

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



Mallaig Primary School / Bunsgoil Mhalaig

Standards and Quality Report

August 2008



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VISION AND LEADERSHIP

June 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 a 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.

We have worked closely with parents, pupils and the wider community to review our vision and aims for the school for the next two to three years. The revised aims will underpin all of our future actions so that we can work together 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. Team working within the school and the associated school group is continuing to be developed as well as partnerships with our Active Schools Coordinators and the community. Learners have benefited from staff working together with their colleagues on joint development projects. Pupils from all schools in the area came together for a very successful Sports Day on the 10th June.

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.

Thank you / Tapadh leibh

Yours sincerely,

Joan Smith
Head Teacher

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AIMS

School Aims

At Mallaig Primary School we base our aims on the values of wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity in line with the 7 principles and four purposes of the curriculum for excellence. To achieve our aims, every child and young person in our care will be protected from abuse, neglect or harm, have the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and be given support in learning to make healthy and safe choices. They will be supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self esteem and have opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport which will contribute to healthy growth and development. They will have the opportunity, along with Parents and Carers to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them, and be encouraged to play active roles in their school with appropriate guidance and supervision. They will have help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and be accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

To this end we will:

- 1 Provide a curriculum in both English and Gaelic which illustrates breadth and balance in all areas, is in accordance with 3-14 recommendations and the Curriculum for Excellence and ensures continuity and progression for all levels of ability during their period in Nursery and Primary education.
- 2 Organise/ reorganise as appropriate, accommodation and resources in accordance with needs relating to class size/composition and school roll, in order that both pupils and staff can fully and effectively utilise facilities available.
- 3 Raise pupils' attainment, and establish high standards in attendance and behaviour.
- 4 Be specific with regard to particular areas to be developed within a session, and ensure that these proposed developments are carefully monitored (in line with How Good is Our School - The Journey to Excellence) as they progress, and that targets are met.
- 5 Ensure classroom organisation and methodology allows for account to be taken of the talents/ needs of individual pupils, providing challenges and support as necessary.
- 6 Provide a happy and caring environment where the team spirit (staff, pupils and parents) encourages children to achieve their full potential, develop an enthusiastic attitude to their tasks and generally aim for a feeling of security in their relationships with all concerned.
- 7 Celebrate success, create an ethos of achievement, and equal opportunities for all pupils.
- 8 Ensure sound links are established between Nursery, Primary and Secondary sectors and with the wider community.
- 9 Ensure that all members of staff have opportunities for continuing professional development.
- 10 Promote links with parents as partners in their children's education.
- 11 Ensure the health and well being of all members of the school community, and encourage the whole school community to explore, appreciate and respect their environment.

Reviewed in consultation with pupils, parents 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:

1. raising standards of attainment in reading throughout the school,
2. developing the links between the Nursery, Primary and Secondary sectors,
3. raising awareness throughout the school community of the new Curriculum for Excellence
4. working towards Eco Schools status.

Many of these projects were carried out in association with Mallaig High School and the other Primary Schools which feed into Mallaig High (Arisaig, Lady Lovat, Inverie, Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck). This group is known as the Associated Schools Group or the ASG.

2007 / 2008 Improvement Projects

1 Raising standards of Attainment in reading throughout the school:

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 strategies
- Promote pupils' success through training in self and peer assessment
- Provide training and support for staff to enable them to confidently teach using a wide variety of strategies and resources
- Promote parental involvement in encouraging their children to engage with texts at home.

Here is the difference we made:

Attainment in Gaelic reading has improved markedly, and English reading has maintained its level above the Highland average :

	June 2007	June 2008
English Reading	96.7%	90.32%
Gaelic Reading	62.5%	80.75%

Through training, all teaching and support staff are now engaged in more direct interactive teaching of reading as part of the Highland Literacy Project. This has led to the children being more motivated and interested in reading activities. The use of collaborative strategies (working in pairs and trios) has had a positive effect on the confidence of our pupils throughout the curriculum and has enabled pupils of all abilities to engage with a variety of texts. More pupils are now able to use peer and self assessment to evaluate their learning and that of others. This enables them to identify and focus on areas for improvement. A work shop was held for parents to explain the structure of the Highland Literacy Project and the implications for children and the involvement of parents. Those who attended the workshop were enthusiastic about the Project and as a result were more aware of how to help their child/children at home. It is our intention to hold more workshops in the coming session on different aspects of the Project. Parents were also given the opportunity to view the new resources eg chapter books, big book and information books which have enhanced pupils' motivation to read.

