



INVERCLYDE COUNCIL



**WHINHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND
NURSERY CLASS**

**HANDBOOK
SESSION 2017**

**BUN-SGOIL CHNOC A' CHONAISG
AGUS SGOIL-ÀRAICH**

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Whinhill Primary School
Drumfrochar Road
Greenock
PA15 4EQ

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am very pleased to welcome you and your child to Whinhill Primary School and Nursery class which provides education through both English and Gaelic Medium.

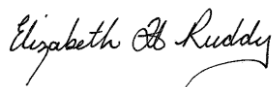
Starting school is now much easier for children since most of them attended nursery but for others it can still be a daunting task, getting used to different people and new routines.

The purpose of this handbook is to give you some idea of what goes on in our school and the wide variety of activities your child will be able to take part in.

Schools have changed in many ways over the past years, being less formal and creating an atmosphere in which children can make great progress. At Whinhill we have very effective partnerships with all our parents/guardians and we look forward to you becoming part of our school family.

We operate an open door policy and would encourage you to contact us should any problems arise.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Ruddy
Head Teacher



"BUILDING INVERCLYDE THROUGH EXCELLENCE, AMBITION AND REGENERATION"

GOALS AND VALUES

Our core values are Respect, Honesty and Tolerance.

Our vision for the children and young people of Inverclyde is that they should be ambitious for themselves and be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

To achieve our ambition of building Inverclyde through excellence, ambition and regeneration our children must be

SAFE: protected from abuse, neglect and harm by others at home, school and in the community.

HEALTHY: enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to healthy lifestyles.

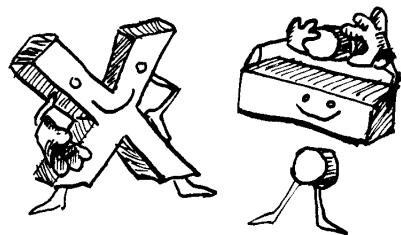
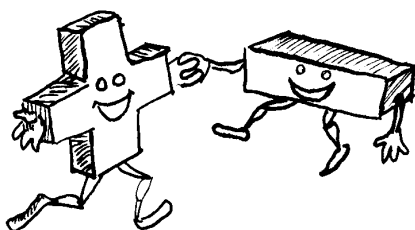
ACHIEVING: have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self esteem to the fullest potential.

ACTIVE: active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation including sport.

RESPECTED AND RESPONSIBLE: involved in decisions that affect them, have their voices heard and be encouraged to play an active and responsible role in their communities.

INCLUDED: have access to high quality services when required and should be assisted to overcome the social, educational, physical, environmental and economic barriers that create inequality.

NURTURED: educated within a supportive setting.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Inverclyde
council

Whinhill Primary School
Drumfrochar Road
GREENOCK
PA15 4EQ

Tel: 01475 715749

PRESENT ROLL

School - English	228
School - Gaelic	21
Nursery - English	36
Nursery - Gaelic	10

DENOMINATIONAL STATUS: a non-denominational, co-educational school offering both English Medium and Gaelic Medium education for pupils with ages ranging from 3 years to 12 years.

SALU: (School Age Language Unit): Based within the school is a language Unit which caters for the educational needs of children from within the Inverclyde area with language and speech disorders.

Website: <http://whinhill.inverclyde.sch.uk>

Twitter: @whinhillPS

SCHOOL HOURS

09.00AM	School opens
10.30 - 10.45	Interval
12.15 - 1.00pm	Lunch break
3.00PM	School closes



Until the September weekend holiday P.1 children attend only in the morning and finish daily at 12.15pm.

NURSERY HOURS

8.45am - 11.55am
12.30pm - 3.40pm

morning session - English and Gaelic Medium
afternoon session - English Medium

Children are entitled to 600 hours of nursery education (pro rata depending on their birth date).

ADMISSION INTAKE TIMELINE

3 - 5 year old Early Learning and Childcare Place			
Birthday Dates	Intake	Intake Month	Admission Timeline
1 st March - 31 st August	1	August	At start of term in August and before last day of August
1 st September - 31 st December	2	January	Start of term in January and before the 3rd week of January
1 st January - Last day in February	3	April	After Easter Term before 1st day of May *

*This may change depending on when Easter term falls.

TEACHING STAFF

HEAD TEACHER
DEPUTE HEAD TEACHER
PRINCIPAL TEACHER

MRS ELIZABETH RUDDY
MRS UNA NICOLSON
MRS ANDREA HUNTER

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
Primary 1A	Mrs Christine Dougan
Primary 1B	Mrs Sharon Lightfoot
Primary 2	Mrs Jaclyn Cooke
Primary 3/2	Miss Christine Reid
Primary 3	Mrs Alison Smith
Primary 4	Mrs Christine MacIsaac/Mrs Jenna Valerio
Primary 5	Mrs Dianne Derrick (temp maternity cover)
Primary 6/5	Miss Natasha McLatchie
Primary 6	Miss Caroline Cheng
Primary 7a	Mrs Andrea Hunter
Primary 7b	Mrs Pamela Bradley
Maternity Leave	Miss Paula Kinnon
Gaelic P1-3	Miss Hannah Macleod Mrs Kate Bannerman
Gaelic P4-7	Mr Alasdair MacPhee
RCCT/SFL	Mrs Jenna Valerio Mrs Nicola Reid Mr James Rodgers
Nurture Teacher	Mrs Julie Grieve
Family Support Worker	Mr David Ferrier
Salu Staff	Mrs Juliette Duffy

Mr Stuart Tait (Peripatetic)	Brass tuition
Mrs Karen Downie (Peripatetic)	Violin
Mrs Gemma McLean	Singing
Mr Andrew MacPherson	Chanter

Teaching compliment 12.3 Full Time Equivalent - English Medium
Teaching compliment 2.6 Full Time Equivalent - Gaelic Medium

SUPPORT STAFF

Office Staff

Mrs Arlene McCafferty
Mrs Elaine McIntosh
Mrs Judy McElwee

Classroom Assistants

Mrs Lynne McGlynn

A.S.N. Auxiliaries

Mrs Ann McDonald
Mrs Sheena McArthur
Mrs Patricia McWhinnie
Mrs June McLean
Mrs Ann Robertson
Mrs Gaie Brown
Mrs Rowena McCracken

Learning Assistants

Mrs Julie Gillespie
Mrs Deirdre Boyd

EYECO (school)

Mrs Aileen Thomson

EYECO (nursery)

Mrs Fiona Brogan (senior)
Mrs Cathy Piggott
Miss Jenna Blair
Mrs Fiona McArthur (Gaelic)
Mrs Margaret Watt (Gaelic)

