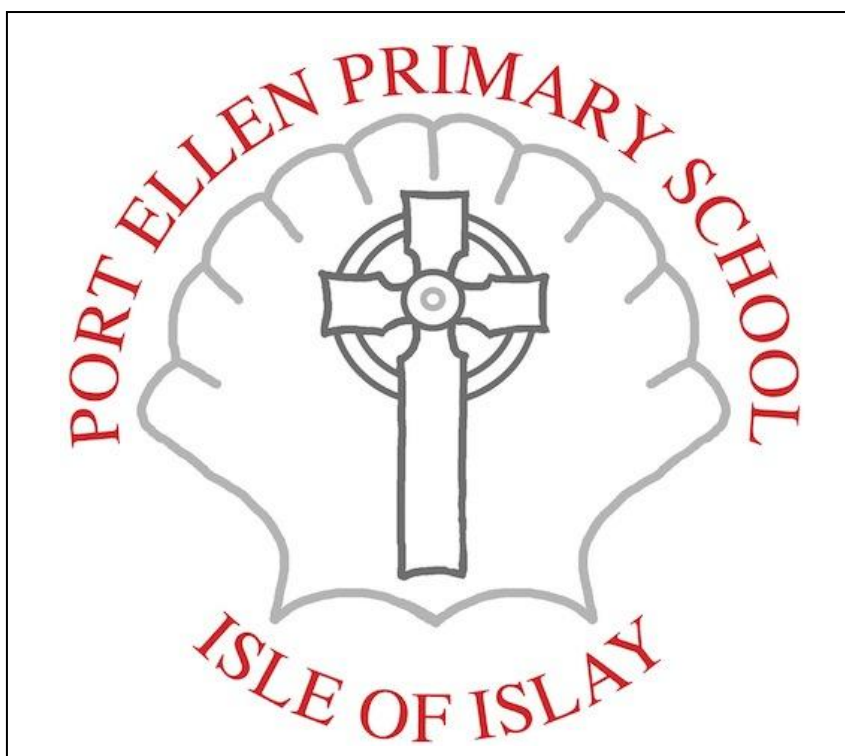




ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL
Education Services

Port Ellen Primary School
Handbook
Academic Year 2025/2026



This document is available in alternative formats, on request (please contact the Head teacher).

CONTENTS

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION	4
Contact Details.....	4
School Roll and Stages	4
School Staff.....	4
School Day.....	5
School Terms and Holidays	6
Early Learning and Childcare Provision	6
Visits of Prospective Parents/Carers	7
School Uniform.....	7
School Clothing Grants	8
Parental Concerns	8
Pupil Absence Procedures	8
Parent / Carer Contact Details	9
The Complaints Procedure	9
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	10
Homework.....	11
Becoming Involved in School	11
Opportunities for Parental Involvement	11
Parent Councils.....	12
Parentzone Scotland and the National Parent Forum of Scotland	13
SCHOOL ETHOS	14
School and Community Links.....	15
Positive Relationships	15
Vision	16
Anti-Bullying	16
Celebrating Achievement.....	17
Wider-Curricular Activities	17
Eco committee	18
CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE (CfE)	19
Learning Opportunities.....	19
Curriculum Levels	20
The Senior Phase	20
Skills for Learning, Life and Work.....	20
16+ Learning Choices	21
The Pupils' and Parents' Voice	21
The Curriculum at School, Local and National Level.....	21
Careers Information Advice and Guidance	21
Financial Education.....	22
Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education	22
Drugs Education.....	22
Religious and Moral Education.....	22
ASSESSMENT	23
The Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA).....	23
REPORTING	24
TRANSITIONS.....	25
Starting Early Learning and Childcare.....	25
Requesting an Additional Year of ELC.....	25
Starting Primary One.....	25

Transfer to Secondary School.....	26
Moving from Stage to Stage.....	26
Moving Between Schools.....	26
Liaison with Local Schools	27
Leaving School.....	27
SUPPORT FOR PUPILS	28
Support Arrangements for All Pupils	28
Identifying and Addressing Additional Support Needs	28
Staged Intervention	28
Further Information about Additional Support Needs	30
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	32
Main Achievements.....	32
Improving Standards	34
SCHOOL POLICIES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION	35
Early Learning and Childcare Meals	35
Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (SMHSS).....	35
School Meals.....	35
Packed Lunches.....	36
Free School Meals	37
Special Dietary Requirements.....	37
Health Care	37
Administration of Medicines	37
Skin Protection	38
Transport.....	38
Free Bus Travel Scheme	39
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)	39
Insurance	39
Music Services	40
Parental Access to Records	40
Subject Access Requests	40
Child Protection.....	40
Weapons Incidents in Educational Establishments	40
Acceptable Use of Internet Enabled Devices / Using the Internet, Email and Glow	41
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)	43
Short Visits	43
Emergency Closures.....	43
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS	45

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Contact Details

Head Teacher: Mrs Maureen Macdonald
Port Ellen Primary School
Lennox Street
Port Ellen
Isle of Islay
PA42 7BW
Telephone / Fax: 01496 302141
E-mail: enquiries-portellen.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Web: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/>
X: @portellenps

School Roll and Stages

The Present School Roll is 82 from P1-P7

The Class Stages at present are as follows :

P1/2 - 20

P2/3/4 - 20

P4/5/6 - 21

P6/7 - 21

Pre 5

The Present Nursery Roll is 11

Port Ellen Primary is a non-denominational and co-educational school.

Port Ellen Primary has one Principal Teacher and one Shared principal Teacher and this is determined by the number of pupils enrolled and the shared headship between Port Ellen and Bowmore Primaries

School Staff

Head Teacher	Mrs Maureen Macdonald
Principal Teacher	Mrs Jo Clark
Shared Principal Teacher	Mrs Gillian Morris

P1/2 Teacher	Mrs Amy Hannett
P2/3/4 Teacher	Ms Sehar Khan
P4/5/6 Teacher	TBA
P6/7 Teacher	Mrs Jo Clark

Class Teacher / Gaelic	Ms Kate Brown
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Pupil Support Teacher	Ms Kirsten McKenzie
Instrumental Instruction	Mr Scott McDermott
Piping Tutor	Mr Charles MacLean

Pre-5 Staff

CEW ELC	Mrs Katie Bonar
CEW ELC	Miss Charlotte MacDougall
CEW ELC	Mrs Alison Logan
CEW ELC	Miss Emily Mackie

Support Staff

Pupil Support Assistant/ ASNA	Mrs Sally Campbell
ASNA	Mrs Katy Mitten
ASNA	Mrs Rosie Gordon
ASNA	Mrs Louise Addison
ASN Assistant	Miss Beth Clark
ASN Assistant/ Classroom Assistant	Ms Coral Mceachern
ASNA/ Classroom assistant	Mrs Suzanne MacAffer
ASNA	Ms Gillian McGregor
Janitor	Mrs Elizabeth Murney
Clerical Assistant	Ms Susan Hamilton
School Chaplains	Mr Andrew Burnham/ Rev Bill Hunter

Catering & Cleaning Staff

Catering Manager	Mrs Ann Holyoake
Catering Assistant	Miss Laura Brown
Catering Assistant/ Interim manager	Ms Morven Gemmill
Interim Catering Asst	Ms Emma MacTaggart
Interim Catering Asst	Mrs Helen Mackie
Cleaner Supervisor	Ms Lesley Thomson
Cleaner	Ms Lorna Bonar
Cleaner	Ms Annie Neilson

School Day

<u>Start</u>	<u>Break</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Close</u>
9am	10.30 – 10.45	12 – 1pm	3.15pm

School Terms and Holidays

Holiday dates for the current and subsequent academic years, where already set, may be found via <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-holidays>

Early Learning and Childcare Provision

All eligible two, three and four year olds are entitled to 1140 hours (pro rata) of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). 1140 hours ELC is intended to support child development, help close the attainment gap through the provision of high quality services, and support parents to work, train or study. ELC can be accessed through local authority settings, partner provider nurseries and childminders. Parents can also choose to have a blended placement using more than one setting and/or childminder.

Further ELC Information for parents is available via: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/registering-your-child-nursery#documents>

Please see [Early Years and childcare | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#) or call our Early Years Helpline on 01369 708503 for further information and for details of the nearest establishment/s offering early learning and childcare.

Information about snack and meal provision within ELC settings can be found later in this document.

Our ELC is currently situated in Room 2 on the ground floor of Port Ellen Primary School .

Parent Notice Board: The notice board is located in the nursery entrance porch. It contains information about the current themes, snack, the daily routine and other matters of interest like policies, standard circulars, the latest Early Years news, Port Ellen ELC brochure legislation and the latest inspection is situated.

Enrolment Procedures: You and your child are welcome to visit our ELC by appointment. Please contact the school via telephone or email to arrange a mutually suitable time/ date.
Enrolment dates will be advertised in the local newspaper and on the parent notice board.
ELC children are eligible for a maximum of 5 sessions. You will be informed in writing as soon as your child has been allocated a place. A letter will be sent informing you of the full induction programme timetable prior to your child starting with us.

