



## Standards and Quality Report

The Highland Council  
Education, Culture and Sport Service

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar  
June 2016



### Our school vision, values and aims

#### SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

*Our vision at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar is to ensure that our youngsters learn at the very heart of our language, our culture and our community with an ever colourful curriculum.*

We strive to be a school of excellence delivering high quality education through the medium of Gaelic. We believe in the importance of equipping our learners with the skills and attributes to prepare them for life, learning and work. We focus on our children becoming successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors in our society.

#### SCHOOL AIMS & RATIONALE

- **To create a secure, happy and friendly environment where our learners are valued and encouraged to develop academically, socially, emotionally and creatively to the best of their ability in and beyond the classroom.**
- **To promote, enhance and celebrate our Gaelic language and culture -**
  - ensuring that children have secure foundations to become bilingual learners;
  - delivering vast opportunities for learners to become confident with the language and culture in a wide range of situations in and out with school;
  - giving opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of Gaelic culture as part of Scotland's identity;
  - giving children the opportunities to take part in Fèisean, local and national Mods, and events in and out of school to increase their confidence and understanding of our culture;
  - celebrating the rich Scottish heritage that exist in the Lochaber area.
- **To support our children to reach their full potential and be inspired to learn-**
  - providing an enjoyable and flexible curriculum that develops, as learners develop, in a learning environment that stimulates and motivates enthusiasm, creativity and ambition;
  - providing a curriculum that reflects and focuses on the way of life in Lochaber, the Highlands, Scotland and the world;
  - delivering a curriculum enriched with music, dance and drama.
  - delivering a curriculum which is personalised for the needs of every individual learner;
  - identifying and meeting the needs of children with additional support needs;

- delivering a curriculum which has breadth and depth, and ensures challenge in all areas;
  - ensuring a coherent and progressive approach across all teaching and learning;
  - enhancing learning by providing many inter disciplinary and cross curricular experiences;
  - providing many opportunities for our curriculum to be delivered in the outdoors where our children benefit from the vast learning opportunities available in our landscapes;
  - enhancing the ethos of achievement through recognising and celebrating the success of all;
  - regularly monitoring progress and achievement of all our learners to ensure we are doing the best for all;
  - ensuring we are raising attainment across numeracy and literacy throughout the whole school;
- **To embed digital technology at the heart of our learning and teaching-**
    - providing opportunities for our children to use the latest technologies to further enhance their learning;
    - developing our children to be computational thinkers and giving them opportunities to develop computing science;
    - training our staff on the latest technologies and resources to enrich learning.
- **To ensure our children take care of their environment and become responsible caring citizens –**
    - encouraging all our children, staff, partners and visitors to use our ECO code to ensure we look after our environment and understand the importance of recycling;
    - ensuring our children are aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- **To work in partnership with our partners to develop the life and ethos of our school and community –**
    - involving all our partners as active participants in the life of our school contributing to the development of the skills our children need for life, learning and work;
    - involving parents/guardians to help shape and build our curriculum and policies;
    - giving parents/guardians opportunities to be involved in children’s learning, assessment and next steps by showcasing learning, learners meeting, open afternoons and other activities;
    - developing our school community through ceilidhs, local resident lunches, open days and other activities throughout the year.



The Highland Council Education Service Quality Improvement Team

## The Core Areas of our Practice

This report summarises the strengths of our school, our recent improvements and what needs to improve further. We gather this information throughout the year in a variety of ways so we can make sure our report is as accurate as possible. We take time to compare what we do with national examples of best practice. We visit each other's classes to share standards in learning and teaching. We look at children and young people's work to see how they are progressing. We cross mark work. We make use of factual data and information including attainment results responding and adapting our teaching in line with children's needs. We assess using our own expertise, standardised testing, cross marking and results tracking. Children peer assess and self-assess. We gather the views of children, parents, staff and members of the local community. We use all of this information to arrive at our view of the quality of education we provide.

