

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	CC/10/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 16 June 2017

Report Title: Thurso Associated School Group Overview

Report By: Director of Care and Learning

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

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

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

3.1 ASG PROFILE

The primary schools in this area serve over 900 pupils, with the secondary school serving 748 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16489/thurso>

3.1 Attainment and Achievement

3.1.1 Thurso High School

Attainment – Performance Summary

3.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes

Secondary – Thurso – [Link to Thurso High webpage](#)

Primary by School:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/44/schools/search>

School	Link to School Webpage
Castletown Primary School	Castletown Primary webpage
Crossroads Primary School	Crossroads Primary webpage
Halkirk Primary School	Halkirk Primary webpage
Miller Academy Primary School	Miller Academy Primary webpage
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Mount Pleasant Primary webpage
Pennyland Primary School	Pennyland Primary webpage
Reay Primary School	Reay Primary webpage

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Thurso High School	Mar-12	Thurso High Inspection
Castletown Primary School ©	Jan-10	Castletown Primary Inspection
Crossroads Primary School ©	Apr-10	Crossroads Primary Inspection
Halkirk Primary School	Aug-14 (Follow Up)	Halkirk Primary Inspection
Miller Academy Primary School	Nov-16	Miller Academy Primary Inspection
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Feb-07	Mount Pleasant Primary Inspection
Pennyland Primary School	Nov 2011 (Follow Up)	Pennyland Primary Inspection
Reay Primary School	May-10	Reay Primary Inspection

© Denotes school part of a "cluster" management arrangement

Early Years Centres

Link to Care Inspectorate website: [Find a care service](#)

Early Year Centre	Inspection Month	Quality of Care & Support	Quality of Environment	Quality of Staffing	Quality of Management & Leadership
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	Aug-14	very good	very good	very good	very good
Castletown Primary Nursery	Nov-15	very good	very good	very good	very good
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	Jan-16	good	good	good	adequate
Halkirk Playgroup	Sep-15	very good	very good	very good	very good
Miller Academy Nursery	Nov-14	very good	good	very good	good
Mount Pleasant Nursery	Sep-16	very good	not assessed	good	not assessed
Pennyland Nursery	Nov-16	adequate	good	adequate	adequate
Playden Nursery	Jan-17	very good	not assessed	not assessed	very good
Scallywags Nursery	Feb-17	very good	not assessed	not assessed	very good

3.1.3 Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination data collected 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 2015 and 31 July 2016.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Thurso High School	91.3%	93.8%	91.7%
Highland	92.7%	93.7%	94.9%
Scotland	92.3%	92.9%	93.3%

Leaver Destinations for Thurso

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2013/14	149	2601	51876
2014/15	130	2700	53836
2015/16	168	2516	52249

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	13/14	14/15	15/16	13/14	14/15	15/16
Higher Education	35.6%	34.6%	28.0%	32.3%	34.1%	37.2%	38.6%	38.3%	
Further Education	37.6%	33.1%	30.4%	23.8%	26.3%	21.3%	26.3%	27.8%	
Training	1.3%	1.5%	0.0%	2.3%	1.5%	1.0%	4.1%	3.8%	
Employment	15.4%	21.5%	33.3%	31.9%	29.1%	32.7%	21.7%	21.7%	
Voluntary	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	
Activity Agreements	0.7%	2.3%	0.0%	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%	1.1%	0.9%	
Unemployed Seeking	4.0%	3.8%	4.8%	4.8%	4.2%	3.3%	6.3%	5.4%	
Unemployed Not Seeking	3.4%	0%	2.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	
Unknown	1.3%	2.3%	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	

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 7 current Activity Agreements involving former pupils of Thurso High.