Children's learning experiences are shared with parents via our online learning platform - Seesaw

ELC Hours of Operation: 9.05am-3.05pm Monday to Friday

Visits of Prospective Parents/Carers

If you wish to visit the school prior to your child joining, please contact the school office.

Once your child has been allocated a place you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum and to share information about your child.

Please see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/placing-your-child-school for further information.

School Uniform

The Education Committee recommended at its meeting of 21 August 1997 that - 'the adoption of a distinctive dress code chosen to enhance the ethos of the school should be encouraged in all schools'. Given that there is substantial parental and public approval of uniform, schools in Argyll and Bute are free to encourage the wearing of school uniform.

In Port Ellen Primary School, the suggested uniform is as follows:

BOYS: White Shirt School Tie Black / Grey Trousers Charcoal Grey V Neck

GIRLS: White Shirt School Tie Black / Grey Skirt / pinafore or trousers
Charcoal Grey V Neck

The school tie has the school logo emblazoned on it. Ties may be purchased from the school office.

In the interests of safety would parents encourage sensible footwear e.g. No high heels, no backless shoes, etc.

Black Shoes or trainers are preferable as part of the uniform.

PE KIT: T-shirt, shorts and gym shoes , joggers , shorts, leggings in a bag with pupil's name

Please provide your child with an old t-shirt for painting, arts, crafts etc. Cooking aprons are provided by the school.

Children should be provided with clothes suitable for outdoor activity i.e. joggers and wellies. The school does have a supply of jackets and trousers.

Please note that school uniform is not compulsory and it is not policy to insist on pupils wearing uniform or having specialist items of clothing in order to engage in all of the activities of the curriculum. As such, pupils will not be deprived of any educational benefit as a result of not wearing uniform.

However, there are forms of dress which are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing which:

- potentially encourage faction (such as football colours);
- could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans);
- could cause health and safety difficulties (such as loose fitting clothing, dangling earrings);
- are made from a flammable material, for example shell suits in practical classes;
- could cause damage to flooring;
- carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco; and

- could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so.

All clothing brought to school should be labelled or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from others.

School Clothing Grants

For information about School Clothing Grants, including the eligibility criteria, and to complete an online application form please visit [Childcare, School and Education Grants | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/childcare-school-and-education-grants). Alternatively, please contact Customer Services: Education on 01369 708548 or your local benefit enquiry office.

Parental Concerns

If you have any concerns relating to your child, please contact the school office in the first instance.

Pupil Absence Procedures

Parents are required to contact the school every day for any absence other than holiday. Council policy is that we will contact a parent if a child is absent and no communication has been forthcoming from the parent. We may do this by phone or text message.

Early Learning and Childcare Attendance

A child's entitlement to funded ELC will be 1140 hours (pro rata), generally arranged as 5 x 6 hour sessions over 38 weeks within the school year. However, some standalone units are offering a different pattern of provision. Information on what nurseries are offering can be obtained from each nursery or school or on the Council website.

Children who attend in a regular pattern settle well into the early learning and childcare routine, have the opportunity to build firm relationships with adults and peers and experience continuity of learning. During the induction period however, adaptations are made to meet the needs of the individual child.

School Attendance

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time. They are also responsible for ensuring the safety of their children on their journeys to and from school.

Regular and punctual attendance is linked closely to achievement and school staff wish to work with parents/carers to ensure that children can reach their full potential. The school is required by law to maintain an accurate record of the attendance and absence of each pupil and parents/carers are requested to assist in this process by keeping the school informed if their child is to be absent for any reason. Your child's school will contact you and offer support if your child's attendance falls below 90%. The school will continue to work with you until your child's attendance improves. The school may identify further support and seek advice from other professionals to ensure your child's needs are met.

It is important to note that if a child does not arrive at school and there is no reasonable explanation provided for his/her absence then members of staff will be required to ascertain the whereabouts and safety of the individual child. In order to avoid causing unnecessary concern for staff and parents/carers, the importance of good communication between home and school cannot be over-emphasised.

Planned Absence

- Parents/carers are encouraged not to arrange family holidays during term time but it is realised that, in exceptional circumstances, this is unavoidable. In such cases, parents/carers are asked to seek permission from the Head Teacher and provide information of the dates when the child is to be absent from the school in good time.
- Except in cases of emergency, planned appointments for children to attend the dentist or doctor should be made outwith the school day.

Parent / Carer Contact Details

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that telephone contact numbers – home, work and emergency contact(s) are kept up-to-date and are numbers at which a response can be obtained in all normal circumstances.

The Complaints Procedure

A complaint is 'an expression of dissatisfaction about the Council's action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by or on behalf of the Council'.

Complaints can be notified in person, by phone, by email or in writing to the Head Teacher. If parents/carers have cause for complaint they should contact the school in the first instance to make an appointment to meet with the Head Teacher or member of the management team.

If you remain dissatisfied in relation to a complaint after you have been to our school you can escalate a complaint by contacting seemis@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences in a child's life. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of education.

Parents who take on a supportive role in their children's learning make a difference in improving achievement and behaviour. The active involvement of parents can help promote a learning community in which children and young people can engage positively with practitioners and their peers.

Education Scotland

Port Ellen Primary School adopts an open door policy and parents and carers are welcome at all times. However staff are often very busy and if you require an interview it is advisable to phone and make an appointment in advance. Every effort will be made to accommodate you on that day so that any concerns raised can be discussed and dealt with promptly.

Parents, carers and friends are encouraged to attend various whole school events as well as class specific activities throughout the year. Examples of such events are; Pantomimes, Nativities, Leavers Assemblies and Prize Giving, STEM activities, baking, gardening and parent run workshops e.g. joinery, art, crochet etc. Parent / Teacher meetings take place twice a year in November and June. If parents have any concerns, they are welcome to contact the school and discuss these concerns with relevant staff members.

Our parent council are the voice of our parent body. They are enthusiastic and visible in the life of the school in many ways such as fundraising and supporting initiatives/ projects. The parent council are kept up to date with school performance and seek ways to co-operate with the school to continue to improve outcomes for all our learners.

All Parents/ Carers have access to Seesaw and can follow and interact with their child's learning journey.

As well as being a useful tool for communicating information pertaining to pupil's learning, Seesaw is useful for gauging the views of parents and carers.

Parent Surveys and questionnaires involve parents in evaluation and enable parents to be part of our improvement agenda.

Newsletters, school news, information is emailed to parents as well as posted on Seesaw.

Short messages are also texted to various parent groups.

Children's learning can also be viewed on our X feed at @Portellenps.

For regular updated information, parents can log on the school web-site at any time by clicking onto <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/>

Argyll & Bute's Parental Engagement Strategy may be viewed at:

https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/parental_engagement_strategy_final_feb_19.pdf

Homework

Parents and carers can play a very positive role in homework studies; by hearing reading and by discussing topics and helping with sources of information and materials but most of all by showing genuine interest in the school life of their child.

This session we conducted a homework survey. We took on board the views of our parents and carers and agreed to the following from feedback;
Homework will consist of;

1. READING (We encourage children at all stages to read nightly as good fluency in reading impacts on all curricular areas and increases confidence.)
2. SPELLING
3. MATHS
4. OTHER (Other covers skills/ after school clubs/ personal achievement etc.)

We felt the following times were appropriate for pupils to spend on homework per night:

- EARLY LEVEL (P1) 15 MINUTES A NIGHT
- FIRST LEVEL (P2-4) 20 MINUTES A NIGHT
- SECOND LEVEL (P5-7) 30 MINUTES A NIGHT

Homework given out on a Monday and children have a week to complete.
Homework may be online or in jotters as appropriate to stage/ area of focus.

Children in P6/7 may be asked to do some of their Endeavour work at home in order to encourage them to use initiative in research and recording and to enable them to pursue particular subjects of personal interest.

Guidelines issuing advice on times for homework are detailed in the Homework Policy which all staff are familiar with and which is available to any parents and carers who may require it.

Becoming Involved in School

All schools have a Parent Council – to get involved please contact the school. Schools will also issue specific information related to this at the start of the school year.

The school values the important part that parents/carers play in their children's education and sees partnership with parents/carers as an effective way of enhancing children's achievements and promoting better school ethos and communication.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

Examples of opportunities for parental involvement are as follows:

During the school day:

- Helping in the early learning and childcare class (if applicable)
- Art/Craft activities
- Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspect of the curriculum (e.g. topic talk), history, science, health

- Practical activities in science, maths, social subjects, health education (e.g. first aid) or technology
- Reading stories to groups of children, playing reading/phonics games
- Supervising board games
- Teaching playground games
- Golden Time activities, e.g. board games, art and craft in small groups
- Running or assisting to run a Lunch Club
- Supporting educational visits/trips
- School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children
- Road safety – Cycle Training

Outwith the school day:

- Fundraising events
- Trips, e.g. sporting events, concerts
- Wider-curricular activities, e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/country dancing/school grounds – maintenance of garden/allotment areas

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks must be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

Parent Councils

Parent Councils are now established in all secondary schools and almost all primary schools within Argyll and Bute. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that parents/carers play in supporting their children's learning.