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2 Curricular Transition:

We said we intended to:

- Raise awareness of teaching methods and materials between sectors.
- Develop and promote links between Nursery, Primary and Secondary sectors in the subject areas of language and Science.
- Raise attainment in reading across the associated school group
- Ensure coverage of knowledge objectives/learning outcomes among associated schools
- Promote dialogue among staff, parents and pupils.

Here is the difference we made:

Two members of the High School staff visited the School to observe teaching methods in language in the upper primary and to deliver their own lesson to the class. This allowed staff from both sectors to exchange ideas on teaching strategies and methodology. Unfortunately due to time restraints teachers from the Primary School were unable to visit the High School. This practice will be continued into next session with other stages and departments.

Staff from the Associated school Group met to discuss the formation of a "Science passport" which would go with each pupils from Nursery through to High School, recording attainment in Science outcomes. However, as the new Science outcomes have only published in draft form, it was decided to postpone this project until the outcomes were finalised.

A successful project on "Shopping" using outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence was carried out with the Nursery and Primary one pupils in both the English and Gaelic departments. This project involved many curricular areas including language, maths and art. As a result, the Nursery children were more confident about being in the infant classroom.

Primary seven pupils across the Associated School Group were involved in a book project based on the anthology of stories "Ten Sorry Tales" by Mick Jackson. This book study will be continued in the High School, thus ensuring continuity between the Primary and Secondary sectors.

All schools in the Associated Schools Group were involved in an exercise to assess writing samples across the stages from all the schools. As a result staff are now more confident that the assessing of writing is uniform across the ASG.

3 To work towards Eco School status:

We said we intended to:

- Form an eco committee involving staff pupils, parents and the wider community.
- Involve the Eco Committee in writing an action plan and begin to implement this to move towards achieving bronze level.
- Seek opportunities to raise school and nursery awareness of litter, waste minimisation and recycling
- Raise awareness of energy, its consumption, conservation and alternative ways of producing energy.

Here is the difference we made:

An Eco School committee was formed which comprises parents, pupils, school staff and a community representative. Interested Pupils from each class gave a presentation in which they outlined their views on improving the school environment and how they could contribute to the work of the committee. This, and a visit from the Waste Aware Highland team, helped to raise awareness of environmental issues within the school, its immediate environment and the wider

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community. An audit was carried out which highlighted areas of strength and areas which need to be developed. From these results an Action Plan was drawn up to include:

- * Writing a policy on litter and ensuring that there are enough bins around the school and playground.
- * Ensuring that we save energy and minimise waste.
- * Create a wild flower meadow and a wooded area at the front of the school.
- * Improve areas of the playground.

The school has gained the Bronze Award and will work towards carrying out the Action Plan gaining Green Flag status in the coming session. For more information about the Eco School programme visit the web site: www.ecoschoolsscotland.org .

4 A Curriculum for Excellence

We said we intended to:

- Ensure that all members of staff are familiar with the outcomes and experiences of each curricular area.
- Develop planning formats to allow for cross curricular topics, demonstrating clear coverage of outcomes and experiences.
- Ensure that every pupil has full access to the curriculum
- Ensure that children are benefiting from a continuity of experience and learning between Nursery and primary one
- Introduce learning and teaching strategies which take account of active learning, offer opportunity for personal choice and make good use of the outdoor environment
- Ensure that Assessment for Learning strategies are in place to allow appropriate pace and good progression.

Here is the difference we made:

All teaching attended training in a Curriculum for Excellence in February 2008. This training highlighted the rationale behind the new curriculum as well as focussing on the expected progression in learning and its impact for our pupils.

Staff are aware of the draft outcomes for the Curriculum for Excellence and hard copy is available in the staff room of the school and on the Curriculum for Excellence website www.acurriculumforexcellence.gov.uk . As an ASG, teachers worked in teams to develop planning formats involving all areas of the curriculum and linked to the 4 capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence which should enable our pupils to become:

Confident Individuals
Responsible Citizens
Effective Contributors
Successful Learners

This enabled staff to become more familiar with the outcomes and more confident in planning for future programmes.

The shopping project carried out by the Nursery and primary one pupils has ensured a continuity of experience for our Early stage pupils.

Training through the Highland Literacy Project has enabled staff to introduce new learning and teaching strategies and given pupils opportunities for active learning and increased confidence.

The introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence will continue to be a major priority for the next few years until its implementation is complete.