Nursery Support Staff

Mrs Siobhan O'Donnell
Miss Stephanie Sinnamon

JANITOR

Mr Raymond Swankie

DINING HALL SUPERVISOR

Ms Helen Sloane
Mrs Judy McElwee

SCHOOL YEAR - SESSION 2016/2017

FIRST TERM

In-Service Day	Mon 15 th August 2016
In-Service Day	Tues 16 th August 2016
Pupils Return	Wed 17 th August 2016
Close	Fri 2 nd September 2016
Local Holiday	Mon 5 th September 2016
Pupils Return	Tues 6 th September 2016
Close	Fri 14 th October 2016
October Break	Mon 17 th - Fri 21 st Oct 2016
In-Service Day	Mon 24 th October 2016
Pupils Return	Tues 25 th October 2016
Close	Tues 20 th December 2016

SECOND TERM

Pupils Return	Thur 5 th January 2017
Close	Fri 3 rd February 2017
Mid - Term	Mon 6 th February 2017
Mid - Term	Tues 7 th February 2017
In-Service Day	Wed 8 th February 2017
Pupils Return	Thurs 9 th February 2017
Close	Fri 31 st March 2017

THIRD TERM

Spring Break	Mon 3 rd - Tues 18 th April 2017
Good Friday	Fri 14 th April 2017
Easter Monday	Mon 17 th April 2017
Pupils Return	Wed 19 th April 2017
May Day	Mon 1 st May 2017
Close	Thurs 25 th May 2017
Local Holiday	Fri 26 th May 2017
Local Holiday	Mon 29 th May 2017
In-Service Day	Tues 30 th May 2017
Pupils Return	Wed 31 st May 2017
Close	Thurs 29 th June 2017

Pupils do not attend school on staff Inservice days.

WHINHILL NURSERY CLASS

Whinhill Primary Nursery Class offers pre-school education through both English and Gaelic medium.

Gaelic Medium

Whinhill is the only provider of Gaelic Medium education in Inverclyde. Therefore, your child may attend the nursery and then go into P1 Gaelic regardless of which catchment area you live in. It is not necessary for parents to be Gaelic speakers for their child to go into a Gaelic medium nursery.

If you wish to discuss Gaelic medium please telephone the school and make an appointment with the Head Teacher.



Curriculum in the nursery

The nursery class follows the early level of Curriculum for Excellence in English or Gaelic. The eight key aspects of the curriculum are literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, technologies, social studies, expressive arts, religious and moral education and sciences.

Assessment and Reporting in the Nursery

Every child has a pupil profile which is a comprehensive record of their progress during their time in nursery. These are discussed with parents regularly and information recorded is as a result of observations made by staff. Parents and children have access to these records which are sent home at the end of the child's pre-school experience.

A record of achievement is compiled when the child completes his/her pre-school education. The information is then passed on to the school which the child will be transferring to.

Attendance

It is important that absences are kept to a minimum as education is a continuous process and children benefit from regular attendance. We ask that parents contact the school before 9.30am if a child will be absent from the nursery.

Home Links

Our nursery has an open door policy and parents are encouraged to speak with staff to discuss any concerns. Newsletters are regularly sent home from both English and Gaelic medium detailing nursery events and activities.

Clothing

Children should not wear "good clothes" to nursery. Children are involved in many types of activities from baking to painting and although they are provided with an apron, accidents do happen. Please make sure your child has plimsolls with their name on them.



Snacks

Whinhill nursery is a health promoting establishment with a healthy eating policy based on the guidelines contained in the Early Years Nutrition Pack.

The children are provided with a healthy snack such as fruit, cheese and biscuits, cereal, toast and milk. A weekly donation is greatly appreciated to pay for the snacks provided.

Collecting Children

If an alternative arrangement for collection is to be made the staff in the nursery must be informed in advance.

Transition

The key to effective transition is effective communication between the early years establishment, school and parents. The transition process is on-going with strong links between our own nursery and P1 and with other nurseries in our community.

Transfer to Primary School

Children are normally transferred between the ages of 4½ and 5½ years, although this may be negotiated in exceptional circumstances.

Care Inspectorate

Care Inspectorate is the Scottish Commission for Regulation of Care. This organisation inspects the service provided for the children who attend the nursery on a regular basis. Inspections can be planned or unannounced and are carried out by one Care Inspectorate Officer. During the inspection the Officer speaks with the Head Teacher, staff, children and parents. He/she also looks at the range of policies, procedures and records.

CARE INSPECTORATE

Central West Region

4th Floor

No1 Smithhills Street

Paisley PA1 1EB

Tel: 01418436840



Whinhill Pupil Voice

In Whinhill we believe that children need to be active participants in their own education and to feel that their opinions will be heard within our school and the wider community. We seek ways to listen to the views of our pupils and involve them in decision-making so that they are engaged as partners in the life of the school. The opportunity for our pupils to share their opinions is a part of Whinhill school life and can happen in lots of ways. Our pupil voice is embedded throughout the curriculum and by the use of a variety of pupil committees. We believe that our committees will enhance and develop positive pupil leadership skills and encourage a greater sense of responsibility throughout the school. Here is a snapshot of the types of activities our pupils have been involved in within their committees.

Eco Committee

We are responsible for helping keep the school clean by promoting recycling around the school and area with our litter pickers. As part of this we have a group of 'Super Sorters' that empty the school bins every Thursday with the help of our janitor Mr Swankie. All these things have helped us achieve our **Eco green flag!** We still need to continue our great work to keep our flag and maybe complete our next flag!



Rights Respecting Committee

We are responsible for making sure that pupils in the school are respecting each other's rights. We have a meeting once a month to discuss how to raise awareness of children's rights in the school. We have recently created a playtime and lunchtime charter. We worked together and picked rights that pupils should be aware of when they are playing outside and having lunch in the canteen. All classes also have a class charter and a 'right of the month' which we decide together. We were delighted to achieve the RRS Level 2 Award!



Fairtrade Committee

We are responsible for educating the school about Fairtrade and where products come from. We hold a small tuck-shop every Friday during break filled with delicious chocolate and healthy fruit snacks. We ask the Fairtrade members from P1-7 to help us run the tuck-shop. Promoting Fairtrade helps the fight against forced child labour supporting children's rights. We also host a Fairtrade café after our class assemblies. You have a Fairtrade coffee or tea and a Fairtrade product. We look forward to continuing our work with Fairtrade and helping change lives of others with our choices.