### Our Key Strengths

*Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar opened its doors in August 2015. Over the course of the last year, our school community has grown from strength to strength. Throughout the last year, we have worked to develop, implement and evaluate a range of policies and procedures.*

- We have developed a very clear vision set on our fundamental aims taking our school forward to become a centre of excellence for Gaelic Medium Education. We continually evaluate our progress ensuring that our children are learning at the very heart of our language, culture and community.
- We are committed to delivering a coherent, relevant and broad curriculum based on the aspirations of our children. We have developed a curriculum rationale and framework which is innovative and ensures equity for all learners.
- We are extremely committed to involving children, staff, parents, our wider community and our partners in planning and shaping our curriculum.
- We have forged close partnerships with our local community as well as forged close partnerships with outside organisations such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig and Fèisean nan Gàidheal.
- We have worked closely with other professionals to support and identify the additional support needs of our pupils and ensure early intervention.
- We have had a fantastic transition programme in place for Sgoil-àraich and C1 children to work together every Tuesday on development of language skills through play. Our C7 children have taken part in a range of transition activities including early transition visits to the high school and meeting weekly with Mrs Taggart from the high school.
- We have worked hard to develop a realistic improvement plan linked into our vision and aims. In conjunction with this, we have created a seven year plan to help develop our centre of excellence. All stakeholders play a vital part in leading improvement and ensuring an innovative curriculum with high quality experiences for our children.
- Opportunities for our children to take part in a wide range of experiences to broaden and enhance their wider learning have included membership of our Pupil Council, Eco Committee, Rights Respecting Committee, Gaelic and Community Committee, Outdoor Learning and Gardening Community, and Technologies, Careers and Skills Committee.
- We have raised over £2000 for local and national charities.
- Children have taken part in many experiences out with school to help their usage of Gaelic and to celebrate wider achievements - Lochaber Music Festival, Lochaber Mod, Oban Mod, Sporting Events, Extra-curricular clubs etc.
- Communication and leadership have been highly praised in our latest parental survey.

## Our Improvements Last Session

- Transition from Fort William RC Primary School to Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar was seamless.
- Through effective self-evaluation (questionnaires, forums, learning conversations etc.), we have developed a clear vision and an underpinning set of aims for the school community. This has led to the development of our curriculum rationale.
- Communication has vastly improved with all stakeholders and recently been praised in our latest survey along with leadership.
- We have developed our curriculum, in partnership with all stakeholders, based on the aspirations of our children and enhanced by the continued development of technologies within the school.
- Children are respectful and well behaved through the school community.
- Children take part in a wide range of experiences to help support their acquisition of the language. Children are more confident and enthusiastic during wider learning experiences.
- A staged intervention approach ensures needs are identified early, and the most suitable interventions are put in place for all pupils who require additional support

## Our Priorities For Improvement for Next Session

- To continue to develop and enhance our curriculum rationale and programmes.
- To continue to develop and improve tracking, monitoring and sharing progress across the school.
- To continue to implement the 1+2 Languages Programme.
- Review and develop the management and impact of self-evaluation
- To build a teacher learning community with other local primary schools to support professional judgement and dialogue.
- To develop a partnership with a Gael Sgoil in Ireland.



## 1. How well do young people learn and achieve?

### 1.1.Improvements in performance

- *Standards of attainment over time*
- *Overall quality of learners' achievement*
- *Impact of the school improvement plan*

### 2.1 Learners' experiences

- *The extent to which learners are motivated and actively involved in their own learning and development*

#### What we do well:

- Our children learn in a high quality and purposed built school where learning is high quality, challenging and supportive.
- Our shared school improvement plan, underpinned by our vision and aims, drives our school forward.
- There is a strong positive ethos in the school which is reflective across the whole school community.
- Children are respectful and well behaved.
- Children and all stakeholders are involved in planning, assessing and evaluating learning in and out of the classroom.
- Children set their own achievable targets and map out the skills they are learning for life, learning and work.
- Children can talk about their learning and discuss how they can apply the skills they are learning across a range of contexts.
- Through well planned programmes, children have opportunities for cooperative learning, active learning, interdisciplinary learning and outdoor learning.
- Children use the latest technology to help support their learning including the use of computer programming and computational thinking.
- Children's learning experiences are enhanced from a positive school community – parents, families, local residents and a range of local and national organisations.
- Children's achievements are highly recognised weekly in assembly as well as throughout website and social media sites.
- Children work collaboratively in various committees throughout the school to strength their voice in the life and work of the school community.
- Children benefit from exploring a wide range of outdoor learning experiences. Full use is made of the outdoor learning environment, helping children to develop as healthy, confident, enterprising and responsible citizens