The basic principle underpinning the Act is the desire to have children become more 'confident learners' through closer working between each family and school. It is anticipated that this can be done in three ways. These are: -

1. Learning at Home: direct parental involvement in the child's learning at home and in the community.
2. Home/School Partnership: closer working partnerships between parents/carers and the school – such partnerships being essential to ensure that the child gets maximum benefit from their school experiences.
3. Parental Representation: Parent Councils will be parent/carer led and school supported, with all parents/carers being automatic members of the 'Parent Forum' and the Parent Council representing their views.

You can find out more about your Parent Council by contacting the Head Teacher/ and or

Lizzie Fitzpatrick– Parent Council Chair

- Email address - Port Ellen Primary School (Parent Council)
pcportellenprimaryschool@argyllandbute.npfs.org.uk
- The Parent Council have a Private Facebook - **Page PEPS Parent Council**
- There is also a section on the school website for the Parent Council -
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/>

Parentzone Scotland and the National Parent Forum of Scotland

More information for parents is available from Parentzone via <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> connect via <https://www.connect.scot> and the National Parent Forum of Scotland via <https://www.npfs.org.uk>.

SCHOOL ETHOS

Port Ellen PS Mission Statement ;

***We are to learn as long as we live
Chan eil thu tuilleach's sean airson ionnsachadh fhathast***

In our school we are committed to providing appropriate opportunities for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values through both the ethos and the curriculum. This will be undertaken in partnership with parents/carers and will take account of the individual needs of pupils and the views of parents/carers.

We recently collaborated with parents, carers, pupils and staff to refresh our vision , values and aims . Our new values are built on 3 *I am* statements. They are;

I am...

- Included
- Independent
- Innovative

Our agreed aims at Port Ellen Primary School and ELC link with our values. They are;

- To encourage a curious and creative mindset with the ability to apply critical thinking
 - INNOVATIVE
- To develop resilient and responsible individuals who recognise the importance of Life-long learning
 - INDEPENDENT
- To create a caring community where there are opportunities for all.
 - INCLUDED

Our Rationale is displayed in the front entrance of the school and has been created in consultation with parents and children. It strongly depicts who we are a school community.

We have an ethos of high expectations at Port Ellen Primary School and all staff work together to ensure individual children reach their potential. We capitalise on the Skills of pupils, staff and of those within our school community to ensure our learners have a broad range of experiences. As a joint school, staff regularly participate in moderation and professional learning activities and discussion. This ensures there is a shared understanding of standards and expectations.

We are a school that strives to be successful and we enjoy celebrating our successes with parents and with the Islay Community and further afield.

Our school welcomes and encourages diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others, compassion and justice. Fundamental principles of our school are that all who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We are firmly committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

Port Ellen Primary is a non-denominational school. We have forged a very positive relationship with the local churches and in particular with the Islay Baptist Church. Our links with the pastors Andrew Burnham and Rev Bill Hunter help us to explore various topics in a generic manner e.g. values, attributes etc.

The school is committed to achieving excellence for all, enabling pupils to flourish in an environment that values every child, promotes high expectations and provides opportunities for achievement.

We encourage a positive mindset and good behaviour through providing creative and challenging experiences for all learners. Our pupils get to build award winning wave powered devices, work with local partners to make Gaelic art and poetry, carry out archaeological surveys of local heritage sites, campaign against litter and build social enterprises in a phone box. Despite lacking access to mainland opportunities the resourceful team makes best use of the local environment and technology to creatively tackle the challenges presented by its geographical isolation.

School and Community Links

We make links with local organisations, 3rd sector partners and organisations from further afield such as;

South Islay Development (SID), Rejig, local businesses. MYFOS (MacTaggart Youth and Families Outreach Services)

Reading University, St Andrew's university, authors etc.

We endeavour to engage our learners with a broad range of bodies and personnel and use their skills and expertise to motivate pupils and to show what is available in the world of work /careers. Pupils regularly meet virtually with professional bodies and this helps to improve their interview techniques and their confidence.

Positive Relationships

Positive relationships are essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents/carers and staff all have an important part to play in producing and sustaining this positive ethos. The expectations of the school are of a common sense nature, bearing in mind the rights, interest and safety of all concerned.

Our recently updated Relationships Policy aims to foster a nurturing, inclusive, and respectful environment where positive relationships underpin all aspects of school life.

Rooted in the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Nurture Principles, this policy prioritizes the social, emotional, and developmental needs of every child, ensuring they feel valued, secure, and ready to learn.

Strong relationships are central to creating a culture of respect and belonging that aligns with our school ethos and values: I am included, I am innovative, I am independent.

Vision

Our vision is to build a compassionate, relationship-centered school community where every child thrives emotionally, socially, and academically.

Through positive, respectful interactions, we aim to empower children to develop confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of self-worth. Guided by the UNCRC and our core values, we envision a school where every child feels included, encouraged to think innovatively, and supported to grow into an independent learner.

We endeavour to create an ethos of nurture and respect, considering the Rights of the child in all we do.

We participate in Rights Respecting Schools and are on our Gold Award journey.

We achieved Bronze Status in our Our Children Their Nurturing Education accreditation and aim to achieve Silver. We are a Silver Award Reading School.

Expectations Around Boundaries

We recognize that it is natural for individuals to test boundaries, as this is part of their learning and development. Staff are prepared to respond with patience and consistency, helping individuals understand why boundaries exist and how they protect and support the entire community.

In Collaboration with pupils we developed our school charter:-

- Work together to achieve our best.
- Look after our school and the things in it.
- Treat others fairly and with respect.
- Value each other's differences.
- Listen to each other's opinions.
- Be healthy and look after ourselves.
- Smile and have fun.

Anti-Bullying

Argyll and Bute's Anti-Bullying Policy may be viewed at: [Anti-Bullying Policy \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/anti-bullying-policy).

Bullying is a children's rights issue. In Port Ellen Primary School, we remain committed to the prevention of bullying through our effective Health and Wellbeing programme and learning pathways which deal with;

- Mental wellbeing,
- equality and inclusion,
- positive role models
- healthy relationships.

We believe that it is fundamental to address the detrimental impact of bullying on the mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of our children and young people and to remove the obstacles to learning and personal fulfilment that bullying often creates. We must also be aware

that children and young people who display bullying behaviour may have underlying problems that need to be addressed.

Celebrating Achievement

Children work hardest when they know their work will be appreciated and praised. All staff encourage pupils at all times and in all activities to give their best. Their effort may be rewarded verbally by praise, or non-verbally by a smiley face or sticker. Success and achievement is shared with parents via SEESAW and also shared appropriately with the community through the local and national media.

The whole school celebrates achievement by giving certificates to award pupils for good work, effort or kindness shown to others.

The house captains /vice captains offer 'Good Citizen Awards , Healthy Award and Wise Wizard Award 'at our monthly business meetings. A list of our incentives for good behaviour and achievements can also be found in our Relationships Policy. .

Two major individual awards are presented at the annual prize giving;

- The Parent Council Citizenship Award
- The Endeavour Award

Wider-Curricular Activities

After School and Lunch time Clubs are run all year round and there is a mixture of the following at any one time ;

1. Eco club
2. Science Club
3. Book Club
4. Football
5. Board Games
6. Healthy Cooking
7. Yoga
8. Games
9. Reading
10. Art / Craft

Pupil Council

Port Ellen has a long established house system. The pupil population is split into three houses:

- Orsay
- Texa
- Nave.

Each house has a captain and 2 vice captains. This structure lends itself to much healthy competition on the sports field and in the swimming pool.

Pupils receive points for achievements in schoolwork, for good behaviour and for acts of good citizenship. The winning house with the most points receive the Mary Campbell inter house trophy at the annual prize giving. We hope that belonging to a house gives each pupil an

opportunity of developing a feeling of belonging and nurturing a situation where they support and are supportive of a more intimate peer group.

Pupils have the opportunity to meet and discuss aspects of school life, make changes and provide suggestions. Pupil ideas and opinions are also sought through questionnaires.

Eco committee

We have a successful Eco Committee who drive forward each aspect of our Eco action plan. Children hold meetings during intervals and lunch time , leaders delegate and all children have the opportunity to evaluate and reflect on progress. During whole school assemblies children may make announcements and share information.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE (CFE)

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) is the Scottish National Curriculum which applies to all children and young people aged 2-18, wherever they are learning. It aims to raise achievement for all, enabling children and young people to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to succeed in learning, life and work.

The Four Capacities - the curriculum aims for all children to become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

The Eight Curriculum areas are:

- **Expressive Arts** – including art and design, dance, drama and music
- **Health and Wellbeing** – mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing; PE; food and health; substance misuse; and relationships, sexual health and parenthood
- **Languages** – listening and talking, reading and writing in English and modern languages, plus classical languages and literacy, and Gaidhlig/Gaelic learners (where available)
- **Mathematics** – including analysing information, solving problems and assessing risk
- **Religious and Moral Education** (denominational and non-denominational) – learning about Christianity, other world religions, and developing values and beliefs
- **Sciences** – understanding important scientific concepts across planet Earth, forces, electricity and waves, biological systems, materials and topical science
- **Social Studies** – understanding people, place and society in the past and present including history, geography, modern studies and business education
- **Technologies** – including computing science, food, textiles, craft, design, engineering, graphics and applied technologies

Additional important themes across the curriculum are creativity, enterprise and global citizenship, which include sustainable development, international education and citizenship.