Pupil Council

In the Pupil Council we help make decisions about the school and make sure that everyone has a chance to have their opinions and ideas heard. Each class has a member who is the spokesperson on behalf of the class. We have regular meetings and we discuss things our classmates have brought up. Our suggestion box is in the ICT suite if you have any ideas or worries that you want to share.



Health Squad

In the Health Squad are always on the look out for people who have made healthy choices. We encourage a healthy lifestyle and help organise Health Week. Recently we decided to run a mascot competition for our committee to have a new logo. We link in with the Fairtrade committee to make sure that there are healthy options to sell at the tuck shop every Friday.



Junior Road Safety Officers

We try to get everyone to walk to school because...

- it's a safe way to travel
- it's healthy because you are exercising
- it cuts down pollution from cars and buses
- you can walk with your friends

We organize and lead 'Walk to School Week' to encourage everyone to make healthy choices. We attend JRSO meetings to discuss any issues with Road Safety Officers and the Police. We also think about events we can plan to encourage everyone to walk to school.



Literacy Committee

In the Literacy group we are in charge of organising and thinking of ideas for whole school literacy events such as World Book Day, Book Week Scotland and National Storytelling week. For WBD we decided that everyone would dress up as their favourite book character and pay a £1. All the money went to the charities chosen by the Charity Committee to make sure that children have books to read too!



Charities Committee

The Charities Committee links with other committees to help raise funds for people in need. We suggest charities to fund raise for then organise a whole school vote to decide on our chosen charities for the year. We lead different events such as Pudsey Day for Children In Need and organize a Charities fete. We also have a suggestion box for the whole school to share ideas on how we can fundraise.



Global Citizens

We are the Global Citizens who are a group of P7 representatives from all of our other committees. We helped organise a parcel to be sent to Litchenza Primary (our partner school in Malawi) from all classes in Whinhill. Each class organised something to send about what life is like living in Scotland with items ranging from letters, postcards and photo collages to bunting and artwork. This helped us look at the similarities and differences in culture between our countries and raise awareness of the impact our choices about recycling, buying Fairtrade, walking to school and fundraising have.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Our parents, carers and families are very important in supporting our children through their educational experience. We recognise that parents and families have skills to contribute to, and support our school and this is achieved in many different ways. A parent helpers group operates to support classroom activities. Parents are invited to workshops throughout the school year which focus on the curriculum. We also encourage our parents to become further involved through parent/child homework tasks.

We encourage our parents to voice their suggestions and opinions through parent focus groups, responses to newsletters, questionnaires, and telephone calls. Our school operates an 'open door' policy and we will endeavour to be available to parents and carers when needed. If you have any concerns or worries please contact the school right away and we will endeavour to resolve these for you.

PARENT GROUPS

At Whinhill it is felt that the school should be part of the community. The P.T.A plays a large part in this aspect of the school life. The school has a successful Parent Teacher Association who works hard arranging fund-raising events throughout the school year. P.T.A. members attend school functions and help on Educational and social outings.

All parents and teachers are deemed to be members of the P T A without payment of any fee, and various activities help to foster the very happy relationship that exists between the school and the community. The PTA has been most generous to the school, not only financially but also assisting at parties, discos, outings etc.

We also have a Comann Nam Parant group which supports our children in Gaelic Medium and promotes Gaelic to our wider community.

Whinhill also has an active Parent Council who takes a keen interest in the improvement of the school.

PARENT FORUM and PARENT COUNCIL

Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 led to the establishment of Parent Councils in primary, secondary and special schools. The Act recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their children's learning. It places a duty on authorities to promote the involvement of parents in children's education and the wider life of the school. It aims to help parents to be:-

- Involved with their child's education and learning
- Welcomed as an active participant in the life of the school
- Encouraged to express their views on school education generally.

Information must be provided on whether or not a Parent Council has been established and the reason(s) given for the non-establishment or disestablishment of a board.

Information should be given about the members of the council. Details of where/how the Parent Forum can access minutes of meetings and constitution should be given. Procedures for electing parent representatives should be set out.

The Parent Council, as a statutory body, has the right to information and advice on matters which affect children's education.

Parents who are involved on a regular basis in schools should undertake an enhanced disclosure through the PVG scheme.

All parents who have a child attending the school are automatically members of the Parent Forum for our school. Membership of the forum allows parents to have a say in the local arrangements to enable their standards of education at the school and other matters of interest to parents. These views can be represented, as appropriate, to the head teacher of the school, the Council and HMIE.

Parent Council Members - Barry McLafferty, Laura Duffy, Lynne Gault, Rowena McCracken, Michelle Ross, Margaret Aitken,

The Parent Council is established when the parent members are elected.

Parent Council meeting dates 2017:

Monday 23rd January

Monday 20th March

Monday 8th May

Monday 12th June

SCHOOL ETHOS

Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class was established in August 2012 after the closure and amalgamation of two local primary schools. All stakeholders including pupils, parents, school staff and the wider community have been consulted on the core values which have been adopted by our school. These are **Honesty, Confidence, Responsibility, Kindness and Respect.** We also support the goals and values identified by Inverclyde Council which are listed at the beginning of the handbook. We celebrate the achievements of our children both in and out of school in many different ways. We have a celebrations assembly each month and children receive certificates linked to the four capacities of 'responsible citizens', 'effective contributors', 'successful learners' and 'confident individuals'. We are often represented in the local press and we make good use of newsletters, our school website and twitter to recognise the achievements of our children.

At Whinhill we value partnerships with local schools and businesses. We have twinned with our local denominational school St Patrick's and share opportunities for religious observance and citizenship activities. We have very strong links with our active school co-ordinator who supports our children in a wide variety of sports.

We have achieved three green eco flags and promote sustainability at all times. We are a level 2 accredited Rights Respecting School and have Fairtrade status.

This year senior citizens in the area have joined us at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service, when pupils have not only provided gifts, but have been able to listen and talk to the older generation. Gaelic pupils have enjoyed the hospitality of Merino Court in return for carol singing.

We have good links with businesses e.g. Texas Instruments and have had visits from police, fire, ambulance and many other health professionals as part of our health week. We have a strong link with the Royal Horticultural Society.

In these and other ways the school becomes identified with the community, and the community with the school.

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Our children are encouraged to be active and discover the world around them. If children are kept busy and happy, it is our belief that behaviour problems are kept to a minimum. We strive at all times to promote positive behaviour across the school. Certain standards of behaviour are necessary for a pleasant and safe environment in which our children may be educated and prepared for their future lives. We, therefore, expect our children to conform to the standards of behaviour that are necessary to promote this pleasant and safe environment.

