

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



**Lochyside RC Primary School**

**Standards and Quality Report**

**October 2008**



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

VISION AND LEADERSHIP

October 2008

Dear Parent / Carer,

This is our first annual report on the standards and quality of provision being made at our school. I am pleased to be able to report on another busy and successful year.

We have had clear improvement priorities which we have been working on over the past year. This report provides you with an update on the progress we have made with them and the difference they have made to your child's learning experiences in the school.

Our aims underpin all of our future actions, and we look forward to working in partnership with parents and the wider community to ensure that our vision becomes a reality. Our shared commitment to health and well being will be a clear focus for development in the time ahead.

Our improvement projects have been effective in almost all areas.  
Our improvement project on Transition will be further developed during the current session.  
Teamwork within the Associated School Group is continuing to be developed.

The strong ethos of peer support that exists within the teaching and non-teaching staff has had a positive influence on all aspects of school life.  
I would like to acknowledge the key role that individual staff members have taken in leading some of our improvement projects over the past session.

We are impressed by the way that our pupils consistently rise to the curricular and extra-curricular challenges provided throughout the school session.  
We greatly appreciate the outstanding parental support and co-operation within our school community.

Overall, we are confident that the school continues to have the capacity to deliver a quality educational experience for our learners and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that this is the case.

Yours sincerely,

Violet Smith  
Head Teacher

## AIMS

### **School Mission Statement**

At Lochyside RC Primary School we are engaged in the pursuit of excellence. We present the children with opportunities to develop the four capacities of A Curriculum for Excellence so that they will become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

This will equip them with skills and attitudes for lifelong learning and will prepare them for life beyond school.

Our overall aim is to create a secure, happy and friendly environment where the children are encouraged to develop academically, socially, emotionally and creatively to the best of their ability.

Our commitment as a Catholic school plays a central part as we endeavour to reflect the ideals of our faith in our everyday practice, particularly in the ethos and positive attitude of the school as a whole.

We focus on the development of a community based on genuine care and understanding where each child is respected, valued and encouraged to realise his full potential.

This shared vision is supported by a number of strategies including our School Aims.

### **We aim:**

- 1 To maximise standards of attainment by -
  - providing a curriculum which illustrates breadth and balance in all areas
  - ensuring a coherent and progressive approach to teaching and learning
  - enhancing the ethos of achievement through recognising and celebrating the success of all
  - regular monitoring of progress and achievement
  
- 2 To provide a quality learning environment which stimulates and motivates pupils by -
  - encouraging positive attitudes in the pupils towards themselves and others
  - ensuring equal opportunities for all pupils through a policy of inclusion

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- promoting the health and well-being of all members of the school community
- 3 To make effective provision for pupils with Additional Support Needs by-
- meeting pupils' individual needs
  - assisting pupils to make optimum use of their abilities and educational opportunities
- 4 To develop in pupils a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith by -
- ensuring the school environment promotes and reflects the values and teachings of the Catholic Church
  - reflecting the liturgical calendar of the Church through planned spiritual services
- 5 To encourage partnership with parents and the community to enhance the quality of pupils' learning and welfare by -
- recognising the rights of parents to be informed, consulted and involved in the education of their children
  - maintaining co-operative relationships with the Parent Council
  - promoting opportunities for pupils to develop enterprising skills through links with members of the local community
- 6 To enhance professionalism of staff by -
- increasing the collegiate role of all staff
  - ensuring that all staff have opportunities for Continuing Professional Development
  - undertaking CPD courses which respond to individual needs and school priorities
  - liaising with colleagues and staff in other schools to share good practice.

Date of last review of aims: August 2008

*Reviewed in consultation with pupils, parents and staff.  
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 priorities for action during the 2007/2008 school session included :- Developing our Approaches to Learning and Teaching in Reading; Raising Attainment in Writing; Reviewing Transition Aspects; Working towards Eco Schools Accreditation.