3.2 Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census carried out in September 2016.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registered P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P1-3
Highland Primary (2017)				13.5%	76.5%	72.5%
Scotland Primary (2016)				17.9%	87.3%	81.7%
Castletown Primary School	119	0	0	small school/ number	small school/ number	82.0%
Crossroads Primary School	21	<5	0	small school/ number	small school/ number	66.7%
Halkirk Primary School	134	0	<5	10.1%	55.6%	52.0%
Miller Academy Primary School	201	<5	<5	15.8%	60.0%	79.0%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	189	0	<5	22.9%	56.0%	69.7%
Pennyland Primary School	198	<5	<5	12.8%	76.9%	61.2%
Reay Primary School	46	0	<5	small school/ number	small school/ number	80.0%

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registration	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary (2017)				11.3%	77.4%
Scotland Secondary (2016)				14.2%	73.9%
Thurso High School	748	<5	6	11.0%	63.3%

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2017 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.

3.2.1 Attendance/Absence/Exclusion Profile 2015/16

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, next reporting year is 2016-17.

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 (2015-16)	94.9%	4.0%	1.1%	8/1000	5/1000
Scotland Primary (2014-15)	94.9%	3.8%	1.3%	9/1000	5/1000
Castletown Primary School	95.6%	3.4%	1.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Crossroads Primary School	95.5%	3.3%	1.1%	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	95.7%	3.6%	0.7%	15/1000	7/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	93.9%	4.5%	1.7%	5/1000	5/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	94.2%	4.6%	1.1%	0/1000	0/1000
Pennyland Primary School	94.5%	3.6%	1.9%	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	93.0%	6.1%	0.9%	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 (2015-16)	91.46%	5.9%	2.6%	39/1000	26/1000
Scotland Secondary (2014-15)	91.9%	5.4%	2.5%	50/1000	29/1000
Thurso High School	92.4%	4.3%	3.2%	60/1000	23/1000

3.3 School

SCHOOL	ECO School	Travel Plan	No of Placing Requests In	No of Placing Requests in Granted	No of Placing Requests Out Granted
Thurso High School	Bronze	Yes	4	4	5
Castletown Primary School	Bronze	Yes	5	5	5
Crossroads Primary School	Bronze	Yes	2	2	6
Halkirk Primary School	Silver	Yes	3	3	0
Miller Academy Primary School	Bronze	Yes	12	12	7
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Silver	Yes	12	12	5
Pennyland Primary School	Silver	No	9	9	15
Reay Primary School	Withdrawn	Yes	0	0	0

ECO School information is reported as at May 2017. Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2015-16.

3.4 ECS Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	52.6	17.01
Castletown Primary School	6.6	2.91
Crossroads Primary School	2.5	1.24
Halkirk Primary School	7.3	2.60
Miller Academy Primary School	11.8	3.37
Mount Pleasant Primary School	12.3	5.75
Pennyland Primary School	13.9	3.34
Reay Primary School	2.3	0.77
Nursery	Teacher (FTE)	Total Staff (FTE)
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	0.00	1.34
Castletown Primary Nursery	0.10	2.76
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	0.05	1.38
Halkirk Playgroup	0.00	2.23
Miller Academy Nursery	0.10	8.14
Mount Pleasant Nursery	0.05	3.13
Pennyland Nursery	0.10	5.38
Playden Nursery	0.00	1.31
Scallywags Nursery	0.00	1.40

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2016. 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 2016.

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. The Primary Staffing Arrangements are currently being revised and the new Highland Staffing Model will be shared in due course.

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, 26th September 2012 (Item 9a). Report [ACS-33-12](#).

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

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

The identified level of need at start of session was:

121	Pupils at level 2
47	Pupils at level 3
31	Pupils at level 4

There will be some additional Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) and ASN teacher time in the local area. Whilst the ASN budget has not increased, this staffing increase is as a result of

schools data on pupils with additional needs. The North Area has a slightly bigger slice of the budget 'pie'.

The challenge this session and for next session is recruiting staff. The response to advertisements for both PSAs and ASN teachers can be very poor. We have tried to make the advertisements as attractive as possible. One challenge is that as the jobs are only advertised online, unless people are actively searching for a job, they do not know a post is advertised. We are therefore encouraging school staff to speak with people who they think might be suitable.

Caithness

After more than two years in the planning a SCOPE (Social Communication Provision for Education) is to open in August 2017 at Miller Academy. This will mean that on both sides of the county we have a provision (formerly called CEYAC) to help meet the needs of younger primary pupils with autism and similar difficulties. Its purpose is to help them increase the time pupils with such difficulties are able to be in mainstream class.