In encouraging our children to show respect for others, and to respect the rights of others, we feel that we are laying the very basis of these standards of behaviour. To this end, school rules are made in the interest of and for the well-being and safety of your children and other children. Please encourage your child to obey these rules.

Our school advocates 'restorative approaches' to deal with behaviour where children are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and support one another in moving forward with respect and friendship. We aim to seek solutions to behaviour difficulties which arise. Our school follows Inverclyde's Positive Relationship Policy.

Instances of inappropriate or challenging behaviour are dealt with in line with school policy and parents are kept fully informed.

CHILD PROTECTION

Inverclyde Council Education Services has Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures which all schools and establishments are required to follow. Education Services work very closely with other agencies namely Strathclyde Police, Social Work Services, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and the Children's Reporter to support children. Common responsibilities of all staff are to protect children from abuse and exploitation, to respond appropriately when abuse is identified, and to ensure whenever possible that all children are able to exercise their right to be raised in a warm, stimulating and safe environment with the support of staff, their families and carers.

EQUALITIES

The Equality Statement for Inverclyde Establishments

'Inverclyde Education Service is committed to ensuring that no children or members of staff or service users receive less favourable treatment on any ground including gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. We have a moral, social and legal obligation to mainstream and put equality at the heart of everything we do. We aim to promote a culture in which equality of opportunity exists for all. We are opposed to all forms of discrimination, direct or indirect, and aim to eliminate all discriminatory practices. We will ensure that, in our schools and other educational establishments, equality permeates the curriculum and underpins all our policies and practices in terms of access to education. We must ensure that all our children achieve their full potential to develop physically, emotionally and academically. Finally, we believe that equality and inclusion should be a given right, where everyone is valued and treated with respect.'

GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION

Gaelic medium education is a form of education in Scotland that allows pupils to be taught primarily through the medium of Scottish Gaelic, with English taught as the secondary language.

Within the establishment of Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class is the Gaelic Medium for Inverclyde. Gaelic medium education is mainly provided by Gaelic medium classes within English-speaking schools. There is the Gaelic nursery for children age 3½ years to 5½ years and the unit for children age 4 ½ years to 12½ years.

Learning Gaelic as an additional language contributes to learners' wider education and life experiences. Language lies at the centre of our thinking and learning. The interconnected nature of language learning lies at the heart of the Gaelic experiences and outcomes in Curriculum for Excellence.

"When they begin to learn another language, children and young people need to make connections with the skills and knowledge they have already developed in their own language. To help this, teachers can make use of the diversity of languages which children and young people may bring to school."

Building the Curriculum 1

Gaelic -medium education, like all education provision in Scotland, is determined by demand for the service balanced with the educational and economic viability of each educational unit.

If you would like to visit our school or find out more please contact the Head Teacher to arrange an appointment.



ASSESSMENT and ARRANGEMENTS for REPORTING to PARENTS

CURRICULUM

At Whinhill Primary we operate a broad curriculum which offers opportunities for learning in all general areas. Various methods of teaching are carried out so that pupils are able to display their strengths and develop their full potential across the curriculum.

The curriculum framework for all Scottish educational establishments 3 - 18, called Curriculum for Excellence, will offer better educational outcomes for all young people and will provide more choices and more chances for those young people who need them.

The aims of Curriculum for Excellence are that every child and young person should:

- Know they are valued and will be supported to become a successful learner, an effective contributor, a confident individual and a responsible citizen;
- Experience a traditionally broad Scottish curriculum that develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work, with a sustained focus on literacy and numeracy that encourages an active, healthy and environmentally sustainable lifestyle and builds an appreciation of Scotland and its place in the world.

The experiences and outcomes under Curriculum for Excellence are written at five levels, with progression to qualifications described under the senior phase.

Early Level - the pre-school years and P1 later for some

First level - to the end of P4, but earlier for some

Second level - to the end of P7, but earlier for some

Third and Fourth - S1 to S3, but earlier for some

Senior phase - S4 - S6 and college or other means of study



LITERACY

Language is at the core of thinking. We reflect, communicate and develop our ideas through language. Literacy offers an essential passport to learning, helping children and young people to achieve to the full and be ready for active involvement in society and work. Literature opens up new horizons, and a love of reading can be an important starting point for lifelong learning. Up to date reading materials give the pupils opportunities to develop reading and language skills at a pace suitable to each individual child. A book club and an annual book fair are also available to encourage children to read and enjoy books. Several years ago our school was a pilot for 'Talking Round Corners'. Talking and listening strategies are now highly developed across all stages in the school and are used in every curricular area. The teaching of writing takes place within the area of language but also in many other curricular areas.

The teaching of a primary modern language takes place from Primary 1-7 and develops as children move through the school.

NUMERACY

Putting mathematical knowledge and understanding to constructive use has been one of the decisive factors in shaping societies. Engineering, science, technology and business rely upon mathematics and continue to find new applications for mathematics. Cultural development and artistic endeavour are influenced by mathematics. Each of us uses mathematical skills and concepts in everyday life. To face the challenges of the 21st century, each young person needs to have confidence in using mathematical skills, and Scotland needs both specialist mathematicians and a highly numerate population. We teach mathematics in such a way that children understand through activity. The workbooks and textbooks provide practical, relevant examples incorporating real life situations as well as allowing pupils to progress at their own level. Continuous assessment is also carried out.

SCIENCES

The most important goal for science education is to stimulate, nurture and sustain the curiosity, wonder and questioning of children.

Young children have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity and are active and eager learners who endeavour to make sense of the world. They develop ideas through play, investigation, first-hand experience and discussion. As they grow older children ask searching questions based on their everyday observations and experiences of living things, the environment and the materials, objects and devices they interact with. Young people are fascinated by new discoveries and technologies and become increasingly aware of, and passionate about, the impact of science on their own health and wellbeing, the health of society and of the environment.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

The expressive arts include experiences and outcomes in art and design, drama, dance and music.

Through the expressive arts, children and young people can have rich opportunities to be creative and imaginative and to experience inspiration and enjoyment. They can come to understand the important roles of the arts in describing and changing society. The arts have a growing significance in the life and prosperity of Scotland. Through their experience of the expressive arts, children and young people can appreciate the contributions of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities.

Our school takes part in many expressive arts activities out with the core curriculum including the Inverclyde Music Festival, McLean museum activities, and drama and music experiences as they occur.

At present senior pupils have the opportunity of brass, voice and violin tuition from visiting instructors.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies include experiences and outcomes in historical, geographical, social, political, economic and business contexts.

It is important for children and young people to understand the place where they live and the heritage of their family and community. Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances, and how their environment has been shaped.