Learning Opportunities

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-operative and social.

Curriculum Levels

There are national levels to describe different stages of learning and progress. For most children the expectation is:

- Early Level – early learning and childcare to the end of P1
- First Level – to the end of P4
- Second Level – to the end of P7
- Third and Fourth Levels – S1 to S3, with the fourth level broadly equivalent to SCQF level 4
- Senior Phase – S4-S6, and equivalents in other settings, where pupils/students can continue to develop the four capacities and achieve qualifications

The Senior Phase

The Broad General Education in secondary schools continues from S1 to S3. All children will develop an S3 profile that describes their learning and achievement from S1 to S3. During S3 (normally January or February), pupils will be asked to choose the courses that they will follow in S4. It is these S4 choices that lead to national qualifications.

Each school will design a senior phase that best meets learners' needs, whether that is continuing in school, learning full or part time in college, community learning or work-based learning or a combination of these. For example, it may be possible to pick up specialist subjects and work placements that can help young people get real experience of the industry or sector that interests them.

Each young person will, in practice, have discussions with teachers and parents/carers to discuss and decide the subject choices that best suit them for the Senior Phase.

Skills for Learning, Life and Work

The development of the skills for learning, life and work are the responsibility of all practitioners and include literacy, numeracy and associated thinking skills; health and wellbeing, including personal learning planning, career management skills, working with others, leadership and physical co-ordination and movement skills; and skills for enterprise and employability.

Through Curriculum for Excellence children and young people are entitled to a continuous focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. These skills are essential if children and young people are to gain access to continuous learning, to succeed in life and to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle. The use of ICT underpins these overlapping and mutually supportive skills sets; ICT skills will continue to be developed in a variety of contexts and settings throughout the learner's journey.

All children and young people are entitled to opportunities for developing skills for learning, life and work. These skills are relevant from the early years right through to the senior phase of learning and beyond.

16+ Learning Choices

16+ Learning Choices is a guaranteed offer of a place in post-16 learning for every young person who wants it. This is the Scottish Government's model for helping young people to stay in learning after the age of 16.

16+ Learning Choices looks to help reduce youth unemployment in Scotland and to contribute towards economic growth. 16+ Learning Choices seeks to equip all young people in Scotland with the skills and knowledge they need post-school to achieve their full potential and find a positive destination in further education, training or employment. 16+ Learning Choices is seen as an integral part of Curriculum for Excellence.

The Pupils' and Parents' Voice

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of specific focus, e.g. World War 2 – The Battle of Britain. This will be shared with parents/carers through the homework diary and parents/carers will be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home, e.g. a ration book, or by visiting the school to deliver a talk.

Parents/carers will be invited to share comment regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to feedback comment at any time through their child's Seesaw learning journey.

The Curriculum at School, Local and National Level

You are able to receive information about the school via the school's website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/> and/or on X @portellenps.

Port Ellen Primary School and ELC was inspected in December 2013 and the report of inspection findings can be found on the Education Scotland Website:

www.educationscotland.co.uk

Careers Information Advice and Guidance

Through partnership working, schools plan with a variety of organisations to ensure that career information, advice and guidance are an integral part of the curriculum. This provides children and young people with real and relevant learning opportunities that can be applied both in and beyond the classroom.

Financial Education

Financial education is taught through the context of the numeracy curriculum and PSE.

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) Education is part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum. This is a national curriculum and resources can be found via the following link: [Home - RSHP](#)

The main themes covered are:

- Bodily autonomy, consent and protection from harm
- Emotional wellbeing and help-seeking behaviour
- Equalities and inclusion
- Gender equality, discrimination and gender based violence
- Parenthood and families
- Relationships and friendships
- Sexual health and reproduction

These areas are recommended by Scottish Government and are age and stage appropriate.

An effective programme of education about Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood is best built on parents/carers and schools working in partnership and assuming shared responsibilities. We aim to keep parents/carers informed about the nature and purpose of the learning programme their children will follow, and to seek parents'/carers' views at appropriate times. Any parents/carers who do have any questions or concerns should contact the Head Teacher directly.

Drugs Education

In accordance with the Scottish Government guidelines and Argyll & Bute Council Education Department policy and practice, and in common with all Argyll & Bute schools, this school has in place procedures for dealing safely and effectively with drug-related incidents.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Head Teacher or via www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/argyll-and-bute-addiction-team-abat.

Religious and Moral Education

The programme for Religious Education in our school aims to help pupils learn about Christianity and other major world religions and to recognise religion as an important part of human experience. Pupils will also be encouraged to learn from religions and helped to develop their own beliefs, attitudes, moral values and practices through a process of personal search, discovery and critical evaluation.

Please note that parents/carers have the right to withdraw from religious observance / education. If a parent /carer wishes to withdraw their child from Religious and Moral Education classes or attendance at school assembly or church services they should contact the school and discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is crucial to tracking progress, planning next steps, reporting, and involving parents/carers and learners in learning. Evidence of progress can be gathered by learners themselves and by fellow pupils (peers), parents/carers, teachers and other professionals.

A number of approaches are employed including the following:

- Self-assessment – learners will be encouraged and supported to look at and revisit their own work to develop a better understanding of what they have learned and what they need to work on
- Peer assessment – learners will be encouraged and supported to work together to help others assess what is good about their work and what needs to be worked on
- Personal learning planning – children, teachers and parents/carers will work together to develop planning for next steps in learning
- Profiles – a statement of achievements both within and out with school, to be introduced at P7 and S3.

Your child's progress is not only based on 'tests' but on the learning that takes place within the classroom and in different settings out with the classroom.

Evidence of children and young people's progress and achievements will come from day to day learning and through the things they may write, say, make or do. For example, evidence may emerge as a result of children and young people taking part in a presentation, discussion, performance, or practical investigation. Evidence may be captured as a photograph, video or audio clip as part of a particular learning experience.

Assessment takes place as part of ongoing learning and teaching, periodically and at key transitions.

The Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA)

From August 2017 the Scottish Government has introduced a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments, designed to reflect the way we deliver education in Scotland, through Curriculum for Excellence. These assessments are expected to replace the variety of existing standardised assessments that local authorities and schools use at the moment.

Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be, a central part of everyday assessment. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them, when considering children's progress and planning the next steps in their learning.

SNSA focus on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy and children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will be assessed. P1 children will take two SNSA assessments: one in literacy and one in numeracy. P4 children will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy. P7 children will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy. S3 young people will take three SNSA assessments: one in reading, one in writing and one in numeracy. Please note that some pupils will not access SNSA due to their specific additional support needs.

The online assessment system will produce feedback information about where your child did well and where further support is required. Your child's teacher will use this feedback to help plan next steps and provide further support as appropriate. Providing the right support at the right time will help to ensure your child can reach his or her potential.

REPORTING

Reporting informs parents/carers of progress in learning and achievement. This will be through a range of approaches including meetings at parents' evenings or in written form.

Parents will get regular information about their children's strengths, progress and achievements. This will take account of their achievements in key areas of learning such as literacy and numeracy and in different contexts and settings including across curriculum areas, the life and ethos of the school, and learning outwith the school, including the wider community. At key points this will include information on the curriculum level children are working within and progress towards qualifications in the senior phase. Parents will be informed of what their children need to do to continue making progress and ways that they can help.

At P7 and S3, teachers will work with children and young people to prepare profiles which will highlight their achievements over a period of time and summarise their learning journey at key points of transition.

TRANSITIONS

Transitions are the moves children and young people make from home to nursery, from nursery to primary, from primary to secondary, from secondary to further education and beyond.

Starting Early Learning and Childcare

Once your child has been allocated a place in the early learning and childcare class you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum and to share information about your child. Your child will be invited to join the early learning and childcare class with your support as necessary until they have fully settled.

Requesting an Additional Year of ELC

From August 2023, national entitlement began for all parents to receive an additional year of ELC funding, should it be decided that it is in your child's best interests to enter P1 the following august instead.

The decision whether to send your child to school or request an additional year of ELC is individual to each child. In keeping with GIRFEC policy principles, staff within your child's ELC and prospective school will support you in making this decision.

If you are considering an application for an additional year of ELC for your child, please speak to your child's Key Worker within their ELC to advise them of this. **Please note**, you should apply through the P1 school registration form in January. If you decide to request an additional year of ELC, the Early Years team will work in collaboration with your child's ELC and yourself to support you. If you have any queries about the application process please contact earlyyears@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Starting Primary One

Children in Scotland who reach the age of five years between 1st March 2025 and 28th February 2026 should start school in August 2025. This generally means that children start school when they are aged between four-and-a-half and five-and-a-half. For academic session 2025/2026 online registration will begin mid-January 2025; further information will be available on the council website and in the local press.

