



Date : 18th September 2017
Ref : KJM T008

TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents,

PUPIL EQUITY AND MAINLAND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TRIPS

You will be aware from the media that ensuring pupil equity is playing an ever increasing role in Scottish Education currently.

One area in which this manifests itself is in the area of residential school trips. This is an area schools have been asked to consider when ensuring that equity of experience exists in our schools.

The current situation in Tolsta School is that a residential trip to the mainland is organised every two years and that Primary 5-7 pupils attend. Clearly this is not equitable as it does mean that pupils who are on Primary 5 or Primary 7 in the year of a school trip will actually get to / have got to go on a residential school trip twice in their primary lives, whilst pupils who happen to be on Primary 6 only get to attend once.

In order to rectify this situation and ensure that pupils have equitable and equal experiences, I would propose the following:

- A residential school trip is organised once every two years (as is the case currently) but only for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

or

- A residential school trip is organised once every three years for Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils.

Undoubtedly, the first of these two options would be the option school staff would advise parents to take as it would allow more challenging kinds of experiences to be offered to pupils, particularly as they move through the primary school and prepare to transition into secondary school. This would be relevant to pupils coming to the end of their transition year from Primary to Secondary but would also be relevant for pupils who would just be entering their transition year.

The kinds of school trips that can be undertaken are usually chosen with specific goals in mind – e.g. it may be trips are chosen to provide confidence building activities for children who worry or have low self esteem or it may be that teachers wish to promote teambuilding activities to encourage pupils to work together, or to encourage independence and a sense of personal responsibility for pupils moving on to a new stage in their learning.





In addition, the Director of Education is looking at proposals which would ensure that all pupils would be provided with the experience of a one night residential experience at the Scaladale Centre. Head teachers have already been asked for their preferences as to which year group to target this experience at and a good number opted for the middle school – Primary 4 or Primary 5 as so many residential experiences of different kinds are already offered to senior pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7

I would be grateful if parents would consider the two proposals on offer and return the slip below to indicate their preference, as planning will need to begin fairly soon for whichever option parents take.

Leis gach durachd

Kirsteen J. Maclean
Head Teacher

Name: _____

Please tick **one** of the following options

I would prefer to **keep the cycle** of residential school trips to **every two years** and **change the target group** to **Primary 6 and Primary 7** pupils.

I would prefer to **change the cycle** of residential school trips to **every three years** and **keep the target group** to **Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7** pupils.

Please return your slip to Tolsta School Office by Friday 22nd September 2017.

Thank you.



