

The Highland Council

City of Inverness Area Committee – 4 March 2014

Agenda Item	3
Report No	CIA/01/14

Drummond School Overview

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Summary

This report provides an update of key information in relation to Drummond School.

1.0 Drummond School profile

Drummond School caters for pupils aged 3-18 who have a wide variety of Additional Support Needs. This includes young people with autism and severe learning difficulties, autism and associated behavioural difficulties, profound and multiple learning disabilities with sensory impairments, Downs syndrome and cerebral palsy. Over two thirds of the pupils at Drummond School do not use spoken language as their main method of communication. Approximately one fifth of pupils are wheelchair users who follow the MOVE (Movement for Learning and Life) programme.

The school roll has increased steadily to 90, including 21 new pupils joining in the 2013-14 session.

School roll	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Drummond School	72	78	80	90

The Senior Leadership Team has undergone significant change in the last 6 months. An Acting Head Teacher has been in post since August 2013, an Acting Depute Head Teacher since October 2013 and there are two Principal Teacher posts to be appointed.

1.0 ATTAINMENT & ACHIEVEMENT

1.1 Background and Attainment

The Senior Leadership Team continues to foster a positive ethos and, with a highly committed staff, supports and encourages opportunities for all young people at Drummond to increase their independence, to achieve and to take on greater responsibility and control over their own lives.

Pupils follow the national programmes set out in Curriculum for Excellence and continue with the Broad General Education throughout their time at Drummond. There is a particular focus on the development of communication, social and emotional literacy and independent living skills. Some pupils with more complex physical, sensory and communication needs follow a sensory curriculum which is designed to develop cognition and social interaction. The use of onsite specialised sensory rooms and support from Highland Education Vision Support Service enhance this.

A broad and balanced programme is planned for pupils at an individual level. Progress is monitored through their Individualised Education Plan (IEP) and against the baseline assessment of skills and abilities that is updated twice a year. Pupils' learning profiles at

Drummond are highly individualised and the school operates a cycle of assessment, profiling and planning / target setting. Targets are set following collaboration with parents and other professionals and are reviewed three times a year.

In the Senior or Post 16 Transitions Phase the curriculum is organised around five central modes:

- Practical Skills for Independent Living
- My Choices (Transition Planning and Work Experience)
- Feeling Good about Myself
- Moving Forward: Personal Development
- Being a Good Citizen

Achievement is recognised through Scottish Qualifications Agency certification and through school certificates.

In the 2012-13 session 34 pupils followed SQA accredited courses. These pupils gained 214 Access 1 units and 14 Access 2 units.

1.2 Standards and Quality Report February 2013

1.2.1 Key Strengths

- The positive ethos of the school including relationships, team work, morale and the commitment of all members of the school community to continuous improvement.
- Parents feel very included in the decision making processes for their children. They feel the school has a 'can do' approach to solving problems and that they can approach staff at any time.
- The school celebrates children's achievement widely and in ways that are appropriate and meaningful to the child or young person.
- The broad range of teaching approaches used to ensure that each learner is supported to develop the skills necessary to enable them to engage with their learning and to experience success.
- The curriculum is child-centred and all pupils follow a broad and well balanced curriculum which is adapted to suit their needs.
- Almost all individual learning targets in IEPs are appropriate and reflect the broad needs of learners. There are appropriate arrangements for consulting with parents and, when appropriate, learners when reviewing plans. Partner agencies are also fully involved in planning for learners and enjoy excellent relationships with the school.

1.2.2 Priorities for Improvement

- Strengthen partnership working through greater involvement of the Integrated Services Officer, Speech and Language Therapy Service and Adult Services Social Workers.
- Further develop creative, investigative and enterprising approaches to learning.
- Continue to develop the curriculum imaginatively in response to the underlying principles of Curriculum for Excellence, including opportunities for outdoor learning.

