

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CC/21/21

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 3/11/2021

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 874 pupils, with the secondary school serving 742 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	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	5	5	0
Castletown Primary School		Yes	2	2	1
Crossroads Primary School		Yes	0	0	1
Halkirk Primary School		Yes	0	0	3
Miller Academy Primary School		Yes	6	6	15
Mount Pleasant Primary School		Yes	9	9	4
Pennyland Primary School		Yes	9	9	17
Reay Primary School		Yes	1	1	1

Placing requests are those received to start in a school during academic year 2021-22.

Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Thurso High School	52.77	683.58
Castletown Primary School	5.43	97.5
Crossroads Primary School	1.5	42
Halkirk Primary School	7.1	91
Miller Academy Primary School	13.1	119.75
Mount Pleasant Primary School	14.2	288.55
Pennyland Primary School	12.93	230.25
Reay Primary School	2.9	40.75
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 2022. 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:

- 8.8 FTE ASN teachers – including 2 FTE Area ASN funded vacancies for which ATRs are in. Also 1 ATR for the vacancy in January of the EP class at Mt Pleasant.
- 31.3 FTE PSA staff -1 FTE @ 27.5 - including vacancies for which ATRs are in

The identified level of need at start of session was:

68	Pupils at level 3
33	Pupils at level 4

Funding

Unit Desc	Budget Aug 1920	Cost Per Pupil	Carry Fwd 1819
Castletown P.S.	419863	3852	-4983
Castletown Pr Nursery	69069	2656	-3007
Crossroads P.S.	153586	6981	-4510
Halkirk P.S.	446855	3852	-19192
Miller Acad Nursery	200347	3515	-2273
Miller Academy Thurso	720097	3186	19797
Mount Pleasant Nursery School	123328	2569	-4708
Mount Pleasant Thurso	617634	3119	-30882
Pennyland P.S.	659892	3000	3609
Pennyland Pr Nursery	188669	2620	-3142
Reay P.S.	175331	4739	-8767
Thurso H.S.	3322665	4442	-166133

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 2019 and 31 July 2020.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Thurso High School	97.5	98.3	89.17
Highland	95.99%	96.08%	92.55%
Scotland	94.40%	96.10%	93.36%

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Thurso High School	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2017/18	159	2441	49707
2018/19	113	2068	44032
2019/20	120	2216	47435

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Thurso High School			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20
Higher Education	30.2%	32.74%	40.83	34.11	32.74	23.83	41.1	40.35	44.20
Further Education	29.6%	30.97%	27.50	17.34	23.14	25.41	26.5	27.27	28.06
Training	0.6%	2.65%	2.50	0.98	4.81	3.20	2.1	3.47	3.68
Employment	33.3%	31.86%	18.33	40.30	33.88	23.83	22.7	22.92	16.18
Voluntary	0.6%			0.70	0.71	0.50	0.7	0.58	0.45
Activity Agreements	3.1%			2.26			1.2		
Unemployed Seeking	0.6%		5.00	1.44	2.08	4.42	3.8	3.12	4.14
Unemployed Not Seeking	0.6%	0.88%	5.83	1.27	1.46	2.17	1.3	1.41	1.83
Unknown	1.3%	0.88%	5.00	1.6	0.42	0.86	0.4	0.42	0.67

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 2018/19

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, next reporting year is 2020-21.

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 (2018-19)	94.5%	4.2%	1.3%	5/1000	3/1000
Scotland Primary (2018-19)	94.5%	3.6%	1.9%	8/1000	
Castletown Primary School	95.2%	4.1%	0.7%	34/1000	9/1000
Crossroads Primary School	94.5%	3.9%	1.6%	0/1000	0/1000
Halkirk Primary School	95.3%	3.4%	1.3%	16/1000	8/1000
Miller Academy Primary School	93.7%	5.6%	0.7%	4/1000	4/1000
Mount Pleasant Primary School	93.0%	5.5%	1.5%	0/1000	0/1000
Pennyland Primary School	93.2%	4.6%	2.4%	0/1000	0/1000
Reay Primary School	92.8%	5.9%	1.5%	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 (2018-19)	90.1%	6.3%	3.5%	35.7/1000	24.4/1000
Scotland Secondary (2018-19)	90.7%	5.5%	3.7%	40/1000	
Thurso High School	88.5%	7.4%	4.6%	8/1000	8/1000

Pupils

Roll, Looked After and EAL pupil numbers have been taken from the Pupil Census carried out in September 2021.

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	87	0	<5	16.9%	100%	97.5%
Crossroads Primary School	13	0	0	small school/ number	small school/ number	100%
Halkirk Primary School	96	0	0	9.5%	75.0%	93.3%
Miller Academy Primary School	230	<5	<5	19.8%	100%	95.3%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	189	<5	11	22.5%	77.8%	94.2%
Pennyland Primary School	219	0	<5	11.8%	100%	96.0%
Reay Primary School	40	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	742	<5	9	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	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Thurso Leisure Centre	Customer Visits	116,318	108,096	9,289
Swanson Gallery	Customer Visits	4,672	4,276	175
Thurso Library	Customer Visits	53,773	54,308	1,312
Thurso High School Library	Customer Visits	38,989	27,829*	2,827
Mobile Library	Customer Visits	7,804	7,446	0
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	19,655	12,019**	1,571
Youth Development Officer	Attendances	1,328	1,226	66
Adult Learning	Attendances	143	220	9

All 2020/21 data has been impacted by the pandemic.

* 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.

** Active Schools data is reported by academic year so this figure was affected by the pandemic (number is for school terms 1 and 2 only)

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/>

Implications

Resource – All work will be managed within budget allocations

Legal – Statutory requirements are met as necessary

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – N/A

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – N/A

Risk – N/A

Gaelic – Where GME/GLE is delivered in schools, we continue to support and further develop this.

Designation: North Education and Learning Manager

Date: 26/10/2021

Author: Alison Donald, North Education and Learning Manager

SCHOOL ROLLS 2021-22

SCHOOL ROLLS

Session 2021-22

Primary School	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
Castletown Primary	7	13	11	17	9	16	14	87
Crossroads Primary	2	2		1	3	1	4	13
Halkirk Primary	14	17	4	14	9	22	16	96
Miller Academy Primary	24	38	29	37	43	28	31	230
Mount Pleasant Primary -English	27	21	30	28	23	27	33	189
Pennyland Primary	40	24	33	32	33	30	27	219
Reay Primary	6	7	5	3	5	8	6	40
Grand Total	120	122	112	132	125	132	130	874

School Name	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S1-S6
Thurso High School	144	148	136	131	103	80	742