

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	CC/08/20

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 22 October 2020

Report Title: **Thurso Associated School Group Overview**

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Education & 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 890 pupils, with the secondary school serving 758 young people.

ASG roll projections can be found at:

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

Recommendations

- 2.
- 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	Jan-17	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-19	Very Good	Not Assessed	Very Good	Not Assessed
Miller Academy Nursery	May-17	very good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	good
Mount Pleasant Nursery	Oct-19	Good	Adequate	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Pennyland Nursery	Nov-19	Very Good	Very Good	Very good	Very Good
Playden Nursery	Dec-18	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
Scallywags Nursery	Jan-19	Very Good	Very Good	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

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		Yes	4	4	2
Castletown Primary School		Yes	2	2	3
Crossroads Primary School		Yes	1	1	2
Halkirk Primary School		Yes	2	2	0
Miller Academy Primary School		Yes	9	9	6
Mount Pleasant Primary School		Yes	7	7	2
Pennyland Primary School		Yes	7	7	11
Reay Primary School		Yes	0	0	0

Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2020-21.

Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	53.43	17.37
Castletown Primary School	5.9	3.72
Crossroads Primary School	2.54	1.29
Halkirk Primary School	6.17	3.49
Miller Academy Primary School	15.6	7.25
Mount Pleasant Primary School	12.6	9.32
Pennyland Primary School	9.8	0.91
Reay Primary School	2.69	3.59
Nursery	Teacher (FTE)	Total Staff (FTE)
Reay Under 5's Playgroup		
Castletown Primary Nursery	0.1	3.2
Croileagan Inbhir Theorsa	0.1	1.13
Halkirk Playgroup		
Miller Academy Nursery	0.1	7.97
Mount Pleasant Nursery	0.1	3.42
Pennyland Nursery	0.2	5.28
Playden Nursery		
Scallywags Nursery	0.1	1.82

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sep 2019. 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:

- 5.7 FTE ASN teachers
- 35.8 FTE PSA staff (985 hours assuming FTE =27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

66	Pupils at level 3
36	Pupils at level 4

Funding

Unit Desc	Budget Aug 1617	Cost Per Pupil	Carry Fwd 1516
Thurso H.S.	3,488,007	4,489	(97,772)
Castletown P.S.	368,377	3,176	(84)
Crossroads P.S.	138,741	5,550	(598)
Halkirk P.S.	441,063	3,267	(9,597)
Miller Academy Thurso	599,772	2,955	13,416
Mount Pleasant Thurso	588,891	3,067	(19,001)
Pennyland P.S.	625,514	2,965	10,049
Reay P.S.	148,878	3,462	1,762
Castletown Pr Nursery	29,733	1,565	(556)
Miller Acad Nursery	109,155	1,455	(1,127)
Mount Pleasant Nursery School	75,230	1,710	(365)
Pennyland Pr Nursery	99,271	1,683	(2,544)

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	C	C	68%
Castletown Primary School	B	B	55%
Crossroads Primary School	B	B	42%
Halkirk Primary School	B	B	60%
Miller Academy Primary School	C	C	67%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	B	B	84%
Pennyland Primary School	B	B	80%
Reay Primary School	B	B	49%

Building suitability, condition and capacity levels are as reported on the 2020 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 2018 and 31 July 2019.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Thurso High School	92.9	97.5	98.3
Highland	95.52%	95.99%	96.08%
Scotland	93.72%	94.40%	96.10%

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2016/17	140	2411	51258
2017/18	159	2441	49707
2018/19	113	2068	44032

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	16/17	17/18	18/19	16/17	17/18	18/19	16/17	17/18	18/19
Higher Education	38.6%	30.2%	32.74%	35.5	34.11	32.74	40.71	41.1	40.35
Further Education	29.3%	29.6%	30.97%	23.68	17.34	23.14	26.83	26.5	27.27
Training	0%	0.6%	2.65%	1.74	0.98	4.81	2.43	2.1	3.47
Employment	22.9%	33.3%	31.86%	31.31	40.30	33.88	21.97	22.7	22.92
Voluntary	1.4%	0.6%		0.83	0.70	0.71	0.55	0.7	0.58
Activity Agreements	0%	3.1%		2.45	2.26		1.22	1.2	
Unemployed Seeking	2.1%	0.6%		1.41	1.44	2.08	4.47	3.8	3.12
Unemployed Not Seeking	2.1%	0.6%	0.88%	1.45	1.27	1.46	1.45	1.3	1.41
Unknown	2.9%	1.3%	0.88%	1.62	1.6	0.42	0.37	0.4	0.42

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 ___ current Activity Agreements involving former pupils of Thurso High.