**2007 / 2008 Improvement Projects**

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**Project 1 - Curriculum, Learning and Teaching:**

**Raising Standards of Attainment in Reading**

We said we intended to:

- Raise attainment in Reading across the school
- Teach Reading using a direct, interactive approach
- Develop and promote a whole school cross-curricular approach to the teaching of Reading through the use of collaborative learning strategies
- Promote pupils' success through training in self and peer evaluation
- Promote parental involvement in encouraging children to engage with texts at home

**Here is the difference we made:**

Our overall attainment in Reading has increased by 2% this year, with 88% pupils attaining the appropriate level or above for their stage.

Individual attainment is monitored closely through predicted attainment targets, regular discussions with the Head Teacher and with pupils themselves. Teachers share relevant information at transition stages to ensure continued progression and development of skills.

Through the implementation of the Highland Literacy Programme the use of direct and interactive strategies has been adopted and taken forward by all staff.

There is a raised expectation among staff of what pupils should be able to achieve through the Highland Literacy approach to Reading.

A whole school approach is evidenced by observations carried out by the Head Teacher, Literacy Development Officer and peers. Forward Plans, children's work and wall displays give evidence of the cross-curricular and interactive approach taken throughout the school.

In this way the children are able to transfer their reading, writing, listening and talking skills across the curriculum and to connect up their learning and knowledge.

Collaborative strategies are well established in all classes. The children frequently work in pairs, groups and trios. Pupils are competent in the use of "thinking, pairing, sharing" ideas, solving problems, planning together and working in committees. The use of "study buddies"

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has been very successful. The Paired Reading Enterprise fosters collaboration and the sharing of skills across age groups.

Observation by staff and the pupils' own comments confirm an improvement in cooperative skills, independence and self-confidence at all stages. Children themselves prefer the collaborative approach, stating that it is less stressful than working alone. They enjoy sharing ideas and seeing how other people work, and they find that explaining to their peers helps to clarify their own learning.

All pupils are able to engage with a wide range of texts with confidence and enjoyment through the use of collaborative strategies, appropriate selection of resources and careful grouping of children.

A complete audit and reorganisation of all reading materials has been carried out. Gaps were identified and new resources purchased, taking particular account of the need to engage the interest of boys and less able readers.

Self and peer evaluation is firmly embedded at all stages.

The main points of a lesson are made explicit, often through the use of WALT and WILF boards, and pupils are able to consider whether they have achieved these targets or not during discussion in the plenary session at the end of each lesson. This is done with peers, individually and with the staff, as appropriate.

Feedback may be written or oral, but is at all times positive and constructive.

Evaluation takes the form of "Two Stars and a Wish", "What Went Well and Even Better If", the use of traffic light colours, smiley faces etc.

Self and peer evaluation take place across the curriculum. Current targets are readily accessible in subject folders and Personal Learning Plans, and frequent reference is made to these by the children when assessing their performance.

Once a target has been achieved, following discussion with parents and teachers, pupils will decide their next steps in learning.

There has been a measurable improvement in pupils' attitude to reading throughout the school.

This is partly attributable to the considerable investment in bright, new, modern resources, covering all genres. These really engage the children's interest.

The collaborative method of working has clearly developed independence and an increased sense of responsibility for their own learning.

Readers at all levels of ability are able to experience success and enjoyment in texts, whether in audio, electronic or paper format.

Another reason for the improvement in attitude towards Reading is the wider range of follow-up activities which is now available to the pupils. These include making notes and diagrams, drama, drawing, word study and grammar in context, prediction and personal response as well as the usual comprehension questions. Many tasks are cross-curricular, and many involve the use of ICT.

Pupils enjoy the variety of work and the fact that tasks now cater more effectively for different learning styles.

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Children are regularly given a choice of follow-up activities. They greatly enjoy this independence. Not only are they more enthusiastic but they take more responsibility for their own learning and greater interest in the progress of their peers.

Most parents are actively involved in supporting their children's reading at home. Every effort is made to encourage and support parents in doing so. Information is provided through Reading Workshops, leaflets, letters, home diaries and parents' meetings. Children have invited their families to attend Literacy Open Days and those proved to be very successful.

There has been a definite improvement in the number of pupils actively involved in Reading for Enjoyment.

Being free of a set "Reading Book" has encouraged many to read more frequently for pleasure at home.

Libraries have been updated to include material which is accessible to readers of all abilities and includes audio format as well as the written word. Moreover, the range of materials deemed suitable for such reading has been widened to include magazines, newspapers, comics, instruction books, etc and this has been highly motivating, particularly for boys.

