

"Working together to inspire learning and achievement in
Highland Communities"



Cannich Bridge Primary School

Standards and Quality Report

October 2008



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VISION AND LEADERSHIP

October 2008

Dear Parent / Carer,

This is our first annual report on the standards and quality of provision we have made at our school and I am pleased to say we have had a very busy and successful year.

We were particularly looking to improve our attainment in writing this year and our strategies of planning for the whole school at the start of each term and of highlighting pieces of work which would be used for continuous assessment, worked extremely well. Similar talking and listening strategies were also very effective so we will continue with these next session.

Pupils, staff, parents and members of the local community have all been very involved in our ECO project. The highlight for the children was definitely the award of green flag status but it was also very satisfying to have such enormous support from so many people. We feel this has greatly enhanced the community involvement in the school and the positive comments we have received have been very gratifying.

We have been working very closely with the other schools in our Associated School Group ie Glen Urquhart High School, Glenurquhart Primary and Balnain Primary. With the new learning outcomes in the curriculum for excellence, it will be very helpful to be able to study and discuss these with our colleagues in the other schools. We have regular meetings and have planned our improvement projects together. Members of the Parent Council have been consulted about their vision for the school.

The school is maintaining its health promoting status and is, in this respect, currently focused on improving fitness throughout the school. We have introduced a short PE lesson each morning and ask pupils to keep a record of physical activity outside school.

The school is fortunate to have had continuity of staff and I would like to acknowledge the input and dedication of all members of staff and the way in which individuals have been willing to take on responsibility for specific developments.

Our aim, towards which we will continue work tirelessly, is to provide each individual member of the school community with a welcoming, happy and safe environment in which our pupils will be encouraged to reach their highest possible achievement. We will continue to consult pupils through the whole school committee meetings (Pupil Council, SNAG, JRSOs) which are held on the last Thursday of each month and we welcome parents to these special assemblies. The Parent Council is involved in projects in our school improvement plan and we look forward to working with you all to drive our improvement projects forward.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia R. Fraser

Head Teacher

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AIMS

The aims of Cannich Bridge Primary School are to:

To raise attainment by fostering positive attitudes, motivating children to learn and encouraging them to recognise and be proud of their own achievements.

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is coherent and progressive in line with national and authority guidelines.

To enable young people to become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens (Curriculum for Excellence).

To create an ethos of achievement where all members of the school community feel valued and supported.

To ensure equal opportunities for all in an atmosphere of tolerance and fairness in accordance with current legislation and the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' ie that every child needs to be safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included.

To work in partnership with parents and the wider community for the benefit of the school and its pupils.

To encourage and support staff in ongoing professional development and encourage them to value their skills.

To foster in children a pride in their school and feelings of responsibility for the school, community and their environment.

To build a strong team, led by the head teacher, which works effectively towards the success of the school.

To promote a healthy life style, encouraging pupils and staff to understand the importance of improving their health and well being so that they can fulfil their potential and achieve a better quality of life.

To encourage pupils to look on education as a life long experience.

*Reviewed in consultation with pupils and staff in January 2008
The aims will be reviewed again in 2010*

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PROGRESS WITH OUR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The main focus of our development work throughout the year has been our school improvement plan and its associated projects. Our current priorities for action include improving attainment in English language and Maths, ECO Schools and Global Citizenship, Heritage Year of Culture and Early Science in the Nursery.

2007 / 2008 Improvement Projects

1 Curriculum, Learning and Teaching:

To continue to improve pupils' attainment in English language and mathematics - HMIe Action Plan

We said we intended to:

- ◆ Continue to evaluate effectiveness of Learning and Teaching strategies in maths, working with the Area Group to develop the teaching of specific areas of maths. (MELT project)
- ◆ Engage with the Highland Literacy project and review present layout of the infant classroom to encourage literacy through play. Progress writing attainment by supporting pupils who have specific difficulties in this aspect of language work and improve close procedure as discussed with English language department in Glen Urquhart High School to aid transition.
- ◆ Adopt the Highland Council programme of study in listening and talking and develop a whole school approach to the teaching of these, encouraging children to make the link between reading, writing, listening and talking.
- ◆ Ensure outcomes and successes are shared with pupils and continue to encourage self and peer assessment.

Here is the difference we made:

- ◆ Pupils are enjoying maths and are having an input into deciding which materials or text books are used in follow-up work. We introduce practical applications and ICT whenever possible and the pupils have found this approach very helpful.

