

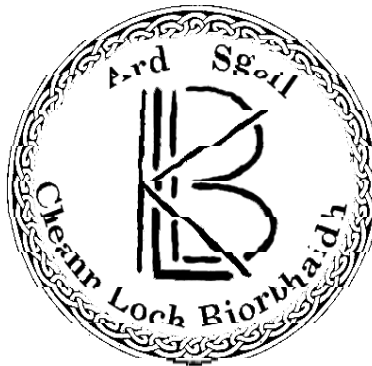
"Working together to inspire learning and achievement in
Highland Communities"



Kinlochbervie High School

Standards and Quality Report

November 2008



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

VISION AND LEADERSHIP

November 2008

Dear Parents

I am pleased to be able to report on 2007-08, another busy and successful school year. We have had clear improvement priorities which we have been working on over the past year. This report uses a standard format issued to all Highland schools. It 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. This is the first year we have used this new style of report, hence the delay. Next year's report should be completed by the October break. We are also using the new procedures developed by Highland Council for improvement planning.

We have begun work on drafting a suitable vision statement for the school. Thus far comments on my original statement by the Parent Council, Pupil Council and staff have resulted in the following version.

Kinlochbervie High School is an inclusive community. Excellence in education, the welfare, security and happiness of all pupils and staff are our priorities.

Kinlochbervie High School endeavours to take the needs of the individual into account. We aim to provide pupils and staff with the skills, experiences and qualifications they need to give them choices in their progression through life.

I now invite all parents to return the attached sheet with your views. I will then finalise our shared vision, hopefully before the end of this term.

The new S3-6 curriculum has had a very successful introduction and the school's first SQA results that included S3 were excellent. All the S3 pupils involved attained at least one A pass at Intermediate 1, with many gaining A passes in all 3 subjects. Following another round of consultations with pupils, parents and staff minor changes were made for this session which we believe will be the platform for further improvements in pupils' experiences in the classroom.

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Once again Scottish education is undergoing major changes. Under the banner of *A Curriculum for Excellence* there will be significant changes to ensure we provide an education that will equip our children with the skills necessary to lead a successful life in the 21st century.

A major part in our drive towards A Curriculum for Excellence is our involvement in the Highland Literacy Project. This work will involve most departments in the school and should result in a coherent approach to literacy skills across the school, with the added benefit of improved collaborative learning.

Overall, we are confident that the school continues to have the capacity to deliver a quality educational experience for our pupils and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure we meet the individual needs of all our pupils.

Yours faithfully

Dr Ian Smith
Rector

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AIMS

The aims of Kinlochbervie High School

Our aim is to provide a meaningful and effective education for all our pupils. We seek to achieve this by;

developing in our pupils a sense of responsibility for their own learning

striving for the highest possible academic achievement

providing a wide range of experience both within and outwith the curriculum

developing our pupils as responsible individuals who are confident, tolerant and caring.

Central to this is a strong partnership between staff, pupils, parents and the wider community; all working together in pursuit of the above aims.

A review of these aims started more than a year ago. This work is continuing and once we have an agreed vision statement, further consultation with pupils, parents and staff will take place over the current session.

PROGRESS WITH OUR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2007 / 2008 Improvement Projects

Project 1 Title: Raising Standards of Achievement

We said we intended to:

- Increase attainment
- Increase positive responses from pupils, parents and staff
- Improve the consistency of our approach to classroom observation
- Maintain the Assessment is for Learning (AifL) initiative as a priority for teaching & learning

Here is the difference we made:

We have decreased the number of pupils who have failed SQA exams. This has been done i) by increasing the levels that subjects are available to pupils, this better matching courses to abilities and ii) improved monitoring and tighter control over the appropriateness of the levels pupils take subjects at.

Over the past two years we have made more effort to consult stakeholders and gather their views before changes and improvements are made.

Although we did make classroom observation more consistent there is still room for improvement.

Work continued on AifL but the required funding did not materialise and although progress was made, it was more limited than we would have liked.

Project 2 Title: Curriculum Review / Improvement

We said we intended to:

- Successfully implement the new curriculum for S3-6
- Review progress and plan for adjustments as necessary
- Carry out further investigations into vocational courses
- Take A Curriculum for Excellence (ACE) developments taken into account

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Here is the difference we made:

The initial plan for the new S3-6 curriculum was implemented very successfully.

The feedback received from stakeholders and the SQA results confirmed this success.

Another round of consultations resulted in further modifications to the curriculum for S3 and S4.

The Rural Skills vocational course was a great success.

Staff continued to engage in ACE developments and prepare for fuller implementation in 2009/10.

Project 3 Title: Improve Transition from Primary to Secondary

We said we intended to:

- Continue with the primary/secondary Science project
- Make progress in Maths – work towards a common text book, etc.
- Make progress on an archaeology project
- Plan and implement a programme of exchange visits between sectors

Here is the difference we made:

For a second year the Science specialist in the 4 primaries worked with the secondary science department to plan and implement a series of visits by all P7 pupils to the High School. Most of the visits also incorporated work in other subject specialisms.

All pupils in P7/S1 now use TeeJay books. In S1 pupils continue to work in their P7 jotters. The Maths teacher continued to visit the P7 classes.