They learn about human achievements and to make sense of changes in society, conflicts and environmental issues. With greater understanding comes the opportunity to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship. This area of the curriculum is supported by day visits to linked experiences e.g. Vikingar, Scotland Street School and the Hunterian Museum.

TECHNOLOGIES

This curriculum area includes creative, practical and work-related experiences and outcomes in craft, design, engineering, graphics, food, textile, and information technologies.

To participate fully in modern life, children and young people need to be skilled and knowledgeable users of technologies and be ready to embrace further developments in the future. The technologies consider how knowledge can be applied for practical purposes. They provide exciting opportunities to develop children's creativity and the enterprising attitudes which Scotland needs, not least to compete in a global economy. Technologies are developing at an unprecedented rate. Such dramatic change brings risks as well as benefits, and children and young people need to be able to assess the impact of technologies so that they can take action in an informed way.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and wellbeing includes experiences and outcomes for personal and social development, understanding of health, physical education and physical activity, and contributions from home economics. It also includes approaches and activities such as physical activity and nutrition, planned by pre-school settings, schools or colleges to promote the health and wellbeing of their learners and the wider community.

Children and young people need to experience what it feels like to develop, enjoy and live a healthy lifestyle. They also need to learn ways of dealing with the many new and challenging situations they will experience throughout their lives. A healthy lifestyle supports physical, social and emotional wellbeing, and underpins successful learning. Concerns about the health, diet and activity levels of Scotland's children and young people, social inclusion and inequalities in health emphasise the importance of a focus on health and wellbeing throughout education, starting in the early years.

Parents will be notified of any sensitive areas of learning eg. relationships, sexual health, parenthood, drug awareness.

Our school is an accredited Health Promoting School and our health curriculum is further enhanced by many health specialists who visit our school. The school also runs a Breakfast Club three mornings a week.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION

Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values. It also includes aspects of philosophical enquiry.

Scotland is now a nation which reflects a wide range of beliefs, values and traditions. Religious and moral education enables children and young people to explore the world's major religions and approaches to living which are independent of religious belief, and be challenged by these different beliefs and values. It supports children and young people in developing responsible attitudes to other people, their values and their capacity for moral judgement. The study of Christianity, which has shaped the history and traditions of Scotland and continues to exert an influence on national life, is an essential feature of religious and moral education for all children and young people.

Useful Website - <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>



ASSESSMENT

The class teachers carry out continuous assessment in all subjects. Most assessment takes place through formative assessment where the pupil is fully involved in the educational process.

Children are assessed using the PIPS programme at the beginning and end of P1, during P7, P5 and also in P3 to identify progress made in their preceding years. Suffolk reading tests and SWST spelling assessments are used twice per year and allow us to track progress. In addition to this, key learning experiences are tracked in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for every child to allow us to clearly identify that progress is being made.

A variety of other diagnostic tools are used to determine and support difficulties or challenges that arise for children at specific times in their education.

Merit prizes are given at Whinhill. Effort is rewarded in some curricular areas with trophies and certificates. Different children have different aptitudes and abilities and our aim is to encourage all pupils to make progress consistent with their ability. The Parent/Teacher Association provides a book for each child in P1 and P7, while a few special prizes have also been donated by well-wishers and are given to P7 pupils.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development education is about ensuring pupils not only acquire knowledge and understanding of the principles of sustainable development but also acquire the skills and values needed to do something about them. The three key features of sustainable development education are:

- A joined-up approach where the links between sustainable development issues, other subject areas, the pupils' own lives and locally relevant issues are clearly articulated and obvious.
- A participative approach where all members of the school community, including pupils, are involved in decision making and planning changes to improve sustainability.
- A reflective approach where time is set aside to look at what has been achieved.

In Whinhill we are fully committed to these principles and develop them through our Eco work, we achieved our second green flag last year. We have identified opportunities for sustainable development at all stages through all areas of the curriculum and we are an identified Enviro School.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Formal Parent's evenings are held on two occasions during the school year. The first meeting is generally in October and the second in early May. An interim report concerning pupil progress mainly in English Language, Mathematics and their general behaviour and attitude, is issued at the first Parent's night. Pupils are encouraged to attend their interviews along with their parents. A more lengthy report concerning progress in all curricular areas is issued in May. A parent is welcome to request an interview with the head teacher at any time to discuss any matter concerning a child's welfare or progress.

TRANSITIONS

An effective transitions framework is essential to ensure that children move from nursery to primary school and from primary school to secondary school with confidence. Visits are made to local nurseries and we invite children from these nurseries to spend time in primary 1. During the month of May or June children who have enrolled for Whinhill will be invited to participate in an induction week where they will experience the school environment and where parents will be given valuable information.

Children in primary 7 will receive visits from secondary staff to deliver aspects of the curriculum e.g. this year we have been fortunate to receive art and music. They will be invited to participate in 3 induction days, one during November/December and two in June.

In all cases appropriate information will be shared with receiving schools.

Pupils are normally transferred between the ages of $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Parents will be informed of the arrangements no later than December of the year preceding the date of transfer at the start of the new session.

Our pupils transfer to Inverclyde Academy, Cumberland Road, Greenock, PA16 0FB (01475 71500). If Parents wish their child to transfer to this school they must live within the catchment area otherwise a placing request must be submitted

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

All children and young people need support to help them learn. Inverclyde Council operates within the GIRFEC agenda (Getting it Right for Every Child). The main sources of support in early years and in schools are the staff who, through their normal practice, are able to meet a diverse range of needs. With good quality teaching and learning and an appropriate curriculum most children and young people are able to benefit appropriately from education without the need for additional support.

The definition of additional support is a wide one and it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of all possible forms of additional support.

If a parent considers that his or her child has additional support needs and wishes to make enquiries on this they should contact the Head Teacher.

Pupils who at times experience difficulties with their work are catered for within their class programmes of study. Work is differentiated where appropriate to allow pupils to work at his/her level.

The school is supported by a member of staff with a specific remit for support for learning 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days per week whose specialist training allows her to work with children who have specific difficulties and co-ordinates the work with the class teachers. Steps are taken to ensure that parents are consulted and kept informed at appropriate intervals.

If a child has a specific difficulty further advice may be sought from Psychological Services after parents have been consulted. Whinhill operates a policy by which children who are in need of Learning Support are identified at the earliest possible time. All children in Primary Two have their progress monitored by their own teacher and a Support for Learning Teacher, to ensure they are progressing at the correct pace. This ensures that learning support may be given at the first opportunity.

