

## **North West Sutherland Schools Parent Council**

5.6.19 – 7.00pm Kinlochbervie High School

**In attendance** – Iona Shaw, Linda Tebay, Christine MacKenzie, Richard Flannery, Selena Campbell, Roma Corbett, Carol Anne Forsyth, Tanya Morrison, Hannah Smith, Jacqui Ann Munro, Julie MacKay, Jo Barnes, Tanya Morrison, Denise MacDonald, Vivian Cameron,

Graeme Smart (Head Teacher), Katy Lee (Depute) Aileen MacDonald (Depute)

**Apologies** – None

**Minutes of last meeting** – Approved R Flannery, Seconded I Shaw

**Matters Arising** – Chromebook covers have arrived but the Chromebooks are still to come but are expected by the end of the week. Parent Council will make up any shortfall in numbers to allow all pupils from P4 up to have their own device.

**Head Teacher's Report** – attached. This was circulated to all present.

**Matters Arising from Head Teacher's Report** – Kinlochbervie Primary Inspection – the inspectors are coming back to see how the school has addressed the 4 points that they raised as concerns. Mrs. MacDonald circulated copies of a PowerPoint presentation she had prepared on what the issues were and how they were being tackled. (Attached) Inspectors do not take into account that the school is part of a group that shares resources, and this causes problems. There is no easy solution to this at present.

There were surveys done regarding Wednesdays, Parents, pupils and staff were invited to complete a survey and once all the results are in, they will be used to fine tune the Wednesday classes / experience. It is still felt to be a positive experience but changes will be introduced such as having P1 + 2 in their own classroom with a single teacher, the same for P3 + 4 who will have a separate Wednesday classroom and consistent teacher for the whole group with a topic-based approach. P5, 6 + 7 will have more variety of teachers and subjects.

**Primary School Issues** – Durness – nothing reported, Kinlochbervie – saying grace before lunch – parents present felt that a less religious form of words would be more appropriate / inclusive.  
Scourie – No Issues

**High School Issues** – There was a spate of bullying amongst the younger girls. This has been dealt with and seems to have settled down.  
Maths – Mr Keitany will be teaching maths giving classes a consistent teacher.

**Treasurer's Report** – KLB High School and Scourie Primary - £2,268.99, Durness Primary £1,064.00 Kinlochbervie Primary – £1,010.16. Approximately £800 was raised for the High School at the Cape Wrath Challenge. High School parents not keen to do the catering on their own next year. Perhaps it could involve parents from all the schools to give a bigger pool of helpers. This will be discussed next year and the best solution sought as it is too good a fundraising opportunity to give up.

**Correspondence** - None

**AOB** – Playground supervision – Teaching staff and PSAs both supervise the playground – 2 staff are on duty. This will continue despite cutbacks in PSA jobs.

Playpark – A group of pupils are being taken to the playpark at some breaks. This is an initiative to help them work on social skills and developing friendships. However, it is causing some resentment

among other pupils who feel excluded or that the others are being rewarded for bad behaviour. The staff will try to find the best solution to explain the situation and stop resentment building.

Playground buddies are operating in KLB and Scourie, Durness is in the process of appointing one.

Positive Behaviour Policy – a document explaining how positive behaviour is promoted and giving clear step by step guidance for parents, staff and pupils will be put onto the website. The document contains useful links and is tied into the SAFE and RESPECT posters that were produced by the primary and secondary pupils. At this stage it is a draft policy and feedback is welcomed. The aim is to have something simple and easy to understand and give consistency across all the sites.

**Date for next meeting** – Wednesday 18th Sept 2019 7pm  
Venue – Scourie Primary School

**Meeting closed at 8.05pm**

## Head Teacher's report to North West Sutherland Schools Parent Council

5<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### Staffing:

Kinlochbervie Primary School will see Mrs Anderson retiring at the end of this term. Celebrations are in planning at the moment and any suggestions from parents who were taught by her would be gladly received. Mr Wood will also be leaving us in July and we will have a presentation for him from the staff and pupils.

It is likely that we will have Ms Heather Davidson in the lower primary class next year. Heather is a probationer teacher who is a mature student. Her partner works on the Reay Forest Estate and they will be living locally. I have asked for a replacement for Mr Wood, staffing are confident that we will either get a second probationer or a newly qualified teacher from last year's probationers. Failing that we will advertise but I am confident we will have someone of our choosing in place by August.

Whoever we have in the Primary School classes will be well supported by Ms Lee and Mrs MacDonald and the classes will be P1-4 and P5-7 for a trial period until the October break when these arrangements will be reviewed.