- Parents of young people who will be leaving school would welcome earlier and fuller involvement from Adult Social Services to support their child's transitions into independent living, training or work

1.3 Partner Agencies

The school works closely with partner agencies to develop the skills of staff and to enhance the wider curricular learning for pupils. These include the school nurse, Educational Psychology Department, Speech and Language Therapists, the Learning Disabilities Social Work team, the school's Children's Services Worker (CSW) who liaises with families and supports extra-curricular activities, an Active School Co-ordinator who supports the health and well-being curriculum, health professionals such as the Dietician, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Clinical Psychologists who provide advice, guidance and staff training. Multi-agency working is essential to meeting the needs of learners at Drummond and is implemented through the Highland Practice Model.

The school has an active Parent Council that provides on-going support and is currently working to further develop home-school communication. The Parent Council, together with the Parent Forum, provides social activities and fundraising events which raise additional funds for pupil activities and resources such as horse riding and the development of the school grounds.

Other partners include:

Inverness High School – The Science Department provide Access 1 and 2 courses for senior pupils and training in delivering the Science Curriculum for teaching staff.

Lochardil Primary School – Pupils from Lochardil have been involved in a number of initiatives with Drummond including making books to share with classes, joining PE classes at Drummond and supporting sports days, supporting Drummond fundraising and whole school events, and inviting pupils from Drummond to attend Lochardil school events.

Millburn Academy – Pupils at the senior phase share some joint activities with young people from Millburn and utilise Drummond and Millburn facilities.

Work experience providers including: Asda, Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC, The Archive Centre.

The Shirley Project – Supports young people for work experience and employment opportunities.

Orion Partnership – Orion have provided:

- equipment and funding for pupils to follow a Health and Safety Executive certificated entry level course on 'Workplace Hazard Awareness'
- funding for a service worker to support young people in their work experience placements
- a new minibus for Drummond
- a specialised motorised bicycle which enables young people to sit beside an adult and to be supported in steering and pedalling

Abriachan Forest Trust - Supports outdoor learning and enterprise activities.

1.4 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes

1.4.1 Ethos

Recognising the achievements of others is a key part of life at Drummond. For many pupils progress is in small but significant steps and support and encouragement is important for motivating all students. Achievement is celebrated in many ways:

- Achievement certificates – awarded in assemblies and at whole school events
- Achievement display and video clips– latest achievements included on the plasma screen in the entrance to the school
- Achievement album including key achievements and press cuttings maintained and shared
- Individual pupil achievement folders reviewed regularly with pupils and parents
- Photographic reviews of successes compiled and shared at assemblies and in the entrance hall
- School website updated with notable successes

1.4.2 School events

- The school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on 15th November 2013. Celebrations included a birthday party for the current school community with pupils contributing items for a time capsule and celebrating with toys and music popular 50 years ago. Former staff, pupils and parents gathered for a reunion to mark this occasion and listened to the reflections of Head Teachers including Dan MacDiarmid who raised the funds to provide a swimming pool which was opened by Princess Diana.
- An annual Christmas concert showcases the work of pupils and involves all pupils in publicising, performing and providing refreshments.
- Termly whole school assemblies, including ‘Leavers’ Assemblies’ at Christmas and end of session, give opportunities for pupils to perform to an audience and to share their achievements with others.
- Whole school fundraising events such as ‘wear something Christmassy’, Red Nose Day and Sport Relief allow pupils to develop enterprising skills and to support charities such as Highland Hospice, Children in Need and MacMillan Cancer Care.
- Sports days provide an opportunity for pupils to participate in individual and team events and for the school community to encourage and support the achievement of others.
- Whole school focus weeks and associated open afternoons show case pupils’ work and give parents an opportunity to come into school and work alongside their children. Recent themes have included ‘Literacy Week’ and ‘Outdoor Learning Week’

1.4.3 Curricular enhancement

- Regular visits from story tellers help bring stories to life, develop an interest in storytelling and books and encourage creativity.