To help your child prepare for a good start you can:

- Listen and talk to your child about this change in their lives
- Involve your child in getting ready for school by helping choose the things they will need, e.g. their uniform, lunchbox, school bag
- Keep in touch with the school about anything which may affect your child's learning
- Attend induction events or introductory sessions

Transfer to Secondary School

Primary school pupils normally transfer to their catchment area secondary school in August following completion of their P7 year.

Parent/Carers will be notified by email and on social media that the online registration form for registering your child for secondary education is open. This will usually take place in November for the following academic session. Parent/carers can also use this form to notify us of their decision to home educate, request a placing request and apply for school transport.

Secondary staff visit P7 pupils to discuss aspects of their transfer with them and in June the pupils will spend an agreed length of time at their prospective secondary school.

The catchment area secondary school for Port Ellen Primary School is:

Islay High School
School Street
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
enquiries@islay.argyll-bute.sch.uk
www.islay.argyll-bute.sch.uk
01496 810239

You will be contacted by letter and offered a place for your child at Islay High School, which you may either accept or decline. Secondary schools have their own arrangements for meetings with prospective parents/carers, and you will be given details of these meetings.

Should you prefer your child to attend a school other than the designated catchment area school then a Placing Request must be made. Forms are available from the Head Teacher, or by contacting School Support by email to argyllhouse reception@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by 'phoning 01369 704000.

Moving from Stage to Stage

Your child will be involved in an induction programme every year in school. Prior to the summer holiday your child will meet their teacher/s for the following session and visit their new classroom/s. Teachers work closely and share information about your child's learning and achievements. Staff will also share other information which will help the teacher support your child's learning, e.g. friendship groups, preferred ways of working, etc.

Moving Between Schools

When a child moves to a new school their class teacher will normally telephone the new school to share information on academic achievement and personal likes/dislikes with their new teacher. Parents/carers are encouraged to organise a visit to the new school (if possible) in advance to support the child feel secure in the move.

It should be noted that opportunities for enhanced transitions are available for children as required.

Liaison with Local Schools

Our school maintains close links with other primary schools within our local geographical area and our link secondary school, which is Islay High School.

Leaving School

The first eligible school leaving date for most young people is 31 May at the end of S4. This applies to young people whose fifth birthday fell between 1 March and 30 September in the year they entered P1. Younger pupils in a year group are required to stay on until December in S5. Older pupils are eligible to leave as early as December in S4.

Opportunities for All is the Scottish Government's commitment to offer all 16-19 year olds a place in education, training, employment or other planned learning from when they leave school up to their 20th birthday. All young people should receive the *right amount* rather than the *same amount* of information, advice and support in order to help them enter and sustain a positive destination. For young people who do not immediately enter a positive destination on leaving school, support will continue until they find a suitable opportunity.

Transitions are particularly critical for young people with additional support needs and require additional preparation and planning. Whenever a young person with additional support needs is approaching a transition, other agencies are involved in transition planning, the young person's views are sought and parents/carers will be part of the planning process. In all cases, early consultation will take place with the post-school learning provider to ensure that any support necessary is in place.

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

Support Arrangements for All Pupils

Providing personal support for learners 2-18 is the responsibility of all staff. In the early learning and childcare and primary setting the early years practitioner or class teacher is the key adult who knows every child or young person in their care well, taking an avid interest in their welfare and progress.

In the secondary setting it is Guidance staff who play an active role in promoting learners' personal, social and academic welfare; this is supported by Pupil Care and Support staff who offer help, support and advice as required, safeguarding the health and wellbeing of learners.

Identifying and Addressing Additional Support Needs

The Argyll & Bute Staged Intervention Framework is used to identify and meet pupils' needs and to manage and review provision. This follows the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) practice model. GIRFEC is a national framework to help all children and young people grow, develop and reach their full potential. Its focus is to improve outcomes for children and their families based on a shared understanding of their wellbeing.

Every child in school will have a Named Person. In primary school this will usually be the head teacher and usually a principal teacher of pupil support or depute head teacher in a secondary school. The Named Person will usually be the first point of contact for parents if they have any concerns about their child at school. The Named Person will work with parents to provide support to meet a child's needs or resolve concerns. If there is a need to involve more than one agency to work together to provide support then a Lead Professional will be appointed to coordinate that support.

Where support is being provided by a single agency then a Planning meeting may be held and a Child's Plan opened. Where two or more agencies are involved in supporting a child's needs, then a Child's Plan will definitely be opened. The Plan will include an assessment of the child's needs using the My World Triangle assessment tool and a note of the agreed outcomes based on that assessment recorded on the Well Being App within SEEMIS. Parents and children are an integral part of this meeting and the Plan includes an opportunity to have their views recorded within it. Plans will be reviewed at appropriate intervals, again with parents and children as partners in these meetings.

More information on GIRFEC in Argyll and Bute can be found at [Getting it right for every child | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/getting-it-right-for-every-child).

Staged Intervention

The key principles underpinning Staged Intervention, as outlined in the Education Scotland website ([Support for all | Programmes | Learning in Scotland | Education Scotland](https://www.education.scot.nhs.uk/support-for-all/programmes/learning-in-scotland/education-scotland)) are as follows:

What is staged intervention?

- *Staged intervention is used as a means of identification, assessment, planning, recording and review to meet the learning needs of children and young people.*
- *It provides a solution-focused approach to meeting needs at the earliest opportunity and with the least intrusive level of intervention. The process involves the child, parents/carers, school staff and, at some levels, other professionals, working in partnership to get it right for every child.*
- *Staged intervention is designed to be flexible and allows for movement between stages depending on progress.*

Argyll and Bute Staged Intervention: The Stages at a Glance

Universal Support Entitlements: All learners have an entitlement to support. All children and young people should have frequent and regular opportunities to discuss their learning with an adult who knows them well and can act as a mentor, helping them to set appropriate goals for the next stages in learning. Young people themselves should be at the centre of this planning, as active participants in their learning and development. Robust systems for assessing, monitoring and tracking are key within this stage.

Stage 1 – In-class or in-group.

The class teacher or key worker (Early Years) identifies a need for some additional support. The Named Person is notified and the teacher /key worker makes some changes to the normal routine or gives some extra attention so that the child can get the best out of the work of the group or class.

Stage 2 –Targeted intervention.

There is an identified need for targeted planning and intervention to address additional support needs.

A Child's Plan may be in place outlining the specific targeted interventions required and detailing long- and short-term outcomes and timescales. Timescales for review of the interventions will be built in to the plan. There are likely to be termly reviews of short-term targets and annual reviews of long-term targets.

Additional support at this level may include (in addition to supports available at Stage 1):

- new resources being accessed for use by the whole class/group;
- small groups being created for additional tuition;
- an individual programme of work being introduced;
- a short term programme of individual support being put in place.

Classroom or Pupil Support Assistants may be deployed to help deliver these supports.

Stage 3 – Specialist input.

There is an identified need for more targeted intervention and/or specialist provision and interventions including:

- a high degree of individualisation of learning and/or
- access to a different learning environment
- substantial adaptation to the curriculum and/or
- substantial adaptation to the learning environment.

A Universal Child's Plan will be in place outlining the specific targeted interventions required and detailing long- and short-term outcomes and timescales. Where there is multi-agency involvement, a Lead Professional will co-ordinate this support. There may also be a Co-ordinated Support Plan in place.

Further Information about Additional Support Needs

Local, direct support is usually the best way to meet pupils' needs. If parents/carers have any questions about their child's progress or well-being at school, they should discuss these first with the **Head Teacher** who will arrange a meeting with the **Class Teacher** and when appropriate, with the **Pupil Support Teacher Ms Kirsten McKenzie**. Please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

This school values partnership working with parents/carers and will do everything possible to help resolve concerns or differences of opinion at an early stage. If you have any queries about your child's additional needs, or about the support being provided to meet those needs, please contact the **Head Teacher**.

This school values partnership working with parents/carers and will do everything possible to help resolve concerns or differences of opinion at an early stage. If you have any queries about your child's additional needs, or about the support being provided to meet those needs, please contact the Head teacher.

Parents/carers and young people have the right to ask the Education Authority to establish if a pupil has Additional Support Needs (ASN) and consider if a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) is needed. This should be raised with school staff in the first instance or can be sent in writing by emailing the Educational Psychology Service to educational.psychology@argyll-bute.gov.uk describing the type of assessment and why it may be necessary. Alternatively, please call 01369 708537 for more information. Requests are acknowledged promptly and usually agreed unless the request is considered to be 'unreasonable'.

Parents/carers can also arrange an assessment privately and ask the Education Authority to take the assessment report into account.

Parents/carers and young people have the right to:

- ♦ Independent Mediation Services
This service is free and involves an independent third party who helps to resolve disagreements between the Education Authority and parents/carers or young people.
- ♦ Independent Advocacy
Take Note is the National Advocacy Service for Additional Support Needs, established by the Scottish Government and provided jointly by Barnardo's Scotland and the Scottish Child Law Centre. It offers independent professional or legal advocacy to families and young people who have grounds to make a referral to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal Scotland. More information is available by telephoning 0131 667 6333 or by email to enquiries@sclcl.org.uk.