As well as the School Library, every class in Lochyside RC Primary has its own library and all stages are making greater use of these facilities.

In P6-7 simple books and other reading materials are available in French.

Children are very keen to take books home and to discuss what has been read, as in Library Circle. Each pupil maintains a personal Reading Record.

The whole school participates in activities such as World Book Day, National Poetry Day, Burns Day and Book Fairs as well as taking part in reading competitions and sponsored events. Such activities have played a significant part in raising the profile of reading and our expectations of the children as readers.

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### **Project 2 - Curriculum, Learning and Teaching:**

#### **Raising Attainment in Writing**

##### **We said we intended to:**

- Ensure that pupil attainment in Writing continues to meet or exceed national attainment levels
- Ensure that the needs of the lowest 20% are being met effectively
- Address the gender imbalance
- Promote the Reading/Writing connection
- Link the Writing process to Assessment for Learning

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### Here is the difference we made:

The teaching of Writing is given appropriate focus within the curriculum. Our Writing programme has been reviewed to reflect the Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and to ensure a whole school approach which allows continuity and progression from Primary 1 to Primary 7.

The learning environment for Writing is stimulating and challenging. Pupils work well and enthusiastically on Writing tasks and activities.

The approach to Writing is inclusive. Pupils take responsibility and have become more actively involved in their own learning. They contribute to their own learning targets in Writing.

Independent learning skills are well developed through Writing activities. Pupils at all stages work well in whole class, groups, trios, pairs and individual activities within Writing. They make effective use of ICT in their Writing experiences, and note-taking skills have been much improved.

The importance of praise is a motivating and positive aspect of the Writing experience, and pupils respond well to the Star Writers reward system which is used by all teachers to celebrate Writing throughout the school.

Staff make effective use of Writing assessment information to identify pupils' needs and to plan next steps in learning.

Almost all pupils have made good progress from their prior levels of attainment in Writing. Our pupils' overall performance in Writing attainment continues to exceed the averages for our Associated Schools Group and Highland schools.

However, there is a significant gender imbalance in attainment with the boys' level of performance 15% below the girls' level of performance. This will be a focus for improvement this session.

We will continue to focus particularly on pupils who require extra support to achieve their potential.

This will be done by providing extra ASN (Additional Support Needs) input, by allocating additional time to Writing and by implementing further strategies and resources.

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### **Project 3 - Transition linked to A Curriculum for Excellence:**

#### We said we intended to:

- Improve liaison within the Associated Schools Group
- Establish a more consistent approach to transition across the Associated Schools Group

#### Here is the difference we made:

Within our Associated Schools Group, meetings are held throughout the year for staff from primary schools across Lochaber to meet with secondary colleagues from Lochaber High School.

Information is exchanged and members have opportunities to discuss planning and delivery of services for pupils.

We also attended a joint In-Service Day in November 2007 where we discussed ways in which the Highland Literacy Programme strategies can be utilised within the secondary school to ensure continuity from the primary school.

Such liaison between schools has led to improved continuity and progression for our Primary 7 pupils transferring to Lochaber High School, as well as an increase in pupils' confidence at the time of transition.

The Induction Week at Lochaber High School has been most beneficial for our pupils. They find this week to be a very positive experience and it dispels any fears or anxieties which the pupils may have beforehand.

During the year our school has had positive liaison with secondary colleagues from the Modern Languages (French) Department, the Maths Department and the Support for Learning Department.

This has increased teachers' knowledge and understanding of teaching approaches, strategies and resources in each school.

This practice needs to be further developed to ensure a more consistent approach to the transition process within a Curriculum for Excellence.

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### **Project 4 - Achievement of Eco School Accreditation:**

#### We said we intended to:

- Form an Eco Committee
- Involve the Eco Committee in formulating an Action Plan
- Implement the Action Plan
- Raise pupils' awareness of litter, waste minimisation and recycling through the curriculum
- Raise pupils' awareness of energy, its consumption, conservation and alternative ways of producing energy
- Achieve Eco School Status

#### Here is the difference we made:

Our approach to the Eco Schools process is holistic. By involving the whole school, together with members of the local community, the pupils and staff have created a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.