Pupil Attendance/Absence/Exclusions 2019/20

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, next reporting year is 2018-19.

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 (2019-20)</i>	93.5%	4.9%	1.6%	7/1000	4/1000
<i>Scotland Primary (2018-19)</i>	94.5%	3.6%	1.9%	8/1000	
Castletown Primary School	95.0%	3.9%	1.0%	37/1000	9/1000
Crossroads Primary School	95.5%	4.1%	0.3%	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	95.7%	3.3%	1.0%	0/1000	15.5/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	95.5%	4.1%	0.4%	4/1000	4/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	92.3%	6.3%	1.4%	0/1000	0/1000
Pennyland Primary School	92.8%	4.9%	2.3%	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	90.4%	5.4%	4.2%	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 (2019-20)</i>	88.8%	7.3%	3.9%	39/1000	27/1000
<i>Scotland Secondary (2018-19)</i>	90.7%	5.5%	3.7%	40/1000	
Thurso High School	91.2%	5.1%	3.6%	8/1000	8/1000

Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census carried out in September 2019.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registered P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P4-7	Free Meals Uptake P1-3
Highland Primary (2020)				14.4%	74.8%	79.7%
Scotland Primary (2020)				19.9%	81.4%	75.7%
Castletown Primary School	105	<5	0	16.9%	100%	97.5%
Crossroads Primary School	21	<5	0	small school/ number	small school/ number	100%
Halkirk Primary School	113	<5	0	9.5%	75.0%	93.3%
Miller Academy Primary School	224	<5	<5	19.8%	100%	95.3%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	204	6	11	22.5%	77.8%	94.2%
Pennyland Primary School	222	<5	<5	11.8%	100%	96.0%
Reay Primary School	37	0	<5	small school/ number	small school/ number	92.3%

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Registration	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary (2020)				11.6 %	77.6%
Scotland Secondary (2020)				15.6%	70.9%
Thurso High School	733	16	10	10.2%	87.7%

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2020 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.

High Life Highland

HLH Facilities and Services within the Thurso Associated School Group Area	User Information	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Thurso Leisure Centre Pool	Customer Visits	43,930*	119,805	116,318	108,096
Swanson Gallery	Customer Visits	5,255	4,329	4,672	4,276
Thurso Library	Customer Visits	45,989	48,985	53,773	54,308
Thurso High School Library	Customer Visits	56,099	50,796	38,989**	27,829
Mobile Library	Customer Visits	8,962	7,278	7,804	7,446
Sports Pitches Ormlie Orlig Street Sir George's Millbank Viewfirth Park Naver Dunnet	Available for let by sports clubs	-	-	-	-
Active Schools Coordinator (academic year)	Participant Sessions	38,058	41,536	19655 ***	12019 ****
Youth Development Officer	Attendances	1,229	2,229	1,328*****	1,226
Adult Learning	Attendances	276	143	143	220

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

** Thurso High School Library reduction due to changing school timetable and reduced use of PCs following introduction of Chromebooks. School and library staff are working on joint programmes to increase use.

*** Participant sessions reduced due to a staff resignation and delay in filling post.

**** Terms 1 and 2 only.

***** An AYW who did significant hours, left in July 2018 and post was taken over by a Trainee YDO with reduced hours initially but is now progressing well. Engagement for 2019/20 is already showing to be reaching the total number for 18/19.

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: 06.10/2020

Author: Alison Donald

Background Papers:

SCHOOL ROLLS 2020-21

SCHOOL ROLLS

Session 2019-20

Primary School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Castletown Primary	12	12	16	10	17	16	14	97
Crossroads Primary	3		1	4	2	4	3	17
Halkirk Primary	17	6	14	10	21	17	23	108
Miller Academy Primary	37	27	38	44	25	30	32	233
Mount Pleasant Primary -English	18	31	28	24	26	29	31	187
Pennyland Primary	26	34	32	32	30	26	32	212
Reay Primary	6	5	3	5	8	6	7	40
Grand Total	119	115	132	128	129	127	142	892

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Thurso High School	146	142	132	131	120	87	758