

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	CC/08/19

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 15 May 2019

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.
- 1.2 The primary schools in this area serve over 900 pupils, with the secondary school serving 714 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

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

2. Recommendations

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

School Information

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

Primary

<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

© Denotes school part of a “cluster” management arrangement

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	Aug-17	Mount Pleasant Primary Inspection
Pennyland Primary School	Nov 2011 (Follow Up)	Pennyland Primary Inspection
Reay Primary School	May-10	Reay Primary Inspection

School/Nursery Inspections

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	June-17	very good	very good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Castletown Primary Nursery	Oct-18	good	good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	Jan-16	good	good	good	adequate
Halkirk Playgroup	June 2017	very good	very good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Miller Academy Nursery	May-17	very good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	good
Mount Pleasant Nursery	Sep-16	very good	not assessed	good	not assessed
Pennyland Nursery	Nov-17	adequate	good	good	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

Other School Information

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	3	3	1
Castletown Primary School	Bronze	Yes	4	4	2
Crossroads Primary School	Bronze	Yes	2	2	0
Halkirk Primary School	Silver	Yes	2	2	3
Miller Academy Primary School	Bronze	Yes	12	12	7
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Silver	Yes	7	7	3
Pennyland Primary School	Silver	No	9	9	11
Reay Primary School	Withdrawn	Yes	0	0	0

ECO School information is reported as at May 2019. Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2018-2019

Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	48.6	17
Castletown Primary School	6.2	3.36
Crossroads Primary School	2.14	1.15
Halkirk Primary School	7.6	2.28
Miller Academy Primary School	14.1	4.15
Mount Pleasant Primary School	12.6	6.29
Pennyland Primary School	11	5.1
Reay Primary School	2.39	0.99
Nursery	Teacher (FTE)	Total Staff (FTE)
Reay Under 5's Playgroup		1.34
Castletown Primary Nursery		2.76
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa		1.38
Halkirk Playgroup		2.23
Miller Academy Nursery		7.41
Mount Pleasant Nursery		5.1
Pennyland Nursery		5.5
Playden Nursery		1.31
Scallywags Nursery		1.40

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2018. 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.

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:

- 9.8 FTE ASN teachers
- 36 FTE PSA staff (990 hours assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

285	Pupils at level 2
83	Pupils at level 3
38	Pupils at level 4

Funding

School/ Nursery	Budget March 2017	Cost Per Pupil	Carry Fwd 1516
Thurso H.S.	3,447,301	4,437	97,772
Castletown P.S.	407,631	3,514	84
Crossroads P.S.	141,112	5644	598
Miller Academy Thurso	458,231	3,266	13,416
Reay P.S.	148,938	3,464	1762
Mount Pleasant Thurso	569,128	2,964	19,001
Pennyland P.S.	664,021	3,147	10,049
Halkirk P.S.	458,231	3,394	9,597
Pennyland Pr Nursery	147,573	2,501	2544
Mount Pleasant Nursery School	82,080	1865	365
Miller Acad Nursery	178,425	2,379	1127
Castletown Pr Nursery	45,150	2,376	556

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

Buildings

School	Suitability	Condition	% Roll Capacity
Thurso High School	Poor	Poor	68%
Castletown Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	63%
Crossroads Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	42%
Halkirk Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	71%
Miller Academy Primary School	Poor	Poor	61%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	57%
Pennyland Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	78%
Reay Primary School	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	61%

Building suitability, condition and capacity levels are as reported on the 2017 School Estate Core Facts return.

Pupil Information

Pupil 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 2017 and 31 July 2018.

	% Positive Destinations			2017/18
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/2017	
Thurso High School	93.8%	91.7%	92.9%	97.48%
Highland	93.7%	94.9%	95.5%	95.99%
Scotland	92.9%	93.3%	93.7%	94.39%

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2014/15	130	2700	53836
2015/16	168	2516	52249
2016/17	140	2411	51258
2017/18	159	2441	49724

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	15/16	16/17	17/18	15/16	16/17	17/18	15/16	16/17	17/18
Higher Education	28.0%	38.6%	30.19	37.2%	35.5		40.34	40.71	
Further Education	30.4%	29.3%	29.56	21.3%	23.68		26.59	26.83	
Training	0.0%	0.0%	0.63	1.0%	1.74		2.58	2.43	
Employment	33.3%	22.9%	33.33	32.7%	31.31		22.3	21.97	
Voluntary	0.0%	1.4%	0.63	0.9%	0.83		0.51	0.55	
Activity Agreements	0.0%	.7%	3.14	1.8%	2.45		1.02	1.22	
Unemployed Seeking	4.8%	2.1%	0.63	3.3%	1.41		5.1	4.47	
Unemployed Not Seeking	2.4%	2.1%	0.63	1.4%	1.45		1.33	1.45	
Unknown	1.2%	2.9%	1.26	0.4%	1.62		0.24	0.37	

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.