Through the Eco Schools programme pupils have developed decision-making skills, and environmental and global issues have become an intrinsic part of the life of our school.

Undertaking an Environmental Review enabled the Eco Committee to prioritise the environmental areas they intended to develop over the year.

The areas identified were Litter, Energy, Waste Minimisation and School Grounds. The pupils drew up the targets for their Action Plan which has been effectively implemented throughout the school session.

Through work on Litter the pupils have been able to identify the impact on places and environments.

They have worked cooperatively with each other and with the local community in raising awareness and facilitating Waste Minimisation. A survey of rubbish has made the pupils determined to reduce the amount by saving recyclable items and using them for artwork whenever possible.

The pupils at all stages are more actively involved in recycling and reducing waste.

Pupils have an increased awareness of their use of Energy and how it can be conserved. Primary 7 pupils participated in a class topic on Energy in conjunction with the installation of a new biomass boiler. Through this topic the pupils have become much more aware of the

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benefits of alternative sources of energy. They presented their work through an exhibition which they organised as a class enterprise. They received very positive feedback from the many visitors who came to view their exhibition.

Through the *School Grounds* topic our Eco Committee has made many community links, and all pupils have a greater appreciation of the importance of biodiversity in their locality and beyond. The pupils realised the potential of transforming an area of the playing field into an Eco Garden and this has become a natural space for learning. The pupils were fully responsible for designing the Eco Garden, building an Eco path, planting trees, shrubs and potatoes and maintaining the plants.

The Eco Committee members monitor progress by taking photographs of all Eco activities within the school. The Action Plan and Eco Code are constantly referred to in order to ensure that activities are on track, and to inform decisions about next steps. They update pupils on progress during school assemblies and by displaying results on the Eco Noticeboard.

The school received the Eco Schools Silver Award in April 2008. We have now applied for our first Green Flag Award.

The Eco Schools programme has provided an active, participative learning experience for pupils, staff, parents and the local community. We intend to further develop this initiative during the current school session.

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## SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Attainment in National Assessments

Raising pupil attainment continues to be our highest priority.

Staff have high expectations of pupils, and almost all pupils are performing well in their coursework.

This year we have been working to ensure that each pupil becomes a successful and enthusiastic reader. All classes have participated in the Highland Literacy Programme through which we have developed new and innovative approaches to learning and teaching in Reading.

As a result, attainment in Reading has risen over the past session.

Our overall scores in Reading, Writing and Mathematics remain higher than the averages within our Associated Schools Group and within Highland Council.

### Percentages of pupils attaining or exceeding minimum national assessment levels for their stage (P3, P4, P6, P7 pupils only)

|             | <u>School</u> | <u>A.S.G.</u> | <u>Highland Council</u> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Reading     | 88.4%         | 79.7%         | 80.9%                   |
| Writing     | 79.7%         | 77.3%         | 74.8%                   |
| Mathematics | 91.3%         | 79.8%         | 83.9%                   |

We continue to implement effective strategies for raising attainment by:

- ensuring that curriculum plans provide sufficient opportunities for pupils to achieve at expected levels
- encouraging pupils to be independent in their learning
- providing appropriate supportive programmes for pupils who do not achieve at the expected levels.

### School Successes - 2007-2008

- P7 girls were selected to participate in Gymfest Inverness - August 2007
- Mark Faulkner P7 was invited to give a presentation about Room 13 at the ADES Conference in Aviemore, and at an HMIe Seminar in Edinburgh - November 2007
- Jodie Halpin P7 won first prize in an Art Competition organised by Northern Constabulary in their Drink/Driving Campaign - December 2007
- Christmas Concert for parents and the wider community - December 2007