- ♦ Free Dispute Resolution

Some disagreements, such as about the assessment of additional support needs or the level of support, can be referred for written review by an adjudicator independent of the council. Requests for Dispute Resolution should be made to Jennifer Crocket, Head of Education - Lifelong Learning and Support/Chief Education Officer via Jennifer.Crocket@argyll-bute.gov.uk. If you do not have access to email, please contact Jennifer Crocket by phone on 01546 604288.

- ♦ Referral to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal Scotland (ASNTS)

Parents/carers and young people can appeal to the ASNTS about decisions involving a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) <http://www.asntscotland.gov.uk> (0845 120 2906).

A new national advocacy service provides advice to parents/carers and young people about grounds for a referral. Contact Barnardo's, 235 Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh EH12 7AR www.barnardos.org.uk.

Independent advice and information is available from Enquire, the Scottish Advice Service for ASL <http://enquire.org.uk/> (0845 123 2303).

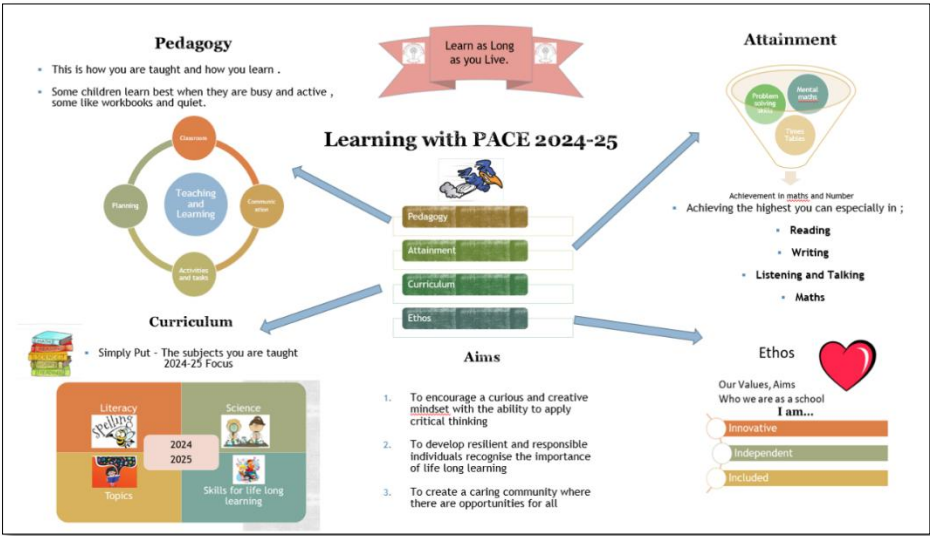
The Govan Law Centre Education Law Unit works in partnership to support pupils' and parents'/carers' rights in education. Contact Govan Law Centre, 47 Burleigh Street, Govan, Glasgow G51 3LB. 0141 445 1955 <https://govanlawcentre.org/education-law-unit/>

The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance safeguards people who are vulnerable. Contact Melrose House, 69a George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2JG. 0131 260 5380 <http://www.siaa.org.uk>

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

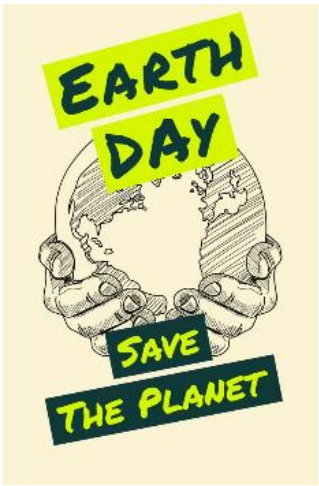
Main Achievements

Our learning journey aligns to our school improvement plan. Here is our one page illustration shared with parents/carers and children.



Below are just some of our main achievements since August 24'.

STEM



We are proud that Sustainability, Engineering, Technology and Science are top priorities at Port Ellen School. We like to be ambitious and overcome all barriers to learning at the highest level. This year we are renewing our STEM Nation Award and will be visited by Education Scotland during our Dinosaurs workshop. This will be run by the National History Museum of London and they will visit for two day with life size puppets and a team of Dinosaur experts. Our friends from Bowmore PS will join us.



Cross stage IDL



When we became wild things!
07.02.25

A summary from before Christmas 24 – shared with the community through Islay Podcasters.

Latest News From Port Ellen School

December 2024

BREAKING NEWS...

THE TWINKLY NATIVITY

On Wednesday 18th December P1/2 held their annual Nativity with the ELC children. This year we chose to do the Twinkly Nativity and learn our songs using Makaton. We were very nervous about going on the stage but when we saw our grown ups in the audience we felt so much better. The school hall was packed with families and members of our community too so the claps they gave filled us with Christmas cheer! We wanted to say a big thank you to the kitchen ladies for putting on teas, coffees and mince pies afterwards.



P1/2 during their dress rehearsal.



P5 manning their stall at our Christmas Fair

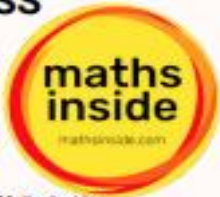
P5 ENTREPRENEURS

The P5 class during the Winter term were learning about enterprise. They worked in small teams to create their own businesses to make and sell products at the Christmas Fair. The children raised £362.50 with a profit of over £200. They were so successful that Mrs MacDonald allowed them to spend some of their money and throw their own party at the end of term which they loved!

WRITING AND MATHS SUCESS

Ellie Chandler got through to the next round of the BBC 500 words writing competition with her story 'The Missing Rubber' a big well done to Ellie!

We had four highly commended entries in the Maths Inside Competition this year. Congratulations to Rowan P1, Findlay P6, Tilly P6 and Archie P7.



Maths inside

SCAN ME



WRRSA Article 12: Article 13
Article 27

Podcast out soon -
<https://www.thisisIslay.co.uk/>



Win one of
Reading School
Green

Responsible Citizens and community
involvement
Community clean up after Storm Eowyn.



Improving Standards

Please refer to our **Standards and Quality Report** via
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/>

School Improvement Plan

Please refer to our School Improvement Plan via
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/peps/>

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Early Learning and Childcare Meals

Health and Wellbeing is a large part of the ELC experience, and includes access to milk, a healthy snack and meal time provision. We are committed to providing healthy, nutritious, good value meal options to children in our Early Learning and Childcare Settings. If your child is in ELC for more than four hours and over a lunch period they are entitled to a funded nursery lunch.

Our ELC lunch offer is a two course menu with a main meal, and will be either a starter and a main course, or a main course and a dessert. The menu runs on a three week cycle so that there is plenty of choice for children.

Our ELC menus comply with the Scottish Government's guidance, Setting the Table. In this document there is guidance on healthy snack options, meal planners and foods that are not acceptable for inclusion in provision, as well as other helpful guidance. The link to this document is:

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/30341-Setting%20the%20Table.pdf>

Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (SMHSS)

The SMHSS funds a daily portion of plain fresh cow's milk (or specified alternative) and a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) for all pre-school children spending two hours or more in the care of a regulated day care provider and/or childminders that have registered for the SMHSS. SMHSS will replace the current UK Nursery Milk Scheme from 1 August 2021.

The link to this guidance is:

[Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021: children's rights and wellbeing impact assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

School Meals

Argyll and Bute Council is committed to providing healthy, nutritious, good value meal options to pupils in our primary and secondary schools and a school meal is available in almost all of our schools, with the exception of Iona and Ulva primaries. We encourage healthy eating and school lunches are planned so that children can choose a well-balanced meal and a good selection of vegetables, salad, fresh fruit, and milk are available daily. All of our menus comply with the Scottish Government's [Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations 2020](#) and the [The Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#).

As part of Scottish Government legislation, from January 2022 all pupils in P1-P5 became entitled to a free school meal. Parents do not have to register for this; all pupils will receive this meal automatically. Please see the section on free school meals for information for pupils from P6 and beyond.

Allergy information for our school menus is available online and in each school kitchen. Information on school meals are available via <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/primary-school-meals-menu>. If your child has a food allergy, please contact the school office in the first instance so that any necessary arrangements can be put in place.

A vegetarian meal option is available every day, and many dishes can be altered to accommodate other special diets where this is required. Where possible, other non-medical special diets may be accommodated; please contact the Catering service for more information.

Every Wednesday our Breakfast club is available and offered to all children from P1-P7. Breakfast club is free and children are offered a variety of health nutritious food such as ; fruit, wholegrain cereals and toast, porridge, boiled eggs, milk and water .

Free fruit snack is also available daily to all pupils.

At Port Ellen Primary we pride ourselves in our compliance with the new Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020, which took effect on 8 April 2021.

We take responsibility for ensuring all food and drink provided comply fully with the Regulations and everyone involved with providing food and drink on our school is aware of the requirements.

Primary Schools:

Our primary school lunch offer is a two course menu with a choice of main meal, and will be either a starter and a main course, or a main course and a dessert. The menu runs on a three week cycle so that there is plenty of choice for pupils. The cost for a primary school meal is £2.30. Salad selections, vegetables and fruit are available every day. Water or milk is available as a drink.