3.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Budget Aug 2015	Cost Per Pupil	Carry Fwd 2014-15
Thurso H.S.	3,279,446	4,253	97,772
Castletown P.S.	352,390	3,118	(10,781)
Crossroads P.S.	134,566	4,806	(4,659)
Miller Academy Thurso	596,379	2,982	(23,335)
Reay P.S.	142,822	3,483	(1,810)
Mount Pleasant Thurso	549,833	3,124	(9,132)
Pennyland P.S.	576,095	2,756	(10,049)
Halkirk P.S.	478,034	3,594	5,644
Pennyland Pr Nursery	106,655	2,012	141
Mount Pleasant Nursery School	48,457	1,671	(476)
Miller Acad Nursery	100,502	2,337	(1,419)
Castletown Pr Nursery	29,719	1,651	(504)

Members are asked to note that devolved funding is generally sufficient for school needs. Figures in () are surpluses.

3.6 Buildings

School	Suitability	Condition	% Roll Capacity
Thurso High School	C	C	72%
Castletown Primary School	B	B	48%
Crossroads Primary School	B	B	40%
Halkirk Primary School	B	B	51%
Miller Academy Primary School	B	C	42%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	B	B	58%
Pennyland Primary School	B	B	58%
Reay Primary School	A	B	49%

Building suitability, condition and capacity levels are as reported on the 2016 School Estate Core Facts return.

4.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND IN THURSO ASG

Programme Information:-

HLH Facilities and Services within the Thurso Associated School Group Area	User Information	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Thurso Leisure Centre Pool	Uses	60,654	72,756	42,690*
Swanson Gallery	Uses	0**	2,385	5,255
Thurso Library	Uses	21,333	24,899	45,989**
Mobile Library	Uses	11,869	7,687	8,962
Sports Pitches Ormlie Olig Street Sir George's Gillock Millbank Naver Viewfirth Park Dunnet	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-	-
Active Schools Coordinator (academic year)	Participant Sessions	24,167	32,527	Academic year information available from August/September each year.
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People	1,533	1,283	601***
Adult Learning	Attendances	-	Different information was collected prior to 2016/17	276

* Thurso Swimming Pool was closed for refurbishment during 2016/17. Customer numbers have significantly increased since re-opening compared with pre-closure levels.

** Thurso Gallery/Library closed for refurbishment from Jan 2013 to Nov 2015. Thurso Library was in temporary smaller accommodation from Jan 2013 to Nov 2015.

*** The reduction was due to a long term absence which was partially covered through sessional staff. The Youth Development Officer post (1FTE) has now been filled.

Programme Information:-

Thurso Swimming Pool: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/thurso-swimming-pool/>

Swanson Gallery: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/swanson-gallery/>

Thurso Library: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/thurso-library/>

Mobile Library: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/far-north-mobile-library/>

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Author: Barry Northedge

Date: 2 June 2017

SCHOOL ROLLS

Session 2016-17

Primary School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Castletown Primary	18	21	17	16	17	19	11	119
Crossroads Primary	2	2	2	5	2	5	3	21
Halkirk Primary	16	15	17	23	18	26	19	134
Miller Academy Primary	27	26	30	21	40	20	37	201
Mount Pleasant Primary - Gaelic	3	8	0	5	0	0	0	16
Mount Pleasant Primary -English	23	20	28	26	21	28	27	173
Pennyland Primary	29	29	31	35	27	21	26	198
Reay Primary	8	5	7	6	2	8	10	46
Grand Total	126	126	132	137	127	127	133	908

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Thurso High School	134	130	127	126	130	101	748

PRE SCHOOL CENTRE ROLLS MAY 2017

Nursery	N3	N4
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	2	5
Halkirk Playgroup	14	11
Playden Nursery	12	5
Scallywags Nursery	1	3

PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERIES MAY 2017

Nursery	N3	N4
Castletown Primary Nursery	17	14
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	6	14
Miller Academy Nursery	30	48
Mount Pleasant Nursery	16	25
Pennyland Nursery	27	45