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- P5/6 published a booklet "Lochyside RC Primary School Celebrates The Highland Year of Culture" - December 2007
- P6/7 pupils highly commended for their entries in the Children's Wild Poetry Competition (Fort William Mountain Festival) - January 2008
- Fairtrade Coffee Morning (P7 Enterprise in Education Project) - £300 raised.
- Caol in Bloom/British Waterways awarded a certificate to pupils for excellent participation in a litter picking campaign in the local community - April 2008
- Eco Schools Silver Award - April 2008
- Eco Day of Action involving whole school community - May 2008
- School Fete for whole school community - £4360.00 raised - May 2008
- Ashley MacLachlan P7 was overall winner of Scottish Six Day Trials Art Competition. Runner up was Rebecca Smith P7. - May 2008
- Lochyside Rugby Team won Lochaber Primaries Tag Rugby Tournament and the pupils were invited to participate in the Festival of Rugby at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh - May 2008
- Rhiannon Melrose P7 won The Rotary Cup for running at the Inter Primary Schools Sports - June 2008
- P5/6 pupils won a digital camera for the school as winners of the "Keep it Green" Competition organised by The Highland News Group - June 2008
- Lochyside Football Team were the winners of the KMF Car Sales Football Tournament - June 2008
- The school was selected to be filmed for 'A Journey to Excellence' DVD in recognition of good practice in meeting the needs of pupils with additional support needs including dyslexia - August 2008
- Pupils awarded Lochy Salver for school with most points at Caol Gardening Show - August 2008
- Hannah MacRae P7 was awarded the following prizes for Gaelic Singing, Fiddle and Piano throughout the year :
  - National Mod: Bronze Medal - Singing
  - Fort William Mod: Mary MacKillop Cup - Fiddle
  - Mrs Hobbs Cup - Singing
  - Lochaber Music Festival: Elizabeth Findlay Trophy - Fiddle
  - Lairg Music Festival: Woodend Cup - Fiddle
  - Trinity College, London: Piano (Grade 2 Merit)

### Sporting Activities

Pupils participated successfully in the following sporting events:-

- P7 - Fitness Testing September 2007
- P7 - Basketball Festival October 2007
- P5-7 - Modern Dance Platform November 2007
- P5-7 - Football Tournaments October 2007 - June 2008
- P4/5 - Scottish Country Dance Festival December 2008
- P6/7 - Netball League January - May 2008

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- |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • P6 - Swimming Lessons             | January - May 2008 |
| • P6/7 - Netball Tournament         | March 2008         |
| • P6/7- Cross Country Championships | March 2008         |
| • P6 - Cycling Proficiency Training | May - June 2008    |
| • P6/7- Rugby Tournament            | May 2008           |
| • P6 - Cricket Festival             | June 2008          |

**Charity Fundraising**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| • Children in Need - £250                    | November 2007 |
| • Casa Reom (Orphanage in Mozambique) - £600 | December 2007 |
| • Kids of Kolkata (India) - £1760.00         | March 2008    |

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**LIFE AND WORK OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

**Pupils' Voices**

The comments below were made by pupils during conversations with the Head Teacher and the Pupil Council Chairperson:-

**Primary 1:**

"I have enjoyed Golden Time because I like playing in the sand."

"I like dressing up in fancy-dress costumes."

"We had a Hallowe'en Parade and it was great fun."

"I enjoy playing in the classroom shop."

"I like painting, and making models with Lego and K'Nex."

**Primary 2:**

"I always enjoy doing 'Show and Tell in class.'"

"We play games in P.E. and we practise gymnastics - it is great fun."

"We get an 'Early Bird Award' if we line up quickly in the playground."

"At Easter we had an Easter Egg Painting Competition - I won a prize."

"I like telling News to my class."

**Primary 3:**

"I like Language because I like answering questions."

"I enjoyed our Eco Day because we got to make fruit smoothies."

"I liked Science best because we learned about magnets."

"I enjoyed the Tartan Tuckshop that we had on St Andrew's Day."

"In Maths I learned how to add and subtract."

**Primary 4:**

"We learned lots of songs and we sang them at our Christmas Concert for our mums and dads."

"I like the new way that we do our Reading. It is more fun because we get to choose our tasks."

"In RME we have learned a song about Jesus and the twelve apostles."

"I like doing Maths, especially measuring, symmetry and shapes."

"During Lent we raised lots of money for the poor children in India."

**Primary 5:**

"In November we raised money for Children in Need by wearing our pyjamas to school."

"I enjoyed taking part in the Pupil Council elections."

"I really enjoyed our topic about Ancient Greece because we learned lots about the Greeks."

"I enjoyed using the computer in class to help with my Maths and Story Writing."