You can view our current primary school lunch menu at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/primary-school-meals-menu>.

During session 2023-24, a new online income management and online payment solution has been introduced to assist parents to pay for all school purchases, including school meals. Parents can pre-order childrens' meals online and in advance. For further information and to register please visit <https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk>

Packed Lunches

Some pupils prefer a packed lunch and it is the Authority's policy to provide facilities for the consumption of packed lunches in all schools where these are required.

The school aims to encourage children to enjoy food which is both attractive to them and nutritionally sound, whether this is a school meal, a packed lunch or a snack. We would appreciate your support in achieving this aim.

Free School Meals

From January 2022, all pupils in P1-P5 became entitled to a free school meal, which they receive automatically. Whilst P1-P5 parents do not need to register because of the universal entitlement, it can be beneficial to register if you meet the eligibility criteria as you could be entitled to additional benefits.

For information about Free School Meals, including the eligibility criteria, and to complete an online application form please visit [Free School Meals and Clothing Grant | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://argyll-bute.gov.uk). Alternatively, please contact Customer Services: Education on 01369 708548 or your local benefit enquiry office.

Special Dietary Requirements

Argyll and Bute Council Catering Service provides meals across all schools, including Primary, Secondary and Early Years Units. Part of this includes the provision of special dietary requirements for food allergies and intolerances, medically prescribed diets and diets for religious or cultural reasons.

If required, please contact the school to obtain a Special Diet Request form. Once this has been completed and passed to the Catering Manager, the Catering Service will, where necessary and as required, work with the pupil, Parent/Carer, Education and the NHS to provide a nutritionally balanced meal that meets the dietary requirements for the pupil. Requests for non-medically prescribed diets also require a completed Special Diet Request form.

Health Care

You can contact our school health staff at: -

Child Health Department
Islay Hospital
Gortanvogie Road
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
Telephone: 01496301025/28

Administration of Medicines

Many pupils will, at some time in their school careers, need to take medication. For the vast majority this will be a short-term requirement, with pupils simply finishing a course of medication which has been prescribed for them by their family doctor. Wherever possible, parents/carers are requested to ask for GP prescriptions which can be administered outwith the school day, i.e. in the morning and evening.

However, pupils may have medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes which may require long-term support and, if their conditions are not properly managed by taking regular medication in school, their access to education could be limited. In addition, some children

have conditions which may require occasional staff intervention, e.g. severe allergic conditions such as anaphylaxis. Pupils with such conditions are regarded as having health care needs but, notwithstanding these, the vast majority of children with such needs are able to attend school regularly and, with some support from the school staff, are able to take part in most normal school activities.

In any of these circumstances parents/carers (or young people themselves if they are over the age of 16) should discuss the matter with school staff and agree the arrangements which will be made to provide support for the pupil. A written request form *must be completed in advance* when any medication is to be administered or taken in school.

Skin Protection

Your child's skin may be affected by exposure to the sun, especially over the lunchtime period and other outdoor activities. It is a good idea for your child to wear a sun hat. If they have one, please put it in their school bag.

You should ensure your child has sunblock applied prior to arriving at school in periods of hot weather and if you wish them to have further applications at lunchtime then you should send in sun-cream/block and we can help your child apply it.

Face painting is occasionally carried out within schools. Parents will be informed when this activity is being planned.

Transport

Transport to and from school is available for pupils who live more than:-

- 2 miles away from their catchment primary School
- 3 miles away from their catchment secondary School

Pupils may still be required to walk to a school transport pick up point. Primary school pupils will not be required to walk more than two miles and secondary pupils will not be required to walk more than three miles from their home to the pick-up point.

Pupils will not be picked up or dropped off at any point other than the designated location without written authorisation from a parent or carer.

Please see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport for further information on school transport.

Exceptional Requests

Consideration will be given in exceptional circumstances for school transportation where your child attends their catchment school but would not normally be entitled to transport.

Where parents/carers believe that there may be grounds for an exceptional transport request, an application form should be completed and submitted to the Integrated Transport Section. Applications will then be referred for further assessment as appropriate.

Exceptional transport requests can be made when:-

- Your child has been recommended on health grounds by a designated medical officer.
- Your child has requirements based on educational grounds / additional educational needs.
- Your child has to walk a route which, after an assessment, is considered to be unsafe for children even when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Application forms are available from the school office or you may apply on-line on the Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport.

Free Bus Travel Scheme

A national new free bus travel scheme for children and young people aged from 5 to under 22 came into effect at the end of January 2022. Further information can found on the Transport Scotland website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme/>. Parents can apply online or request an application form from the school office.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a weekly payment of £30, paid fortnightly in arrears, for eligible students aged 16 to 19 who are continuing in post-compulsory education. The allowance is means-tested based on household income and is payable fortnightly in arrears during term time. Payments will be made direct to the student's own bank account.

Further information and full eligibility criteria can be found at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/education-maintenance-allowance> or by emailing ema@argyll-bute.gov.uk or telephoning 01369 708548.

Insurance

The Authority insures against its legal liability for:-

- a) accidental personal injury and,
- b) accidental damage to property not belonging to the school or Council.

This means that if an injury is sustained or personal property is damaged/broken/lost due to negligence or omission on the part of the school or its staff, claim costs will be met by the Council's public liability policy. There is no automatic right to compensation. It is the responsibility of the person making the claim to prove that the Council has been negligent in their actions leading to the loss.

Parents/carers may wish to consider their own insurance arrangements in terms of appropriate extensions to their household insurance or arranging their own separate covers.

Music Services

Pupils in Primary 5 and above have the opportunity to take a musical aptitude test after which they may be offered the chance to take weekly lessons in both chanter and brass/woodwind. Port Ellen Primary children have access to music lessons from Mr Scott McDermott.

Children from P5 onwards can also participate in chanter lessons with our current piping tutor , Mr Charles McLean

Parental Access to Records

The School Pupil Records (Scotland) Regulations 1990

Details of the regulations and process for obtaining information specific to pupils are available by contacting the school directly. See management circular 3.11 <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-circulars>

Subject Access Requests

GDPR legislation includes the right to request information we hold about you. If you wish to receive a copy of the personal information we hold about you, this is known as a Subject Access Request. Further information and a Subject Access Request form may be accessed via: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/data-protection>

Child Protection

Given on-going public concern on the subject of child abuse, and recent changes in the law, schools are now required to report if they think any child may have come to harm as a consequence of possible abuse.

A member of staff in each school has been appointed to be responsible for Child Protection matters and special training has been given to these people. Should you wish further advice about Child Protection and the safety of children, please feel free to contact the school.

The school has good liaison contact with the School Medical Officers, Social Workers, and the Police, any or all of whom may become involved if abuse is suspected.

Please see www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/abcpc for more information on child protection.

Weapons Incidents in Educational Establishments

A joint protocol has been agreed between Police Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council and West Dunbartonshire Council for dealing with any weapons incidents in schools. It is therefore important to make parents aware of rules and expectations in relation to weapons and the response to allegations of weapons possession. Weapons must in no circumstances be brought to school and pupils will be encouraged to share any knowledge of weapons with teaching staff.

The purpose of the protocol is to maximise the safety of children and young people and to safeguard the welfare of all persons involved in any weapons-related incident, including any alleged perpetrator, through an effective multi-agency response. All incidents involving weapons at any educational establishment where a person under the age of 18 is educated, and any incident involving a child less than 18 years being in possession of a weapon, will trigger the operational response summarised below. Every incident will be thoroughly investigated and recorded.

- In response to an incident involving possession, or suspected possession, of a weapon in an educational establishment, the Senior Management Team will react with a proportionate response. Police Scotland will be contacted immediately and will coordinate any emergency response. In the event of a serious incident, appropriate medical attention will be sought and designated First Aiders at the establishment will treat those affected as far as their training and experience allows, provided it is safe to do so. The emotional needs of those involved in, or witnessing, the incident will also be considered.
- If any person who is a pupil or a student in an educational establishment in Argyll and Bute is found in possession of a weapon out-with an educational establishment, Police Scotland will alert the authority of the incident.
- No release to the media regarding a weapons-related incident will be made without consultation with the Communications departments of both Police Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council.

Please contact the school if you require a copy of the full weapons protocol document, which includes a summary of police powers and duties of search in relation to weapons. Please note that unless parents/guardians contact the school to indicate a concern, they are giving their implied consent to the policy.

Acceptable Use of Internet Enabled Devices / Using the Internet, Email and Glow

All children and young people will have access to various forms of technology and will use the internet, email (secondary pupils) and Glow. When accessing the Internet in school pupils must abide by the following rules:

All users should:

- access Internet pages which are directly related to the current task as identified by the member of staff in charge;
- save/download information related to the current task as identified by the member of staff in charge;
- report instances of misuse to the member of staff in charge;
- report suspicious sites or emails to the member of staff in charge;
- choose a strong password – preferably a phrase that you can easily remember;
- 'logout' at the end of each Internet or Glow session;
- treat all equipment and other users with respect.