#### What we need to work on:

- We need to continue to develop the way we track, monitor and share the progress of our learners across the school.
- We need to continue to build on the wider opportunities available to our children in and out with our school community.

## 2. How well does the school support young people to develop and learn?

### 5.1 The Curriculum

- *The rationale and design of the curriculum*
- *The development of the curriculum*
- *Programmes and courses*
- *Transitions*

### 5.3 Meeting learning needs

- *Tasks, activities and resources*
- *Identification of learning needs*
- *The roles of teachers and specialist staff*
- *Meeting and implementing the requirements of legislation*

#### What we do well:

- We have developed a curriculum, in conjunction with the Gaelic Language Advise Note from Education Scotland, which is engaging and purposeful taking into consideration the aspirations of all our stakeholders as well as local, national and international contexts.
- All our children experience a broad general education which is progressive and ensures coverage of all experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence.
- Children are motivated and enthusiastically involved in their learning.
- The use of interdisciplinary learning at all stages helps children to make links in their learning and to promote skills development for life, learning and work.
- Tasks, activities and resources are differentiated to meet the learning needs and abilities of all children. This ensures children are confident, successful and eager to learn.
- Children progress is tracked through professional dialogue with staff, sampling of class work, classroom observations, discussions with pupil focus groups and analysis of assessments.
- The implementation of the Gaelic Oral Framework has ensured that good quality language is used across the school. Children are encouraged to participate in a range of activities out with school.
- Children have been actively involved in many community and global citizenship activities including links with UNCRRC, a range of charity work and working to support refugees.
- Transition is a huge focus in the school and we have built a great programme. Sgoil-àraich work with C1 every Tuesday morning to further support language acquisition through play. C7 take part in a very well organised transition programme with Lochaber High School.
- The school has very clear support procedures using the staged intervention approach.
- Child's Plans and IEPs are clear, specific and helpful in providing detailed guidance on short and long term targets. They are reviewed and updated termly. All stakeholders are involved from the consultation process.
- School staff work in close partnership with all professional agencies and partners.

#### What we need to work on:

- Continue to develop our curriculum rationale, framework and programmes.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate teaching and learning of numeracy and literacy.
- Build a teacher learning community to continue to engage with other Gaelic schools for peer learning visits, sharing resources, moderation, etc.
- Continue to develop differentiation strategies to support less-able children and to challenge the more-able children.

### 3. How well does the school improve the quality of its work?

#### 5.9 Improvements through self-evaluation

- *Commitment to self-evaluation*
- *Management of self-evaluation*
- *School improvements*

#### What we do well:

- As a school staff we constantly evaluate our work and seek to improve. We are committed to be leaders in learning and provide excellent learning experiences and opportunities for our children.
- Self-evaluation is embedded into the life and aspirations of our school community.
- We analysis and implement findings from assessment date to ensure more focused teaching and to target support for children with additional needs.
- Staff share good practice through class visits, moderation and professional dialogue to ensure children are presented with quality learning experiences
- All staff have a secure knowledge and understanding of GIRFEC – Getting It Right For Every Child
- Work effectively in partnership with outside agencies to meet children’s needs
- Staff review the School Improvement Plan termly which ensures that all staff have a voice in tracking and supporting targets for improvement. Children regularly evaluate aspects of the work of the school through learning conversations, questionnaires and surveys. Parents and other stakeholders’ feedback regularly. This continues to shape our improvement plan and drive the school forward.

#### What we need to work on:

- Continue to review and develop the management and impact of self-evaluation procedures using HGIOS 4.
- Continue to extend the system of peer learning visits within the schools and across the ASG to share standards.
- Continue development work with other Gaelic schools and build our TLC.