"In the playground we have learned new games to play like Copy Cats and Crows and Cranes."

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### Primary 6:

"We had swimming lessons and I became much more confident at swimming."

"I enjoyed the School Sports and also learning Cycling Proficiency with Mrs Brayshaw."

"I enjoyed playing in the football matches. We won the Kevin McFadyen Football Trophy."

"We had a fantastic time on our Eco Day. We did lots of different activities like planting seeds, picking up litter in Castle Drive, weeding in the school grounds and making fruit smoothies."

"Our trip to the pantomime at the Nevis Centre was fun. The pantomime was Cinderella, and I enjoyed the songs and the lovely costumes."

"We did a topic about The Jacobites, and we visited the Visitor Centre at Glenfinnan where we stood on the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the Standard. It was very interesting."

### Primary 7:

"On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2008 the Primary 7 pupils held a Spring Coffee Morning for the charity 'Kids of Kolkata.' We invited our families and lots of other local people. The total amount raised was £300.00. I liked selling things and helping in the canteen, and I learned how to be a good sales person."

"On the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 the school organised an Eco Day. I am on the Eco Committee so we planned the day. Everybody was allowed to come to school dressed in green clothes and there was a prize for the people wearing the most green. Each class did a different, eco-related activity. There was smoothie-making, life-saving skills, baking with Fairtrade products and more! I liked making smoothies and I learned how to make a good smoothie."

"Since the school was getting a new bio-mass boiler installed, Primary Seven made an exhibition in the School Library. We invited people like Mrs Mary Scanlon MSP, local councillors, education officers and our families to see our work. Everyone in Primary Seven produced an artwork and all the visitors loved the exhibition. They all left lovely comments in our Guest Book. I enjoyed doing my artwork and showing people around the exhibition. I learned how to explain things clearly to people."

"It was enjoyable being on the Paired Reading Committee. I liked helping and encouraging the younger ones to read. If they read a book well they were awarded a sticker. I enjoyed having the responsibility around the school and organising competitions that almost every child in the school entered."

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### Pupil Council

#### Aims:

- To involve pupils in the day-to-day running of the school
- To encourage active and positive citizenship
- To give pupils a forum for discussion

We work very well as a team and we are happy with what we have achieved throughout the year. We were responsible for organising activities to raise funds for our school and also for charities - Children in Need

St Andrew's Day  
Casa Reom (Mozambique)  
Kids of Kolkata (India)  
Easter Egg Competition

We used our Pupil Council funds to buy new playground equipment and toys. We also bought some bright signs to put up around our courtyard and the playground. We gave a donation of money to our Eco Committee to buy recycling bins for each classroom.

Our other responsibility is the Healthy Tuck Shop. We have a rota for serving in the Tuck Shop during playtimes, and on Fridays we do stock-taking so that we can decide what we need for the next week. We encourage everyone to buy healthy snacks, and we give stickers to the children who buy fresh fruit.

During Fairtrade Fortnight we organised a Fairtrade Tuckshop and it was very successful.

Our Pupil Council Annual Report was written and issued to parents in June 2008. In our report we listed all our achievements and projects for the 2007-2008 school year.

We have already started organising activities for this new school year, and we are sure that we will be as busy as last year!

Michelle MacKinnon  
Chairperson

### Eco Committee

Our Eco Committee worked well together over the year. We achieved all the targets in our Action Plan and we also did additional Eco activities.

Our Eco Day in May was very successful. We involved every child in the school and many people from the local community. We made a programme of events including gardening, planting seeds, Fairtrade baking, making bird cakes, first aid and art using recycled cards.

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Four members went to Inverness for the Highland Schools Eco Forum. We shared ideas with children from other schools.

Three members visited the Lochaber Recycling Centre and we organised our own recycling system within our school. We also bought compost bins and compost caddies and they are being used daily.

We have made an Eco Garden in our school grounds. We have built an Eco path and planted lots of shrubs and flowers. We also planted potatoes and tomatoes and they grew successfully. Next year we intend to grow a wider variety of vegetables, herbs and fruit trees in our Eco Garden.

We were very pleased to be given the Eco Schools Silver Award in April, and we hope to achieve the Green Flag Award very soon.

