
Scotland Secondary				15.5%	74.7%
Kingussie High School	419	<5	13	10.3%	100.0%

Nursery Name	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Aviemore Community Children's Group	57				
Gergask Primary Nursery	5				
Kincraig Under Fives	16				
Kingussie Primary Nursery	18				
Newtonmore Nursery - GM	11				
Newtonmore Nursery - EM	19				

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2013.

Free Meals Eligibility is the percentage of the present school roll registered for free meals.

Free Meals Uptake is the percentage of those present on census day who were registered and took free meals. The comment "small school/number" indicates that because of the small numbers of pupils in the school or the small numbers registered for free school meals this information cannot be disclosed.

School Name	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
Alvie Primary School	8	4	7	8	8	5	7	47
Aviemore Primary School	33	48	39	36	45	33	33	267
Gergask Primary School	3	2	2	4	6	2	2	21
Kingussie Primary School	12	7	13	17	12	14	13	88
Newtonmore Primary School – English Medium	6	12	11	10	9	10	7	65
Newtonmore Primary School – Gaelic Medium	5	3	4	1	5	1	3	22

Nursery	N4 (Jan)	N3 (Jan)	N3 (Apr)	No Sessions
Aviemore Community Children's Group	35	22	6	10
Gergask Primary Nursery	2	3	0	5
Kincraig Under Fives	10	6	2	5
Kingussie Primary Nursery	8	10	1	10
Newtonmore Nursery - EM	9	10	1	5
Newtonmore Nursery - GM	7	4	0	5

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Kingussie High School	72	66	73	84	82	42	419

### 1.2.1 Attendance/Absence/Exclusion Profile 2012/13

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis.

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Primary	94.8%	4.3%	0.9%	8/1000	5/1000
Scotland Primary	94.9%	3.8%	1.3%	10/1000	6/1000
Alvie Primary School	93.9%	4.0%	2.2%	0/1000	0/1000
Aviemore Primary School	94.1%	3.8%	2.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Gergask Primary School	96.4%	2.2%	1.4%	0/1000	0/1000
Kingussie Primary School	92.6%	5.4%	2.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Newtonmore Primary School	94.9%	4.3%	0.8%	0/1000	0/1000
SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No Of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Secondary	90.9%	6.4%	2.6%	39/1000	28/1000
Scotland Secondary	91.9%	5.4%	2.5%	58/1000	33/1000
Kingussie High School	90.0%	6.8%	3.1%	34/1000	27/1000

### 1.3 School

SCHOOL	ECO School	Travel Plan	Improving through Self-Evaluation and Improving Services	No of Placing Requests In	No of Placing Requests In Granted	No of Placing Requests Out Granted
Alvie Primary School	green flag	No	Good (2010)	2	2	0
Aviemore Primary School	green flag	Yes	Satisfactory (2010)	5	5	0
Gergask Primary School	silver	Yes	Weak (2010)	1	1	0
Kingussie Primary School	green flag	Yes	Good (2007)	1	1	2
Newtonmore Primary School	green flag	Yes	Good (2010)	0	0	4
Kingussie High School	green flag	Yes	Weak (2012)	0	0	2

*ECO School information is reported as at Feb 2014. Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2013-14.*

It should be noted that all placing requests in/out of these schools were able to be accommodated this year. There were therefore no parental appeals lodged for this ASG.

### 1.4 ECS Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Kingussie High School	40.60	11.88
Alvie Primary School	3.20	1.24
Aviemore Primary School	15.20	7.93
Gergask Primary School	2.20	0.88
Kingussie Primary School	5.10	3.16
Newtonmore Primary School	5.90	4.18
Nursery	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Aviemore Community Children's Group		5.60
Gergask Primary Nursery		0.56
Kincraig Under Fives		1.71
Kingussie Primary Nursery		1.86
Newtonmore Nursery - GM		0.99
Newtonmore Nursery - EM		0.99

*School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2013. Please note that only certain types of teaching posts are counted here: Normal complement, Long term sick absence replacement, secondment replacement, maternity leave replacement, other replacement, temporary contract, covering a vacancy. Teachers who teach at the school but are centrally employed are excluded. Pre-school staff information has been taken from the Pre-School Census returned to the Scottish Govt in September 2013.*

Core staffing is calculated using the Highland Staffing Model, which takes account of national agreements for P1 to P3 class sizes. As a result, all primaries in this ASG are staffed according to the model.