In addition to the information shown above further information specified by the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 includes -

(a) Inverclyde Council policy in relation to provision for additional support needs,

A child or young person's needs are identified at the earliest possible stage and can be met in a number of ways, for example by adaptations to the curriculum or learning environment, as well as input from the Support for Learning Teacher and on occasion support from visiting specialists. The appropriateness of the support is determined through a process of assessment, planning and monitoring, working jointly with parents and carers, and is regularly reviewed.

(b) Arrangements made by the Inverclyde Council in making appropriate arrangement for keeping under consideration the additional support needs of each such child and young person and the particular additional support needs of the children and young persons so identified.

Learning outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs are set out in a plan and all educational establishments hold regular review meetings with parents and carers to determine needs and the most appropriate supports. Everyone's views are equally important in order to consider what is currently working and how to determine next steps

c) the other opportunities available under this Act for the identification of children and young persons who -

a) have additional support needs,

Children and young person's needs are identified in a number of ways, and the process of assessment is an ongoing, shared process with partnerships with parents and carers at the forefront. On some occasions health service staff or other partner agencies make children known to Education Services. Other additional support needs may be notified to Education Services by parents themselves or identified by one of a range of staff working closely with the child.

b) require, or would require, a co-ordinated support plan,

Some children and young people will have additional support needs arising from complex or multiple factors which require a high degree of co-ordination of support from both education and other agencies in order that their needs can be met. In these cases, the school will hold a meeting to decide whether the child or young person meets the criteria for a co-ordinated support plan.

The coordinated support plan is a statutory document which ensures regular monitoring and review for those children and young people who have one.

c) the role of parents, children and young persons in the arrangements referred to in paragraph (b),

You have the right to ask the education authority to establish whether your child needs a coordinated support plan. Your child can make this request themselves, if they are aged 16 or over. You and your child, if they want to, will attend a meeting with staff at their school. Other professionals from different agencies who may be involved in providing support for your child will also attend. If your child does not want to attend meetings or feels unable to, their views must still be sought and considered.

d) the mediation services provided

Inverclyde's mediation service can be accessed by contacting Grant McGovern, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy at the address below

e) the officer or officers of the authority from whom parents of children having additional support needs, and young persons having such needs, can obtain advice and further information about provision for such needs.

For further advice please telephone 01475 712850

Or write to:

Education Services

Wallace Place

GREENOCK

PA15 1JB

Useful websites

www.enquire.org.uk

www.siaa.org.uk

www.scllc.org.uk/

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Securing effective school improvement is achieved through hard work in all areas of school life. The role of each individual stakeholder is crucial when working together to ensure our school provides education of the highest quality. The views of pupils, parents, staff and the wider community are sought which allows us to be responsive to their needs.

An improvement plan is in place to take our school forward and this is available on the school website. Our main focus for improvement is within Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. In August 2016 we became an attainment challenge school which affords us access to high quality CPD and staffing to allow us to deliver the key strategies which will raise attainment.

Details of our main achievements in the last year can be found in the school's Standard & Quality report, which is also available on the website. In addition to this our Twitter feed (@WhinhillPS) gives detailed daily examples of our successes and achievements.

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

COMPOSITE CLASSES

Composite classes are formed based on Guidelines issued by Inverclyde Council. There will be a maximum of 25 children in a composite class and are formed largely on the basis of English Language groups. The decision to form a composite class is taken by the Head Teacher based on the total number of pupils in the school and the available staff, resources and accommodation.

HOMEWORK

At Whinhill we believe homework is valuable for creating partnership between home and school.

Most children will have reading and possibly spelling or related language work on at least two or three nights per week, although some of the homework given may involve research or topic work.

Completion of homework should take no more than around thirty minutes and should not be an arduous task for the child. Children will be issued with a homework diary and we encourage parents to regularly read and sign this.

CLOTHING - UNIFORM

Given that there is substantial parental and public approval of uniform, schools in Inverclyde are free to encourage the wearing of school uniform. In encouraging the wearing of uniform account is taken in any proposals to prevent any direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of race or gender. Any proposals will be the subject of widespread consultation with the parents and the pupils. Against this background it should be noted that it is the policy of the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee not to insist on pupils wearing uniform or having specialist items of clothing as a prerequisite of their attending and engaging in all of the activities of the curriculum.

The traditional uniform is however available and most pupils do wear it. Smiths in Greenock stock most items of the school uniform. Children are required to wear plimsolls in the hall and in the classrooms.

There are forms of dress which are unacceptable in school such as items of clothing which:

- potentially, encourage faction (such as football colours);
- could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans);
- could cause health and safety difficulties, such as loose fitting clothing, or clothing made from flammable material, for example shell suits in practical classes;
- could cause damage to flooring;
- carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco;
and could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so.

The council is concerned at the level of claims being received regarding the loss of children's clothing and/or personal belongings. Parents are asked to assist in this area by ensuring that valuable items and unnecessarily expensive items of clothing are not brought to the establishment. Parents should note that the authority does not carry insurance to cover the loss of such items and any claims submitted are likely to be met only where the authority can be shown to have been negligent.

Parents should note that the activities the children may become involved in may be restricted because health and safety requirements state that jewellery of any kind must not be worn where children are undertaking physical activities. This includes jewellery worn as a result of body piercing.

CHILDREN ABSENT from SCHOOL through ILL HEALTH

Young people of school age may be unable to attend school for a wide range of reasons including illness, accidents or long term medical conditions. In general there will be an automatic referral by the school for education outwith school after 15 days of continuous or 20 working days of intermittent absence, within a single session, for verifiable medical reasons.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL (i)

Parents should inform the school by telephone on the first morning of an absence, and provide a reason for the pupil's absence. The school will contact the pupil's family and thereafter other emergency contacts if no explanation is given for the pupil's absence. This contact will be made before 10 am on the first morning of an absence and early after the restart after lunch in the case of an afternoon absence.

Other agencies may be contacted if no contact with the pupil's family can be achieved and if there are continuing or emerging concerns about a pupil's safety or wellbeing. On return to school parents should provide a note explaining the reasons for absence.

Parents should keep the school informed of any changes of address or telephone numbers, both their own and those of the emergency contacts
Section 30 of the 1980 Education Act lays a duty on every parent of a child of 'school age' to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Attendance must be recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon.

The Scottish Government has provided guidance on the management of attendance and absence in Scottish schools in its publication Included, Engaged and Involved - part 1: Attendance in Scottish Schools. Every effort should be made to avoid family holidays during term time as this both disrupts the child's education and reduces learning time. It has been clarified that family holidays should not be recorded as authorised absence, except in exceptional domestic circumstances, where a family needs time together to recover from distress, or where a parent's employment is of a nature where school-holiday leave cannot be accommodated (e.g. armed services or emergency services). It is for local authorities and schools to judge when these circumstances apply and authorise absence, accordingly.