We have all learned a lot about Eco issues and we have appreciated the help we have been given by parents, local businesses and staff.

We have set new targets for this year and already we are underway with some of our projects. We keep parents informed about our developments through our monthly Eco Newsletters.

Eilidh Moynihan P7  
Eco Secretary

### **Room 13 Management Team**

The 2007/2008 school session was a successful year for the Room 13 Management Team. We have been involved in many projects and we have had several people who are interested in Room 13 coming to visit our studio.

Throughout the year Claire Gibb, our artist in residence, has been working with the younger classes in the school and talking to them about the different styles of artworks and helping them to research famous artists. Mr Fairley also works in our studio on certain days of the week.

In February 2007, West Rise Junior School came to visit to see what Room 13 is like. Twenty-six pupils, parents, siblings and teachers came to visit and asked us questions. It was a great experience for our team as well as for them.

In March 2007, one pupil went with our artist in residence to the BBC recording studio in Inverness to be interviewed about Room 13 for BBC Scotland's Radio Café Programme. Everyone who listened to the programme said that it sounded good.

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In April 2007, two pupils went to Canterbury Christchurch University to speak at a Conference, with our artist in residence. They spoke to 70 students and teachers. The students were very impressed at their ability to answer questions so well.

One of our main projects has been the National Galleries Partnership Project. In June 2008, five primary school pupils and one High School pupil went with our artist in residence to do a residency in the National Galleries in Edinburgh. We stayed in Edinburgh for four days, visiting each gallery - the National Gallery, the Portrait Gallery, the Gallery of Modern Art and the Dean Gallery. We were based in the National Gallery and we worked with some of the artists there. The residency was only the first part of the project, and we have started the second part - making art based on some of the famous artworks in the four galleries.

Overall, this school year has been a successful one for Room 13 and we hope that next year the hard work will be continued.

Natalie Brayshaw P7  
Managing Director

### Parent Council

The Parent Council at Lochyside RC Primary School was formed in October 2007, following legislation to replace the old School Boards. All parents of children at Lochyside RC Primary School are members of the Parent Forum. The Parent Council represents the Forum, and its aims include:

- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all its parents
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school, and on other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils
- To raise funds, apply for and receive grants, and accept gifts for the benefit of the school

The Parent Council meets at least once a term, (as advised in School Newsletters), and all parents are most welcome to attend these meetings.

The Parent Council currently comprises:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Chair:            | Mrs Elaine Brayshaw  |
| Secretary:        | Fr Roddy Johnston (co-opted member)  |
| Treasurer:        | Mrs Anne Marie MacRae  |
| Co-opted members: | Cllr Allan Henderson<br>Mrs Elaine Cameron (staff member)<br>Mrs Pauline MacEachen |
| Parent members:   | Mrs Sandra Davies<br>Mrs Sara Munro  |

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Miss Nicola Bowie  
Mrs Carol McDermott  
Mrs Clare MacLeod  
Mrs Maggie MacKinnon  
Miss Violet Smith (Head Teacher)

Advisor:

During the session 2007/08, the Parent Council has undertaken fundraising activities, proposed initiatives and assisted the school as follows:

- Car boot sale at Caol Community Centre.
- Morrisons Supermarket bag packing.
- Approached local businesses to donate prizes for the School Fete, including the Nevis Radio auction of a signed Celtic football shirt. Assisted with preparations for the Fete, and manned stalls.
- Proposed the recycling of mobile 'phones, as a fundraising/eco initiative, which was adopted by the school's Eco Committee.
- Worked in conjunction with the Pupil Council to improve the healthiness of the Tuck Shop stock.
- Consulted with the Artist in Residence at Room 13 to ensure children wear suitable protective clothing, when appropriate.
- Bought and presented each Primary 7 pupil with a leaving present.
- Accompanied pupils and teachers to various extra-curricular events.
- Assisted with Primary 7's Spring Coffee Morning.
- Welcomed Pupil Council representatives to our last meeting of the session where they delivered their Annual Report.

The fundraising activities raised almost £5,000. This was paid into the School Fund.

It has been a successful and enjoyable first year of the Parent Council and we look forward to a productive new session.

Elaine D Brayshaw  
Chairman  
LPS Parent Council

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