## Parent/Guardian Letter sent out on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Session 2015 - 2016

It is hard to believe that nearly a year has gone by since we opened our doors to welcome our school community. This letter highlights many of our successes over the session. A copy of our Standards and Quality Report will be available online in the forthcoming weeks and shows a very clear picture of our achievements. A summary of our School Improvement Plan for next session will also be available online. Both of these documents have taken into account the feedback we continually receive from children, staff, parents/guardians, families and the wider community, as well as national, local and school priorities.

We certainly have many achievements to celebrate and be proud of this year:

- We set up a brand new school over the summer holidays ready to open on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
- We officially opened our school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- We developed and implemented our School Improvement Plan reflecting on the feedback (conversations, questionnaires, forums etc.) we continually receive from pupils, staff, parents and families, and the wider community.
- We developed our curriculum rationale and programmes taking into account our learners' views to ensure that our curriculum is relevant. We created learning snapshots to help ensure that our learners track their own learning and parents/guardians are aware of the next steps in learning.
- We introduced numerous tracking systems in the school to ensure that we are rigorously tracking. We also introduced a range of baseline assessments to aid in next steps.
- We welcomed Education Scotland into the school to advise us on how to develop an innovative, cross-cutting and progressive curriculum.
- We developed active and practical maths approaches within the classroom with a particular focus on mental maths.
- We introduced the Highland Oral Progression Framework for Gaelic to support the development of oral language.
- We set up a book buddy system with P1 and P7 which really worked well.
- We held our parent forum event to give parents/guardians more information on the direction of curriculum development in Highland Council. We hosted many other events for parents/guardians including parents evenings, 'Meet the Teacher' night and open mornings/afternoons.
- We set up six committees in the school to give children responsibility and opportunity for developing their own school. Our Rights Committee organised a Fairtrade Tuckshop for the school as well putting together the information we need to become a Rights Respecting School. Our Pupil Council organised a Sports Relief/World Book Day event and have been working on many things including auditing the skills we are learning for life, learning and work. Our Gaelic, Culture and Community Committee created posters for across the school to encourage Gaelic to be spoken in all areas. Our Technology, Careers and Skills Committee started to work on our website as well as working on setting up a CODE club. Our Outdoor Learning and

Gardening Committee have now created a nature trail with wood piles to attract insects and bees. Our ECO Committee worked on many projects including our ECO code and have received a recognition award from ECO schools.

- Our Christmas shows were a great success! We welcomed the Fèisean nan Gàidheal Christmas Panto! We took part in the BBC Alba Christmas Service.
- We had visits from the 'Grounds for Learning' team to further help us utilise our grounds.
- We have had a huge focus on outdoor learning across the school. We also created a mud kitchen and insect hotel in Sgoil-àraich.
- Our OOSC (Out of School Care) Service has continued to grow.
- We issue weekly newsletters to keep everyone informed about the life of the school. We also issue termly newsletters to the local residents.
- We have set up Facebook and Twitter accounts which are well used by families and community members.
- Our Comhairle nam Pàrant have met throughout the year giving the school huge support.
- We organised many social events including our Halloween Disco and our many cèilidhs. We had many a cèilidh from termly cèilidhs to St Andrew's Day, Burns Day and of course charity events.
- Our School Fete raised £1902.37.
- We raised £580.27 for MacMillan Cancer.
- We raised £250 for Children in Need.
- We raised £82 for Sports Relief.
- We raised £220 for Marie Curie.
- We raised £100 for Wateraid.
- We raised £462 for the Fight for Frances Campaign and £462 for the Daisy Fund.
- We collected a large amount of items for React Lochaber.
- We took part in the UNICEF Day for Change.
- All our children became First Aiders!
- We offered a range of extra-curricular events including Club Spòrs, Football, Club Èalain and Netball.
- We delivered Shinty to all our children across the school.
- Our C6 took part in swimming lessons as well as Cycling Proficiency
- We participate in many sporting events including the Dance Platform Showcase at Lochaber High School, the Netball League, Shinty tournaments/matches, Inter-School Sports, Swimming Gala, Cross Country, Tag Rugby Tournament and Badminton. We came third in the Netball league!
- We daily take part in the 'mile a day' scheme.
- Our C7 children had a fantastic week skiing.
- We took part in Cuach na Cloinne.
- We welcomed Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu to the school for a friendly match.
- We had a very successful Sports Day for both Sgoil-àraich and Primary.
- We welcomed Andy from Jammin' Fitness for a workshop on the Rio Olympics.
- Our C4-7 took part in a multimedia and drama project.