There is huge improvement in problem solving with the pupils having a good knowledge of strategies. They are also enjoying using the new resources in mental maths which helps them to work in pairs or small groups.

- ◆ Following staff attendance at Highland Literacy Project training, the infant classroom was re-arranged to encourage active play, including handling and reading books. Pupils in the senior class are very good at choosing reading as an activity and the infant pupils are improving in this.

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- ◆ Writing and talking plans (linked when possible) for the whole school are drawn up each term and this has greatly improved attainment, especially in talking. Parents have commented on the success of this project.
- ◆ Peer and self-assessment is encouraged throughout the school. Paired and trio working are used very frequently with resulting improvements in confidence and a better pupil awareness of how they learn.

Nursery staff have been looking at ways of giving the children enhanced opportunities for learning in literacy and numeracy.

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2 ECO Schools and Global Citizenship

We said we intended to:

- ◆ Continue with work in ECO developments, heightening pupils' awareness of the importance of being ECO friendly and promoting parental/ community involvement through projects. Collect evidence of work already carried out and continue to work with 'Retired into Action volunteer'. Gain green flag status
- ◆ Make pupils more aware of how our actions affect others in the world, of the different lifestyles in other countries and promote ideals of racial equality

Here is the difference we made:

- ◆ We were awarded Green Flag status in June 2008.

The Eco project involved parents, staff, volunteers and the local community. We have had very positive feedback as well as generous practical and financial support from members of the community. They have commented on the improvement to the appearance of the local area through the pupils planting shrubs, heathers and hanging baskets. Pupils prepared talks about the importance of being an ECO school and were able to answer knowledgeably about the changes they had made when we were assessed for ECO School Green Flag status. They collected evidence and are now much more aware of what it means to be ECO friendly.

Nursery staff and children were also very involved in planting, recycling and looking at their local environment with the Highland Council Ranger and a representative from the RSPB. They have erected a willow tunnel and they are growing vegetables in their garden.

- ◆ Through RME, citizenship and our topics about Global Citizenship and the Rainforest pupils are much more aware about different beliefs and cultures and the importance of showing respect for others. We have arranged for a visit from a teacher and student from Argyll and Bute, who were part of an Arctic expedition, to talk to the school about climate change and how they can make a difference. We have also received resources about Fairtrade and pupils have been gathering evidence of Fairtrade products.
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3 Heritage Year of Culture 2007

We said we intended to:

- ◆ Continue with our heritage project and produce a lasting legacy from it (possibly a DVD), engaging parents and the wider community to investigate areas not yet researched
- ◆ Use this project as a springboard for looking at the wider world and global citizenship (priority 2)
- ◆ Introduce pupils to new experiences in expressive arts

Here is the difference we made:

- ◆ The Heritage project has now been archived with help from a parent and a member of staff. It is stored in its own dedicated display cabinet as a lasting legacy. The cost of making a DVD proved to be prohibitive but we may pursue this at a later date. Pupils were given many opportunities to improve their talking, listening and ICT skills. In planning we focused on how we could enable our children to be more successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. There are still various visits and areas of interest which we hope to pursue in the future.
 - ◆ The Heritage Project led on seamlessly to this year's topics.
 - ◆ Pupils took part in and thoroughly enjoyed sessions on Capoeira, Kick Boxing, and the making of an art and story panel. We also purchased an outdoor xylophone.
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4 Early Science and Investigation in the Nursery

We said we were going to:

- ◆ *Use children's curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them through play, listening to children's ideas and interests and developing these in planning activities.*
- ◆ *Audit resources and ensure resources and reference materials are easily accessible to children*
- ◆ *Encourage children to solve problems by working things out for themselves, asking questions and predicting answers.*
- ◆ *Give children opportunities inside and out to become involved in activities which intrigue them and to talk about their findings and to record these through drawings, diagrams etc.*

Here is the difference we made:

- ◆ *Planning is now based firmly on children's interests with floor books being used to extend ideas. Children regularly visit the local moor with a Highland Council Ranger to investigate their local environment. A science investigation box is available and easily accessed by the children.*
 - ◆ *An audit of materials was carried out and new resources were purchased. These are enjoyed by the children who carry out their own investigations.*
 - ◆ *Children are encouraged to try out new activities and to talk about what they have learned from them.*
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SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Attainment in National Assessments

Attainment in reading and maths continues to be at a very satisfactory level. This school has also been successful in substantially improving attainment in writing. More of our pupils are exceeding appropriate levels of attainment at different stages of the school.