In addition to core staffing for each school, a model will be used to provide an appropriate level of ASN cover to each school within the ASG. This model was approved at Adult and Children's Services Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

This session we are funding additional staffing for the ASG as follows:

- 9.6 FTE ASN teachers
- 27.4 FTE PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

29	Pupils at level 3
20	Pupils at level 4

## 1.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Devolved Budget 2012/13	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2011/12	Devolved Budget 2013/14	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2012/13
Kingussie High School	2,163,086	5,250	-101,671	2,085,429	4,977	-63,627
Alvie Primary School	158,825	3,529	-892	144,169	3,067	-3,834
Aviemore Primary School	812,230	2,954	1,972	826,694	3,096	21,356
Dalwhinnie Primary School (mothballed)	30,159		-5,859	580		-2,394
Gergask Primary School	130,212	5,661	619	130,400	6,210	-397
Kingussie Primary School	332,363	3,734	-893	310,455	3,528	-1,404
Newtonmore Primary School	346,534	3,610	-5,966	340,646	4,055	-7,163
Aviemore Nursery	11,185		-1,691	0		-574
Dalwhinnie Nursery (mothballed)	4,825		-534	0		-255
Gergask Nursery	12,198	6,099	-569	13,163	6,582	-628
Kingussie Nursery	37,476	1,874	-1,894	38,505	1,925	-1,915
Newtonmore Nursery	23,790	1,983	-1,077	21,745	1,812	-1,155
Newtonmore Gaelic Nursery	13,930	1,161	-679	13,938	1,162	-723

Members are asked to note that devolved funding is generally sufficient for school needs.

## 1.6 Buildings

School	Suitability	Condition	Occupancy	Current/Future Investment (last 5 yrs)
Kingussie High School	C	C	75%	£5,571,000 includes traffic management, electrical upgrade, extension
Alvie Primary School	C	B	63%	£450,000 includes toilet block extension, classroom/dining room unit, link corridor
Aviemore Primary School	A	A	0%	£12,158,000 includes new school, planting
Gergask Primary School	C	B	55%	£11,700 includes alteration to classroom unit
Kingussie Primary School	C	B	43%	£540,000 includes biomass boiler, heating replacement, ASN alterations
Newtonmore Primary School	C	B	69%	£15,000 includes reception area

*Building suitability and condition levels are as reported on the 2013 School Estate Core Facts return. Occupancy levels are based on the school roll for academic year 2012-13. (No data available for Aviemore Primary School)*

## 2.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND

### Facilities and services within the Kingussie High School ASG

	User Information	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Badenoch Centre	Users	23,873	35,204	42,786
Badenoch Library	Issues	11,537	11,149	10,399
Aviemore Library	Issues	11,957	18,048	26,580
Mobile Library	Issues	35,033	26,192	23,681
Highland Folk Museum	Users	68,997	70,325	72,307
Sports Pitches Market Stance Playing Field, Kingussie Dunbarry Playing Fields	Available for let by sports clubs	NA	NA	NA
Active Schools Coordinator	Unique Participants (recorded by academic year)	534	544	Data not yet available
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People  Young Scot Card percentage uptake (National average – 72%)	1427  77%	1924  92%	2160  100%
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	130	137	Data not yet available

#### Programme information

Badenoch Centre: [Badenoch Centre link](#)

Badenoch Library: [Badenoch Library Link](#)

Aviemore Library: [Aviemore Library Link](#)

Mobile Library: [Mobile Library Link](#)

Highland Folk Museum: [Highland Folk Museum Link](#)

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Area Committee is asked to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

Designation: Joint Director of Care and Learning

Author: Callum A Mackintosh – Area Education Manager, South

Date: 28 May 2014