- We welcomed *Generation Science* into the school as part of our STEM Fortnight. Their workshops included learning about magnets, computer programming and the life of bees. We also welcomed *Glasgow University* into the school who delivered a workshop on chemical elements and *Robertson Construction* who led a workshop on construction using lego.
- We took part in the *Lochaber Housing Christmas Card Competition*, the *John Muir Poetry Trust* and the *Rotary Poetry Competitions*.
- Our *C7* took part in a wide range of transition activities at *Lochaber High School*.
- We welcomed *Mrs Taggart* from *LHS* in on a weekly basis to help with our transition process.
- Our *C7* took part in the *Safe Highlander Event*.
- Our children took part in a range of festivals including *Oban Mod*, *Lochaber Mod* and *Lochaber Music Festival*.
- We welcomed *Ingrid Henderson* into the school as part of the *Youth Music Initiative* funding. We also had a range of musicians delivering brass, woodwind, chanter and string tuition. Our *C3/4* took part in *Kodaly workshops*. We welcomed *DrumFun* into the school.
- We utilised our technology throughout the school very effectively. We used various pieces of technology including *BeeBot* and *Code.org* to enhance computer programming. We installed the new *Gaelic app 'Ceitidh'* which is well used in school.
- We organised a number of themed weeks including *Walk to School Week*, *Fairtrade Fortnight*, *Career Fortnight*, *Year of Innovation*, *Architecture and Design*, and *Health Fortnight*.
- We created many partnerships with our school community - *Mallaig Primary School*, *Acharacle Primary School*, *Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis*, *Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu*, *Kilmuir Primary*, *Lochaber Primary Schools*, *Fèisean nan Gàidheal*, *Comunn na Gàidhlig*, *Bòrd na Gàidhlig*,
- We organised a range of *Gaelic classes* to further support parents and members of the community.
- We welcomed many visitors into the classrooms including a canal specialist, *Rev 'Kiki' MacRae*, *Fr Roddy* and family and community members.
- Our *Sgoil-àraich* had a fantastic trip to *Loch Eil* thanks to the *Outward Bound Trust*. Our *C1-7* trip to *Blair Drummond* was brilliant. *C7* also had a marvellous time in *Kilmuir on Skye* for their residential trip.

**Parental Questionnaire** - here is a Wordle displaying the key works that came out of what was working well in the school:



What could we improve?

Access the side gate in the winter.	We are looking into this further. The reason this was not permitted in the past was due to the security arrangements.
Links with Room 13	We have been in touch with Room 13 to forge links.
More Gaelic on social media and throughout communication.	We are trying very hard to ensure that we use as much Gaelic as possible. The difficulty of this is that the large majority of parents/guardians do not read the language and time constraints are limited to translate all documents bilingually. We are currently working on a strategy and have added this to priorities for next year.
Fundraising for the school.	Very much so! We shall be looking for ideas next term!
More information re cultural activities.	No problem!
Advance calendar of activities.	No problem!
Maybe too many activities.	We had to run with the events this year as it was our first year. We shall be careful next year to ensure children have a balanced curriculum.
Homework	We are currently looking at our homework policy and will launch a new policy in August 2016.
Website	We will be using the website from August 2016.
RM Maths and New Zealand Maths Programmes	We are looking into these programmes to enhance the delivery our numeracy experience and outcomes.
Laptops not working.	All laptops in the school are in working order. If laptops breakdown, we do have to rely on engineers to come to fix the problem which can be a number of days.