School successes this year

ECO Schools

The school was awarded its Green Flag, the first in our associated school group to achieve this. The improvement in the local area with the flower bed at the entrance to the village and the hanging baskets on the bridges has been greatly appreciated by the community and the children enjoyed participating in this project.

Music Festival

Emily Graham came first in her category for cello playing and Gwennan Butler, Cassie Erskine and Maggie Gibson Knowles also did well.

Sport

A group of children took part in the cross country competition and enjoyed the experience although it was a very wet and muddy day. We also entered a team at the Inter School Sports.

Charity Work

At the Christmas Carol Service money was collected for the Highland Homeless Trust and the children also supported this charity at their Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Money was raised for Water Aid by collecting pails of pennies and the Pupil Council organised a fundraising event with half the proceeds going to Marie Curie Cancer Care. The children also filled shoeboxes for the Blythswood Appeal.

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LIFE AND WORK OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Pupils' Voices

Primary 1

We liked going on the computer, finding out about different countries and making houses from different countries. We loved making rainforest birds, dragonflies and butterflies. The drumming workshop was fantastic, excellent and brilliant.

Primary 2

We enjoyed making dragons which moved their wings, mouths and eyes using boxes and pumps. ICT, PE and Art are some of our favourite things and we also like to play football and shinty. We had great fun when Steve came for a drumming workshop. There is a log pile and we checked to see if there were any minibeasts under it. We like making models with Halo and Lego.

Primary 3

We have fun in technology making dragons. In science we are finding about invertebrates and vertebrates. At Christmas time we made decorations. We have been learning about the Rainforest. We liked the games with Matthew. We made head bands in art and in health we are learning about growing.

Primary 4

We enjoyed kick-boxing because it was energetic and exciting. Capoeira was great because we were playing a game moving in different ways and dancing. We did penny whistle with Feis Ros - it was fun and we learned lots of tunes. Then Gary came to do accordion with us and we did tunes like "Sam the Skull". We did a personal project on the Rainforest and it was cool finding out about the animals. We like ICT because we get to learn lots of new things with Mrs Mann. Some people made models which were great. On Friday 13th Steve came and did drumming with us which was fun. We have enjoyed spelling and maths, especially symmetry, this year and French was really good.

Primary 5

We enjoyed the school trip to the Floral Hall, walking through the gardens and looking at different plants. We liked doing the Christmas Code last year because it was really funny. This year we did algebra which was good fun and we liked fractions because we learned how to simplify. Our topic on the Rainforest was good and so was spelling as we learned how to spell lots of new words. Our personal projects were about the rainforest.

Primary 6

We liked different things like Kick Boxing, Capoeira, Feis Ros and our trip to the Floral Hall. We enjoyed all our fund raisers. We like doing spelling, reading and other necessary things. We love our new track suits. We liked the Christmas play. All P6 enjoy art, ICT, drama and we enjoy all school subjects. We all enjoyed learning about the Rainforest. We are very proud to say we have earned our green flag. We found our personal projects interesting. We don't think the school and work we do needs to be improved.

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Primary 7

I like symmetry in maths and I like art, PE, spelling and performing the Christmas Code. I also enjoyed going to the Floral Hall and I am very happy that we have got our Green Flag.

Pupil Council

We had a fundraiser at Easter. With the money we bought craft equipment and Mecanno. The other half of the money went Marie Curie Cancer Care.

We got a new school sign because the old one didn't look very nice.

SNAG

We did water week every month last school year and we hope to carry it on this year.

We had a cheese and grape day what was very successful. It was open to the public.

We had a fruit week. Most people brought in fruit for the whole week.

JRSOs

In May we went to the JRSO conference at the Leisure Centre. Nicki and Gino were there.

They are from MFR. We also had a competition for our school. Then we did a play.

Everyone in the school took part.

Parent Council

The Parent Council has had a very busy year. The fund raising events were very successful and were well supported by all parents. A new school sign was erected thanks to donations from the local councillor's discretionary budget, the Strathglass millennium committee and money raised by the Parent Council. A successful bid was made to the "Awards for All" Lottery fund which has resulted in the purchase of a new PE store, a climbing wall, track suits, shinty helmets, swimming lessons and there are plans to arrange mountain biking sessions later in the year. The Council was also involved in the school's ECO project.