Pupil Attendance/Absence/Exclusions AAE Return 2016/17

**From current SEEMIS extract for 2017-2018 school year*

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
<i>Highland Primary (2017-18)</i>	94.5%	4.3%	1.2%	5/1000	3/1000
<i>Scotland Primary (2016-17)</i>	94.9%	3.4%	1.6%	11/1000	5/1000
Castletown Primary School	95.45	3.49	0.90	107/1000	12/1000
Crossroads Primary School	95.46	4.28	0.26	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	94.27	4.74	0.93	51/1000	15/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	93.39	4.47	2.10	21/1000	3/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	92.18	6.12	1.69	4/1000	4/1000
Pennyland Primary School	94.81	2.94	2.25	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	93.32	5.83	0.85	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
<i>Highland Secondary (2017-18)</i>	91%	6%	2.6%	44/1000	27/1000
<i>Scotland Secondary (2016-17)</i>	91.2%	5.3%	3.4%	48/1000	29/1000
Thurso High School	90.50	6.01	3.36 %	81/1000	39/1000

Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken current SEEMIS records as of 2018 Census. Free School Meals taken from Healthy Living Survey February 2017.

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	116	<5	0	12.12%	75.00%	73.91%
Crossroads Primary School	25	<5	0	16.67%	100.00%	75.00%
Halkirk Primary School	121	<5	0	12.82%	80.00%	70.73%
Miller Academy Primary School	237	0	6	19.51%	59.09%	79.05%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	186	<5	9	22.02%	77.27%	77.78%
Pennyland Primary School	218	<5	<5	11.86%	57.14%	79.57%
Reay Primary School	36	0	<5	16.67%	100.00%	69.23%

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registration	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary (2017)				11.3%	77.4%
Scotland Primary (2017)				17.5%	86.2%
Thurso High School	714	6	11	12.93%	85.07%

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2019 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.

HLH Facilities and Services within the Thurso Associated School Group Area	User Information	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Thurso Leisure Centre Pool	Customer Visits	43,930*	119,805	106,955
Swanson Gallery	Customer Visits	5,255	4,329	4,672
Thurso Library	Customer Visits	45,989	48,985	53,773
Thurso High School Library	Customer Visits	56,099	50,796	38,989
Mobile Library	Customer Visits	8,962	7,278	7,804

Sports Pitches Ormlie Orlig St Sir George's Gillock Millbank Naver Viewfirth Dunnet Park	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-	-
Active Schools Coordinator (academic year)	Participant Sessions	38,058	41,536	Info available from Aug 2019
Youth Development Officer	Attendances	1,229	2,229	1,361
Adult Learning	Attendances	276	143	143

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

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: Education Quality Improvement Manager

Date: 03/05/2019

Author: Alison Donald

Background Papers:

SCHOOL ROLLS 2018-19

SCHOOL ROLLS

Session 2018-19

Primary School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Castletown Primary	17	14	17	18	16	16	18	116
Crossroads Primary	3	2	3	3	4	6	4	25
Halkirk Primary	14	9	19	15	21	25	18	121
Miller Academy Primary	39	44	26	30	32	23	43	237
Mount Pleasant Primary -English	27	22	25	26	26	37	23	183
Pennyland Primary	33	30	32	30	35	32	26	218
Reay Primary	4	4	7	5	7	6	3	36
Grand Total	137	125	129	127	141	145	135	936

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Thurso High School	135	131	139	129	112	68	714

Nursery	N
Reay Under 5's Playgroup	11
Halkirk Playgroup	20
Playden Nursery	14
Sallywags Nursery	2

Nursery	N
Castletown Primary Nursery	29
Miller Academy Nursery	50
Mount Pleasant Nursery	49
Pennyland Nursery	53