Durness Primary will continue as at present with Mrs MacFarlane as PT. The nursery in Durness will be reopening in August, some work is scheduled for the summer break and the external work which requires building warrant is due to be completed by October. The care commission has agreed that we can open in August provided the internal work is done. This will mean the creation of two full time jobs in Durness and a part time opportunity for break and lunch cover. It also allows for any child of two or more to have a place in nursery.

Scourie early years provision is also expanding to 1140 hours per year and this will require additional staffing there as well. Some of these posts may be used to absorb surplus staff in Highland Council but adverts should start appearing fairly soon.

In the High School we will be losing Mrs Wood at the end of the session, we wish her well in her move south. Her job will be advertised but Kim Richards from Ullapool who is a fully qualified art teacher has indicated that she would be very keen to apply.

I have asked the staffing office for additional staffing to allow me to appoint a Modern Languages Teacher, the virtual academy which runs on-line courses would be willing to pay for a 0.4 part time teacher and we could make up the difference to a 0.8 post to make the job a more attractive prospect for someone to apply. As soon as I know more I will let parents and pupils know.

Information on progress since the last inspection in Kinlochbervie Primary is available, this applies to all three primaries so please take a copy. The inspectors will return on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, by now parents should have had links to the parental survey and an invite to meet the inspectors

The results of our survey of parents on Wednesdays are also available, again please feel free to take a copy.



March 2018 - now



## The initial visit

- In March 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kinlochbervie Primary School. During their visit, they talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.





## The report – the strengths

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The positive relationships and caring ethos across the school.
- The developing collaborative partnership working across the Kinlochbervie 3-18 Associated Schools Group, and the innovative 'Window on Wednesday' approach being taken to support this.
- The development of the science and technology curriculum, and the effective use of partners to enhance its delivery.



## The report – the areas for improvement

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The Highland Council.

- Improve the strategic leadership of continuous improvement and ensure staff, parents, children and partners are fully involved in the work of Kinlochbervie Primary School.
- Improve planning, assessment, tracking and monitoring to ensure there are clear processes in place which are used effectively by all staff.
- Develop high quality learning and teaching across the school to support improved progress and attainment for all children.
- Work with all stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the school's approach to promoting positive behaviour.

So.....

How have we at Kinlochbervie Primary, as part of the North West Sutherland Schools, been working to achieve these?



Improve the strategic leadership of continuous improvement and ensure staff, parents, children and partners are fully involved in the work of Kinlochbervie Primary School.

- SMT North Leadership Programme
- Revised job remits; PRD arrangements
- Leadership roles for Numeracy, Literacy & Digital Leadership
- Working groups across curriculum;
- Collegiate timetable
- Wednesdays – team teaching; shared planning
- Open classroom; sharing assemblies
- Pupil profiles with pupil voice
- STEM evening; NSPCC; anti-bullying workshop; autism awareness workshop; Ranger service;
- Behaviour meetings & policy; SAFE; RESPECT
- Website; social media; newsletters; class news
- Homework survey; Wednesday survey
- Pupil council; Parent council
- Revised Vision, Values & Aims

Improve planning, assessment, tracking and monitoring to ensure there are clear processes in place which are used effectively by all staff.

- New tracking system used to record & track pupils' progress across all curricular areas & wider achievement.
- Planning frameworks/ HC progressions
- Revised curriculum rationale
- Learning conversations
- Meetings to continually review SEN/ASN needs
- Pupil profiles
- Attendance audits & feedback
- Standardised assessments
- Key assessment tasks
- Moderation @ ASG level
- Benchmark booklets

Develop high quality learning and teaching across the school to support improved progress and attainment for all children.

- In-service to develop understanding of high quality learning & teaching
- Agreed criteria for lessons, jotters & classrooms
- Learning observation programme with agreed focus
- Reading Comprehension CPD
- Staff learning visits
- Classroom timetables
- Jotter sampling
- Learning conversations to set & review targets.
- Key assessment tasks built in to the planning stage
- Learning pit / growth mindset
- Context for Learning across ASG
- Access to subject specialists from High School
- SMT & QI observations on Wednesdays to ensure agreed standards
- ASG events – FairTrade; DYW; Sports Day



Work with all stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the school's approach to promoting positive behaviour.

- Registered to become a Right Respecting School across the ASG.
- Staff attended Rights Respecting School training
- Children's Rights CPD for all ASG staff
- CPD reading & listening for staff
- Children's Rights launched with article bees
- SAFE developed with all pupils
- Class reward systems in place
- Reach for the stars
- Playground charter developed with pupils
- Parents workshops held in each community to discuss behaviour policy & playground charters
- Playground buddy initiative introduced
- Anti-bullying workshops booked for June

## Return Visit

- Pamela Adamson (Managing Inspector)
- Frances Graham (Additional Team Member)
  
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019
  
- More details & questionnaires will follow