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SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Attainment in National Assessments

This session the school has maintained high levels of achievement in Maths and Reading and increased achievement in Gaelic reading and writing (see table below). Also a significant number of children are exceeding expected levels of achievement in Reading and Maths

Percentages of pupils attaining or exceeding minimum national assessment levels for their stage (P3, 4, 6 and & 7 pupils only)

<i>School 06/07</i>	<i>School 07/08</i>	<i>Highland Council 07/08</i>
Reading 96.6%	Reading 90.32%	Reading 80.9%
Writing 93.3%	Writing 83.6%	Writing 74.8%
Maths 81.48%	Maths 82.3%	Maths 83.9%
Gaelic Reading 62.5%	Gaelic Reading 80.74%	Gaelic Reading 75.8%
Gaelic Writing 79.1%	Gaelic Writing 86.6%	Gaelic Writing 72.2%

School successes this year

Fundraising for charity has afforded the children many opportunities to display good citizenship. Some of the charities which have benefited from their efforts are: British Heart Foundation, UNICEF's Day for Change, The Royal Institute for the Blind (Christmas stamp collection), Children in Need, Blythswood Christmas Box Appeal, the Christmas Post which raised £25 for SCIAF, Christian Aid sponsored knit (our thanks to Jessie Corson for running our lunchtime knitting club), Comic Relief, the RNLI and the SSPCA. The Nurseries raised the staggering sum of £709 for the swimming pool by holding a sponsored flag hunt and a sponsored sea shell search!

Throughout the year our pupils have been very successful in various competitions. Ryan MacDonald of Primary 2 went to Fort William to receive his highly commended prize for a picture of the Six Days Trials. James MacQueen and Aaron McLean were well placed at the Fort William cross country running championships and were chosen to represent Lochaber at the Highland Schools cross country championships at Dornoch. We congratulate our dancers who brought home many trophies from the Lochaber Mod and the Gaelic pupils who acquitted themselves very well at the Lochaber and Ardnamurchan Mods. Robert Poole-Fuste had two stories included in "Leabhar nan Gàidheal Òg" (The book of Young Gaels) and Anna Biddulph and Courtney McLean's illustrations were chosen for inclusion in the book. Many children were also placed in the various competitions at the Road to the Isles Agricultural Show and the Mission Gala Day.

This year's winners of the Mhairi Stewart Memorial Quaich for progress in spoken Gaelic were Ben MacDonald (P1) and Cameron MacBeth (P6). The winners of the Rough Bounds Prize donated by Dennis Rixon for achievements in the expressive arts were: James MacQueen, Solène Cargill and Sarah MacKellaig.

Our football team has had another successful year and we owe a huge thank you to Angus Kennedy for coaching and arranging games for the boys. Their successes include:

- * Lochaber Indoor Sixes Winners
- * Lochaber Tournament Winners
- * Runners up in the KMF Cup for Lochaber Schools

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Regular meetings of the Student Council were held throughout the session facilitated by Mrs Smith - here are a few of their achievements:

- * A competition was held for a design for the friendship seat. This was won by Owen Harrold in P6. The art work was carried out by Trish Macintyre and the seat is now in the playground.
- * Another competition was held to design a cover for the pupils' ICT records. This was won by Solène Cargill
- * The Junior road safety Officers (Nicole MacBeth and Margaret MacIver) helped run a "Beep Beep" day in the Nursery
- * The Council helped out with the ordering and distribution of fluorescent jackets and arm bands for all the children.
- * £200 was raised for Children in Need
- * A Healthy Tuck Shop raised £51
- * The School Aims were re written in child friendly "speak"

A very successful year all round!

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LIFE AND WORK OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Pupils' Voices

Pupils were asked to comment on their school year and what it meant to them.

Primary 1

'I like swimming and school and the teachers.'
'I like all the pictures on the wall and I like the colours the walls are painted.'
'I love Golden Time and doing my Maths.'
'I like playing 'Mermaids' and 'Horses' at playtime.'
'I like making pictures and listening to stories.'

Primary 2

'I like playing tig at playtime'
'I like maths because there are some colouring pages to do sometimes.'
'I like playing with my best friends.'

Primary 3

'I like playing football and bulldogs.'
'I like the toilets because of the pictures in them.'
'Tha an sgoil math airson 's gu bheil an tidsear math.'
'Tha e math a'taghadh.'

Primary 4

'I like the school because it has a big playground.'
'Art is my favourite thing to do in school and my second is swimming.'
'The school has a lovely stained glass windows and lovely pictures on the walls. My school is the best!'