Users should not:

- tell anyone their login ID or password;
- use portable storage devices brought from out with the school;

- attempt to circumvent the IT security systems and antivirus;
- send illegal or defamatory material; receive illegal material or material which is offensive or defamatory without informing the member of staff in charge;
- read emails intended for others;
- create rude or abusive emails about other people.

Personal safety

- Never tell anyone you meet on the Internet your home address or your telephone number.
- Never tell anyone you meet on the Internet your school's name or phone number, unless your teacher specifically gives you permission.
- Never send anyone your picture, credit card or bank details.
- Never give your password to anyone – even a best friend.
- Never arrange by email to meet anyone you don't know in person.
- Never respond to nasty, suggestive or rude emails.
- Always tell a member of staff in charge if you see bad language or distasteful pictures while you are online.
- Always be yourself and do not pretend to be anyone or anything you are not.
- Always remember if someone makes you an offer that seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Always delete attachments from strangers without opening them; they may contain viruses that can damage your machine.
- Never open an email if you are suspicious of its source or content – and report these to a member of staff.
- Never click on links in emails unless you are certain they are safe (hover over the link to see what it really connects to)

Please note:

Privacy of electronic mail (email) is guaranteed. However, those who administer the system on behalf of the education service have access to all mail messages and have the right under legislation to investigate any user activities where suspicious use of the system is identified.

Glow

Glow is Scotland's nationally available digital environment and can support learning across the whole curriculum. Glow is not just one place or platform, instead it offers a username and password that gives access to a number of different web services.

Funded by the Scottish Government and managed by Education Scotland, Glow provides a safe, online environment for educators, learners and parents to communicate and collaborate using services such as Glow Blogs, Microsoft Office 365, Google Workspace and Glow RM Unify Launch Pad.

For further information please refer to Education Management Circular 1.18 - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-circulars>.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Updated legislation introduced in May 2018 and requires all businesses to protect and properly manage all customers' privacy data – this includes Local Authorities. The main changes under GDPR are:

- GDPR give people more rights to know how their personal data is being used.
- It gives them the right to be 'forgotten' and their personal data deleted if they wish.
- It enables people to see what personal data is being held about them and to make sure their personal data is correct.
- It gives increased importance for the protection of children
- It creates increased importance for not allowing people without permission to see or use others' personal data
- If someone's personal data has been used by people without permission, they have to be told what happened.

The full detail of the new legislation can be found at www.ico.org.uk

A link to the general privacy notice for education can be found at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/privacy/education-general. This privacy notice outlines the information that we require to provide Education for Children and Young People, who we will share that information with, why we need the information, what we will do with the information and how long we will keep the information.

General information:

Pupil's work on display

Children's work is often displayed in the classroom and school corridors. In addition, work is often displayed in other Council buildings as part of exhibitions. This may include their name.

Short Visits

During the pupil's school life, teachers may organise some activities which will take pupils out of school for up to an hour at short notice. These visits will be very local to the school (in general no greater than half a mile). Pupils will be supervised by their class teacher during these visits.

For any longer, pre-arranged school trips and all trips that require transport, official permission will be sought and Management Circular 3.25 will be adhered to - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-circulars>.

If you have any concerns regarding any of the above you should contact your school directly to discuss individual circumstances.

Emergency Closures

In the event of the school having to close due to an emergency, e.g. adverse weather conditions putting pupils at risk, heating failure, etc., the procedure is as follows: -

In the event of an emergency closure outwith school hours updated postings will be made on www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/service-disruptions. You can also keep up to date with the latest information by calling 01369 704000.

In case of an emergency, if effective arrangements are to be made, it is essential that the school has up-to-date information from parents/carers regarding such things as changes in employer, telephone number, new emergency contact, etc. Where possible, a text messaging system alerting parents/carers to arrangements will be used if mobile phone numbers have been submitted.

In whole school emergency situations, updated information will be posted on our own school website and/or www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/service-disruptions website or the use of text messaging may be utilised.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

The following hyperlinks are correct as at 24 May 2025:

General

Contact details for all Argyll and Bute Schools –

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools>

Choosing a School: A Guide for Parents - information on choosing a school and the placing request system – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/11/10093528/0>

A guide for parents/carers about school attendance explains parental responsibilities with regard to children's attendance at school –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/04134640/0>

The Scottish Government guide Principles of Inclusive Communications provides information on communications and a self-assessment tool for public authorities –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/14082209/0>

Educational Psychology Resources Website (Scan QR Code) –



Parental Involvement

Guidance on the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 provides guidance on the act for education authorities, Parent Councils and others –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/08094112/0>

Parentzone provide information and resource for parents/carers and Parent Councils –

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

Education Scotland's toolkit for parental engagement and family learning –

<https://education.gov.scot/resources/engaging-parents-and-families-a-toolkit-for-practitioners/>

School Ethos

Developing a positive whole school ethos and culture –

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-positive-whole-school-ethos-culture-relationships-learning-behaviour/pages/1/>

Health and wellbeing guidance on healthy living for local authorities and schools – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/HLivi>

Building Curriculum for Excellence through Positive Behaviour and Relationships outlines the Scottish Government's priority actions around positive behaviour in schools and is also a source of support – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/25112828/0>

Scottish Catholic Education Service's resource 'This is Our Faith' which supports the teaching and learning of Catholic religious education – <http://www.sces.uk.com/this-is-our-faith.html>

Curriculum

Information about Curriculum for Excellence – <https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/>
and
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum>

Information on assessment - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/assessment>

Broad General Education (general) - <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/curriculum-in-scotland/broad-general-education/>

Broad General Education in the Secondary School - [CfE Briefing 1 - Broad general education in the secondary school \(ioe.ac.uk\)](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/CfE/Briefing%201%20-%20Broad%20general%20education%20in%20the%20secondary%20school)

Information on the Senior Phase – <https://education.gov.scot/curriculum-for-excellence/about-curriculum-for-excellence/curriculum-stages/senior-phase-and-beyond/senior-phase/>

Information on Skills for learning, life and work – <http://education.gov.scot/media/tcnk33qn/btc4.pdf>

Information around the Scottish Government's 'Opportunities for All' programme – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/opportunities-supporting-young-people-participate-post-16-learning-training-work/#:~:text=To%20make%20access%20to%20Opportunities%20for%20All%20as,Opp%20ortunities%20for%20All%20by%20phoning%200800%20917%208000.>

Information for organisations responsible for the planning, management and delivery of career information, advice and guidance services – <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

The Skills Development Scotland website 'My World of Work' offers a number of tools to support career planning – <http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

Assessment and Reporting

Building the Curriculum 5: a framework for assessment provides guidance around the assessment framework – <https://education.gov.scot/media/bwxg5wma/btc5-framework.pdf>

Information about how progress is assessed – <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement/What%20is%20assessment,%20and%20when%20and%20how%20does%20it%20take%20place>

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - Assessment and qualifications – <https://education.gov.scot/media/0g2cthxv/cfeFactfileoverview.pdf>

Information on assessment and achievement – <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/curriculum-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement/>

Transitions

Curriculum for Excellence factfile - 2-18 Transitions - provides information on the transitions children and young people will face throughout their education and beyond – <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ACE/cfeinaction/transitionsfactfile>

Career Information, Advice and Guidance in Scotland - A Framework for Service Redesign and Improvement provides guidance on career information, advice and guidance strategy – <https://education.gov.scot/Documents/CareerInformationAdviceGuidanceScotland.pdf#:~:text=This%20strategy%20provides%20a%20framework%20for%20the%20redesign,young%20people%E2%80%99s%20skills%20for%20learning%2C%20life%20and%20work.>

Planning for choices and changes provides information about choices made at various stages of learning – <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-health-and-wellbeing/planning-for-choices-and-changes>

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice includes specific requirements on education authorities and others under the new legislation in relation to transition – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/04/04090720/21>

Support for Pupils

The Additional support for learning page provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/welfare/ASL>

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning – <http://enquire.org.uk/>

Parenting across Scotland offers support to children and families in Scotland – <http://www.parentingacrossscotland.org/>

Equality and Inclusion - <https://education.gov.scot/about-education-scotland/what-we-do/embedding-inclusion-wellbeing-and-equality/>

Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition) - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended –
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/04/04090720/21>

Getting It Right For Every Child and Young Person, is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers –
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

School Improvement

Education Scotland's Inspection and review page provides information on the inspection process –
<https://education.gov.scot/>

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) –
<http://www.scqf.org.uk/>

Scottish Qualifications Authority provides information for teachers, parents/carers, employers and young people on qualifications –
<http://www.sqa.org.uk/>

Amazing Things - information about youth awards in Scotland –
<http://www.awardsnetwork.org/index.php>

Information on how to access statistics relating to School Education –
[School education statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/School-education-statistics)

School Policies and Practical Information

National policies, information and guidance can be accessed through the following sites:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People>

Children (Scotland) Act 1995 – <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/36/contents>

Standards in Scotland's Schools (Scotland) Act 2000 –
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/6/contents>