The categorisation of most term-time holidays as unauthorised absence has been a contentious issue for some families, many of whom are concerned at the higher cost of holidays during school holiday periods. The Scottish Government has no control over the pricing decisions of holiday companies or flight operators. Our main focus is to encourage parents and pupils to recognise the value of learning and the pitfalls of disrupting learning for the pupil, the rest of the class and the teacher.

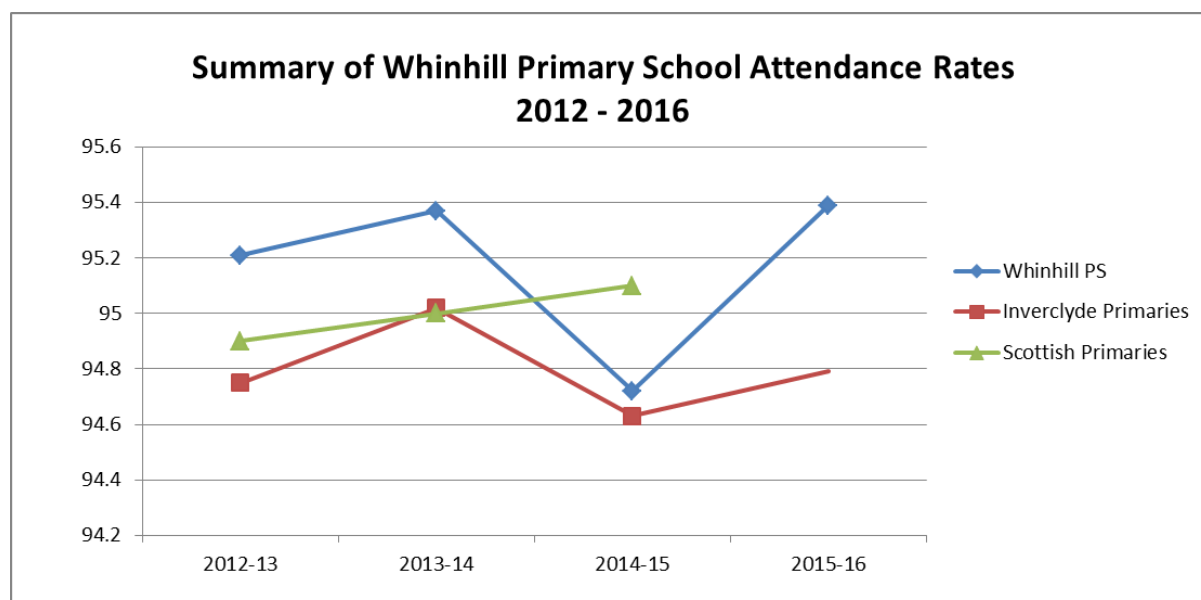
Clearly where an absence occurs with no explanation from the parent, the absence is unauthorised.

Schools investigate unexplained absence, and Education Services has the power to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or to refer pupils to the Children's Reporter, if necessary.

When children need to be away from school, e.g. to keep dental appointments, parents are asked to consult the Head Teacher in advance. Requests for leave of absence for whatever reason should always be made in writing well in advance.

Whinhill Attendance Statistics

Primary	Whinhill	Inverclyde	Scotland
2012—13	95.21	94.75	94.9
2013 - 14	95.37	95.02	95
2014 - 15	94.72	94.63	95.1
2015 - 16	95.39	94.79	



SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL, MORAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

It is our hope that the moral and spiritual development of our pupils is not neglected. Indeed a school that catered only for the education, in the narrow sense of the word, of its pupils would be failing in its task. Religious education, both of Christian and other world religions, is taught at all stages in the school, and every child is encouraged to develop awareness and sympathetic understanding of the different cultures within our society. Preparing pupils to be responsible citizens, the principles of give and take, fair dealing and looking after our environment are all part of our programme. Our school chaplains hold regular school assemblies. At the end of each term, parents are invited to join us in the school for special services.

It is, of course, the right of any parent to withdraw their child from religious education if they wish. This matter may be discussed with the Head Teacher and other arrangements for the child will be made.

(These policies are in accordance with national advice set out in SOED Circular 6/91 and the Education (Scotland) Act 1980).

Parents from ethnic minority religious communities may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the proposed arrangements will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted on not more than three occasions in any one school session and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.

Sex and Relationship education is an integral part of the school's health education programme. It focuses on the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development of all children. Teachers are central to the delivery of sex education from P1 - P7 and work in partnership with parents/carers and appropriate health professionals. Parents/carers should be fully informed and consulted on the content and purpose of sex and relationship education in schools, and have the opportunity to raise concerns with school staff. On an occasion where a parent/carer wishes to exercise the right to withdraw his/her child from sex and relationship education they should discuss their concerns and alternative arrangements with school staff. (as per Inverclyde Council's policy "Sexual Health and Relationship Education").

INCLUSION AND EQUALITY



Inverclyde Council Education Service aims to:

- Offer education of the highest quality to all young people within a developing culture of inclusion
- Endorse the principles of inclusion, entitlement and equality of opportunity in the development of best practice
- Value the diversity of interests, qualities and abilities of every learner
- Believe that every child and young person is entitled to educational opportunities which enable the achievement of success and further development of the individual's learning potential within the least restrictive environment
- Affirm the right of all young people to have access to the highest quality of educational provision which is appropriate to learning needs, is supportive of the young person and is delivered in partnership with young people and the wider community
- In meeting the needs of all our pupils we will demonstrate no discrimination on the basis of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. This encompasses curricular, extra-curricular and classroom activities and is foremost in the attitudes which we develop in our pupils.



SUPERVISION of PLAYGROUNDS

An adult presence is provided in playgrounds at break times in terms of the School (Safety and Supervision of Pupils) (Scotland)) Regulations 1990.

The janitor and support staff patrol the playground at lunchtime and during the intervals.

MEALS

It is the policy of Education Services and the school to encourage healthy eating as part of a healthy lifestyle, pupils are encouraged to make healthy choices in regard to diet and exercise in an effort to achieve a "Health Promoting School".

All food in Whinhill is cooked at the school. A three-week menu system is in operation providing a healthy choice of food. After making his/her choice, the child pays for the food at a cash point. Any pupil who requires a special diet because of some medical problems can be catered for. For pupils who are entitled to free meals the school office will issue the number of meals to the cashier in the dining room each day the child comes for lunch. The stage area is set out for pupils who bring their own packed lunch.