- Visits from Andy McCechnie, motivational speaker and fitness instructor, help pupils to find their voice, develop their confidence and to listen to and understand others.
- Performances and work shops by Feis Rois and local musicians such as Bruce MacGregor give pupils access to live musical performances and the opportunity to directly experience traditional music.
- Participation in the Inverness Music Festival allows pupils to experience performing in different contexts and with a wider group of pupils.
- Glachbeg Croft provides opportunities for outdoor learning including skills development.
- Out of the Box puppet company helps develop pupil confidence, communication and performance skills.
- Eden Court Drama Department gives children the opportunity to respond and to perform using a range of media and stimuli.
- Horse riding at Broomhill allows pupils to develop skills in horse riding and caring for animals. Pupils gain in confidence and strength.
- In February 2014 seven pupils will begin work to achieve the first John Muir Award, the Discovery Award, with support from the bush craft and environmental group Wild Things.
- In February 2014 the school will embark on a project to 'get pupils growing' and will establish an allotment, raised beds, an orchard and herb garden in the school grounds and on neighbouring land.
- Pupils regularly participate in enterprising activities including running a healthy tuck shop, making and selling lunch to school staff, making and selling cookery books, jams, marmalade and making craft items for the Christmas fayre.

1.4.4 Leadership and Citizenship

- **Pupil Council** – Gives pupils the opportunity to seek the opinions of others, express their views and to provide leadership.
- **Eco group** – The school has achieved bronze and silver eco awards.
- **Sport** – Pupils have developed the confidence to organise lunchtime clubs and two former pupils now deliver weekly sessions on Boccia and Football.

1.4.5 Clubs and lunchtime activities

- Boccia Club
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Radio Station Group – currently fundraising for equipment
- Zumba
- Lego Club
- Ceilidh Band

1.4.6 Sporting Achievements

Opportunities for sport and competition meet many of the experiences and outcomes within *Curriculum for Excellence* including:

HWB 2-26a "I am able to access opportunities for participation in sport and the development of my performance in my place of learning and beyond."

In the past year Drummond pupils have taken advantage of many of the opportunities available through Highland Disability Sport and Scottish Disability Sport. Pupils find themselves in competition with individuals of similar ability and there is immediately an element of the possibility of winning, often for the first time. Such events, when attended regularly, provide opportunities for socialising with individuals from other schools. Pupils have achieved a wide range of medals at the following events:

12.03.13	Football 5's Competition, Inverness Sports Centre (7pupils)
19.03.13	Cross Country, Bellahouston, Glasgow (6 pupils)
26.03.13	Swimming Gala, Inverness Aquadome (28 pupils, many taking part in their first competitive 25m swim)
18.04.13	Shinty Come and Try (12 pupils)
22/23.4.13	First Shinty Tournament, Aviemore, residential (5 pupils)
24.04.13	Football 5's Competition, Glasgow Green (7 pupils)
24.04.13	Boccia Championships (8 pupils)
05.06.13	Athletics Learning Disabilities Championships, Grangemouth (7pupils)
18.09.13	Football 7's Tournament, Toryglen, Glasgow (6pupils)
24.09.13	Junior festival of Sport, Inverness Sports Centre (23 pupils)
11.11.13	Football Festival, Ross County (11 pupils)
13.11.13	Cross Country, Peffermill, Edinburgh (6 pupils)
04.02.14	Agility Challenge, Inverness Sports Centre (13 pupils)

Notable successes

Finlay MacLennan, S6, has successfully participated in many competitions with Highland Disability Sport over the last five years. He was selected for the Scottish (Disability Sport) Football Select Team in 2011 and represented Scotland in Geneva in the European Championships. Finlay joined Inverness Harriers in 2012 and is now one of the top athletes in Great Britain in the disability rankings.

Finlay won a silver medal in the North District Cross Country League 2012/13 for the under 17 men. This year he was third in the under 20s in the North District Championships. He was selected for the Scottish Disability Sport Senior Athletics Squad in 2012 and has competed in England and Sweden with Inverness Harriers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 18 February 2014