Many secondary staff visited one or more of the associate primary schools (several have previous experience of working in the local primaries) therefore ensuring an improved understanding of that sector. A smaller proportion of primary staff visited secondary classes.

SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Attainment in National Assessments

In the national assessments at the end of S2 the targets we set ourselves for maths and for reading were exceeded. The target for reading was just missed but targets in all three areas were made more challenging by the departure of an able pupil.

S3 took Intermediate 1 exams (Standard Grade in PE) for the first time. More than half achieved an A pass (or equivalent) in all three subjects.

Most subjects in S4 were taken at Standard Grade this year (next year most will be Intermediates). 97.5% of the assessments achieved by S4 were at General and Credit level (or equivalent); only 2.5% were at Foundation level. 30% of S4 pupils achieved 5 or more passes at Credit (or equivalent) - this is more than in the past few years.

There were numerous excellent individual performances with many pupils achieving A passes. Continuing the trend in recent years, even fewer exams were failed by S5/6 pupils.

School successes this year (session 2007/08)

It was absolutely astonishing that a school of our size could raise almost £30,000 to purchase our fantastic new minibus. This was a result of the teamwork, determination and sheer hard work of all the staff, pupils and parents.

Shinty was introduced and has been popular and successful. Initially financed from Highland 2007 funding, other funding applications were made and many donations were received, to provide much more equipment. Matches were played far and wide: from Stornoway to Thurso, from Perth to Drumnadrochit. Bearing in mind the inexperience of the pupils, they achieved notable triumphs. One of the secrets of the success of shinty is the involvement of parents and the wider community. Also, there was continued participation in other sports; football, sailing and basketball especially.

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School successes this year (session 2007/08), continued

The range of subjects we offer is excellent, especially considering our size. New subjects are added to our repertoire all the time. This past session we offered Graphic Communication and Higher Travel & Tourism for the first time. Also, with the excellent assistance from Loch Duart Fish Farm, Reay Forest Estate and the John Muir Trust we offered Rural Skills, one of a new type of vocational courses. The range of levels offered in the different subjects at this school is very difficult to match by any school in Scotland, regardless of size.

£60 was raised for Genes for Jeans and £60 was raised for Farm Africa during a jeans and wellies day. 53 shoe boxes were sent off for onward transit to India and Romania as our contribution to the annual Blythswood Appeal. £613 was raised for Children in Need when Dr Smith and Mr MacPherson were pupils for the day. £190 was raised for National Deaf Children's Society during a Polar Day.

The extended range of school uniform was introduced very successfully. Work created during our S2 Art and Geology project was displayed in Ullapool Museum, Dynamic Earth Edinburgh and the Hunterian Museum Glasgow. Trips were organised to Hampden Park for all the Scotland internationals. Miranda MacDonald visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland and gave presentations to the whole school to inform all pupils about the Holocaust. Nathan Kish and Ruairidh Forbes represented the school at the regional heats of Future Chef. Elizabeth Marsham's design for a flag won a national competition. The school's first major production was our very successful pantomime. The Pride exhibition of work from all five local schools toured the communities. Karen Mackay appeared on television to highlight the issues of living in a remote area. S2 had a day in the woods building shelters. The Pupiltrain presenter worked with S2-6 to increase motivation and give assistance and advice regarding exams. Niamh O'Driscoll and Chelsey Ross were leaders when A Corra Glas recorded a CD. Sophie Macleod's poem won a prize in a national competition. Lucy Laing, Karen Mackay and Miranda MacDonald were Young Quality Scots at local and national events. There were trips to see music shows in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The Punk/Junk Fashion Show was recreated for the First Minister and others at Eden Court. Karen MacKay attended Space School. Emma Adam and Niamh O'Driscoll represented the area at an international GeoPark conference in Germany. We held our first full Activities Week.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Pupils' Voices

We are lucky as we have a big variety of staff considering the numbers of pupils.

The school has already had sailing and I would like to do some more.

The school is good at dealing with bullying.

There are good teachers.

Some pupils are let away with things by some teachers.

There is a relaxed atmosphere between pupils and staff and it is a friendly environment to learn in.

The school has given me many opportunities to pursue my hobby of music.

The school is really good at fund raising to get us things we need and to help other people.

I was involved in the fashion show and fund raising for the new minibus. It showed how such a small school can pull together – it was great fun!

Some teachers treat some pupils much better. In most cases girls are treated better than boys.

Teachers are not always consistent when dealing with uniform, disruption, etc.

The teachers are great at helping you, even when you need help after school they are willing to stay.

There are many opportunities for us to go away on a trip or get involved in clubs in such a small school. We get the chance to try different things such as sailing.

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Pupil Council

Pupil Council representatives collected the thoughts of their fellow peers about a change in the style of uniform. We managed to achieve this by adding a variation in the standard sweatshirt by having a zip-up hoodie. This has proved to be a very popular choice amongst pupils.

Parent Council

The Parent Council continues to represent all parental views and support the Rector and his staff in their work with pupils.

The Council have been involved and kept informed of the implementation of the new Curriculum and recognise how this will impact on pupils. We see this as a positive move at all stages for all learners regardless of aptitude and abilities. All pupils should experience an appropriate level of challenge to enable each individual to achieve his or her potential.

The Parent Council support the Rector, staff and pupils in their efforts to make our High School one to be proud of.