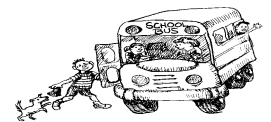
Parents of children receiving one of the benefits listed on Page 23 will normally be entitled to free meals for their children. In addition all children in P1-3 receive a free meal.

Information and application forms for free school meals may be obtained from school and Education Services at 105 Dalrymple Street, Greenock, PA15 1HU. In addition such children will be entitled to free milk.

TRANSPORT

The Council has a policy of providing free transport to all primary pupils who live more than one mile from their local school by the recognised shortest walking route. This policy is more generous than the law requires. This means that the provision of transport could be reviewed at any time. Parents who consider they are eligible should obtain an application form from the school or Education Services, Wallace Place, Greenock, PA15 1JB. These forms should be completed and returned at the earliest opportunity.

Pick-up Points



Where free transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point. Walking distance in total including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction will not exceed the authority's limits (see above paragraph). It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child arrives at the pick-up point in time. It is also the parent's responsibility to ensure the child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while boarding, travelling in and alighting from the vehicle. Misbehaviour could result in a child losing the right to free transport.

Placing Requests

Education Services does not provide transport for those pupils in receipt of a placing request.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



The activities that can be offered in a school depend to a large extent on the interests of staff at any given time. Therefore an activity that is offered one session may not be available the next. At the moment football, basketball, netball, football and athletics are played and a gardening club, computer club, Spanish club, embroidery club, art and crafts, mini movers and choir club are also available.

There is also provision, through Inverclyde Council Music Services, for violin, voice, chanter and brass including trumpet and trombone.

Whinhill has 2 gymnasiums, an outdoor netball court and the football pitch in front of the school.

Parents should also note that because of health and safety requirements, jewellery of any kind must not be worn when pupils are taking part in games or physical activities. This includes jewellery worn as a result of body piercing. Physical activities include activities undertaken within physical education (P.E.) classes.



PUPIL REPRESENTATION

A variety of committees are available within Whinhill and pupils take pride in representing both their classmates and their school. Committees this year include Pupil Council, Literacy Committee, Eco Committee, Health Squad, JRSO, Fair Trade Committee, Gardening Committee, Rights Respecting School Committee, and Charities Committee.

MEDICAL and HEALTH CARE

Staff from the School Health Service visit the school regularly and carry out routine inspections. In addition school health staff examines all children shortly after they enter P1 and also before they leave P7. Parents are always invited to accompany the children when school health staff are visiting the school. Various inoculations and immunisations are offered at different stages but of course these are given only with the permission of parents.

Regular routine dental inspections are also carried out in the school and when a child is in need of dental treatment this can be done at the school clinic.

If a child requires prescribed medication during the school day, it is essential for the parent to inform the school and complete the Administration of Medicines form. Even if a pupil is expected to self-administer medicine, for example use an inhaler, a form must be completed by a parent. All medicine will be given by the appointed school first aider and not by a teacher.

In the case of minor accidents and illness children receive attention from non-teaching staff. Accidents or illnesses necessitating hospital treatment are dealt with in the most appropriate way. It is important that parents inform the school of any special medical attention required in the event of an accident, should the child be taken to hospital by car or ambulance.

In all cases, however, every effort is made to contact parents as it is felt that the parent is the best person to offer support and comfort to an injured child. We try to show the same concern for our pupils that a caring parent would. For example, children are not allowed out of classrooms in inclement weather during intervals and lunchtimes.

If children are being dismissed early parents are always notified in advance, except in a situation where we have to close because of snow, fog, heating failure etc. In such cases we dismiss only those children when their parents have been contacted.

INFORMATION IN EMERGENCIES

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure or re-opening. We shall keep you in touch by using letters, texts, notices in local shops and community centres and announcements in the press and on local radio.

Parent/carers are also encouraged to inform the school of any change of address, telephone number or emergency contact that may arise during the school year so that contact can be made in case of an emergency.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Corporate Director: Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Mrs Wilma Bain

Education Services
Wallace Place
GREENOCK
PA15 1JD Telephone: 712850

Community Learning & Development
34 Nicolson Street
GREENOCK Telephone: 715450
PA15 1UL

Business Store
75-81 Cathcart Street
GREENOCK
PA15 1DE Telephone: 715555

Convener of Education and
Communities Committee
Mr Terry Loughran
Municipal Buildings
Greenock Telephone: 712020

Local Councillors Provost R Moran
Mr M McCormick
Mr J Grieve

may be contacted at
Municipal Buildings,
Clyde Square,
GREENOCK Telephone: 712727

Corporate Communications - main switchboard
Inverclyde Council
Municipal Buildings
Greenock
PA15 1LY Telephone: 717171

Skills Development Scotland
112 West Blackhall Street
Greenock
PA15 1XR Telephone: 553710

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

Information on children, parents and guardians is stored on a computer system and may be used for teaching, registration, assessment and other administrative duties. The information is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 and may only be disclosed in accordance with the Codes of Practice. For further information please contact the establishment.

Transferring Educational Data About Pupils The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils through the Pupil Census to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us.

Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the SQA and Skills Development Scotland need accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better examination results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows us to:

- To plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils
- To plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils
- To better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement
- To share good practice
- To target resources better
- To enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of young people in Scotland

Data policy

Information about pupils' education is collected through our statistical surveys in partnership between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities through the ScotXed Programme which aims to help schools and Local Authorities by supporting efficient collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Scottish Government then provides analysis of the data to support research, planning, management and monitoring of education services as well as to produce National Statistics publications.

Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints. As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.

Your data protection rights

The collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). We also comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. The Data Protection Act gives you the right to know how we will use your data. This note can give only a brief description of how we use data. Fuller details of each individual ScotXed survey, including the purpose of each and the published data, can be found on the ScotXed website (www.scotxed.net).

Scottish Government works with a range of partners including Education Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, in order to help meet our aim of improving the life of young people in Scotland, we may make individual data available to partners such as the National Records of Scotland to carry out research relating to the national population census and also academic institutions and organisations to carry out additional research and statistical analysis to meet their own official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, and will be consistent with our data policy. This will ensure that no individual level data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that these data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Decisions on the sharing of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

Concerns

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis, Mick Wilson, at mick.wilson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to The ScotXed Support Office, Area 2D, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ. Alternative versions of this page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, Braille and large print.

Although this information is correct at time of printing, there could be changes affecting any of the matters dealt with in the document

***(a) before the commencement or during the course of the school year in question
(b) in relation to subsequent school years***