Primary 5

'I love my school because of the playground.'
'I liked harvesting the potatoes and onions.'
'I like all of our displays. I wouldn't have it any other way.'
'Our school is always nice and tidy. I like playing on the big rocks and on the football pitch.'
'I enjoy all the activities in our school, especially Maths, Golden Time and Art.'
'The school dinners are really nice. Our school is always clean and the pictures in the toilets are lovely.'
'I like how there are lots of friendly people in our school.'
'There are lots of classrooms and they are very comfy.'
'My favourite subjects are Maths, Reading. and P.E. '

Primary 6

'School is fun because you learn so much.'
'The teachers are really kind and helpful.'
'Our school is clean and colourful.'
'I like when it is raining because then we get to knit, play chess or go to Computer Club.'
'I love dinners because we get really healthy food.'

Primary 7

'The playground is fun to play in. Most pupils play football on the football pitch.'
'I mostly like Art in school; Maths is o.k. and so is writing.'
'The corridors are clean and full of pictures.'
'I am going to miss this school and all the teachers when I move on to High School.'
'I've been playing football recently, so that's been good.'
'I'm going to miss the school when I leave. I know my way round it.'

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Pupil Council

We are quite proud of what we managed to achieve. We were all very enthusiastic about organising fund raising events. We achieved the following:

Friendship Seat

We organised a competition in school, asking pupils to draw a design to be painted on our new 'friendship seat' for the playground. The wooden seat is now used by any pupil who wants someone to play with at breaktime and lunchtime.

Playground Games

We arranged for some of the playground games, like hopscotch for example, to be repainted. These games are now being used regularly by pupils.

Sandpit

We bought a wooden sandpit with some of our funds and asked some of the Classroom Assistants and Playground Supervisor to help us put it together and fill it with sand. Lots of the younger pupils are having fun playing in it.

Playground Toys

We bought new leather footballs and skipping ropes for pupils to use at breaktimes.

Healthy Tuck-shop

We worked with our Head Teacher to carry out a survey of what healthy snacks the pupils like to eat. Then we organised a Healthy Tuck-shop. The Student Council worked together preparing the food and setting up the tables. It was very popular with all our pupils.

ICT Pupil Records Cover Design

Our Head Teacher asked us to organise an art competition to come up with a design for a cover for new ICT Records that the teachers had been working on. We found it very hard to judge the entries but eventually we chose a winner!

Children in Need

At the end of November the whole school took part in the activities we organised to raise money for Children in Need. We held lots of fun competitions including 'Dress Pudsey Bear' and a huge Treasure Hunt. The teachers donated prizes to be given out. We raised more than £200!

Red Nose Day

We planned events and put up posters advertising them. Most of the pupils dressed in red for the day and also came to school with crazy hairdos.

We asked for donations from everyone who took part. Again we raised lots of money for this good cause.

Bring and Buy Sale

Our local swimming pool needs lots of money to keep it running so we organised a 'Bring and Buy Sale' in school to raise money for them.

Future Plans

For the next session we would like the Student Council to arrange for lines to be painted on the football pitch and buy new basket ball nets to put up in the playground. We think it would be a good idea to have more organised games and activities at break times. We would also like Primaries 6 and 7 to be allowed access to the front garden of the school.

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Parent Council

A new Parent Council was formed in August at a meeting of the Parent Forum. Meetings were held termly throughout the school year. The Parent Council were unanimous in their support of school initiatives and fundraising activities.

Baking Stall and Raffle 17 November 2007

Parent Council members ran a baking stall and raffle at an event in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre which raised £84.80 for school funds.

Bag Packing 23 December 2007

Pupils of P7 were assisted by Parent Council members 'bag packing' in the local Co-op. This venture raised £320 towards the cost of P7's Outward Bound trip in the summer term.

Highland Literacy Project

Parent council members supported an open evening which provided the opportunity for all parents to learn more about the Highland Literacy Project, how the school was taking this forward and also to view new resources purchased to support the initiative.

Quiz Night

The Parent Council provided teas and coffees at this event which was organised to raise funds for the P7 Outward Bound trip.

Head Teacher Appointment

Some of the Parent Council were involved in the recruitment process and sat on the interview panel which led to the appointment of Ms Morag Martin as new Head Teacher of Mallaig Primary School as of October 27 2008.

Aims for 2008-09

The Parent Council hope to be involved in raising funds for playground improvements and plan also to organise a School Gala Day, possibly in May 2009.

Marina Muir

Chairperson