



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Department of Education and Children's Services



Sgoil a' Bhac

Parent/Carer Consultation Report

May 2015

Sgoil a' Bhac - Back School
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A' Coileanadh Sàr-Mhaitheas Còmhla - Achieving Excellence Together

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Introduction

As part of the school's self-evaluation process and to help us to establish improvement priorities for the 2015-2016 school session, we circulated a survey to all parents and carers of children in Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath and Sgoil a' Bhac. We wanted to establish the views of parents about areas where they thought we were doing well and also areas where we could do better.

To help us with this process, we identified eight key Quality Indicators from the HMle school evaluation document 'How Good is Our School 3'. They were:

- 1.1 - Improvements in Performance
- 2.1 - Learners' Experiences
- 5.1 - The Curriculum
- 5.3 - Meeting Learning Needs
- 5.5 - Expectations and Promoting Achievement
- 5.7 - Partnerships with Learners and Parents
- 5.9 - Improvement Through Self-Evaluation
- 8.3 - Management and Use of Resources and Space for Learning

A set of questions was created based on these Quality Indicators that would allow us to gather the views and opinions of parents about how we currently perform in these areas.

Information about Completion

Paper copies of the consultation were circulated to parents of children in Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath and Sgoil a' Bhac and it was also made available to download through the school website.

In total, 54 of the 93 families who were eligible to submit a survey response returned one to the school. This represents a response rate of 58.1%. The typical response rate for this type of survey is between 25% and 50%.

Completion Rate - 58.1%

Following completion, some respondents indicated the wish to select an option that allowed them to neither agree nor disagree with the statements. To help us to best plan for improvement, it is important for us to have absolute quantitative data and a neutral response does not always provide us with that, which is why the survey was designed to include a definitive response.

Please note that all percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number so responses may not total exactly 100%

Section One - Background Information

The first two questions in the survey gathered anonymised background information about the respondents. It informed us of the distribution of responses across the classes of the school and also the length of time they have had a relationship with the school.

Q1 - I have a child or children in the following year groups. (Response rate by year group)

SA	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
35%	50%	50%	44%	33%	40%	66%	69%	75%	0%	40%	71%	86%	46%	86%

SA - Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath

The total survey response rate was 58.1%

Q2 - I have been a parent/carers at Sgoil a' Bhac and Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath for...

Less than a year	6%
1-3 years	19%
3-5 years	9%
5-7 years	19%
7-10 years	22%
More than 10 years	26%

Responses show that a considerable number of parents who responded have had a long-term parental relationship with the school.

Section Two - Learning, Curriculum, Attainment and Improvement

The questions in this section relate to how effectively we meet the needs of learners through our curriculum and how well they attain and improve. It also relates to our plans for school improvement.

Q3 - Please evaluate these statements in relation to your view on attainment across the school.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school works to improve the attainment of pupils	30%	60%	4%	0%	5%
Our learners are successful and confident	29%	60%	5%	0%	5%
Pupils have wider achievements out-with the school	26%	57%	4%	0%	13%
Pupils participate in a range of out-of-school activities	19%	52%	15%	2%	13%

Responses indicate that a high percentage of parents have positive views about the school's work to improve attainment and that learners are confident and successful.

A notable percentage of parents indicate a concern about opportunities for participation in out-of-school activities. Although such activities are not entirely the responsibility of the school and can include community-run clubs and activities, the school is working with parents and other groups to improve this provision as resources allow and we will continue to do so in the 2015-16 session.

Q4 - Please answer yes or no to the following statements about our School Improvement Plan.

	Yes	No
I know that the school produces an Improvement Plan in May of each year.	53%	47%
I am told when a new Improvement Plan has been published	53%	47%
I know how to access the current School Improvement Plan	47%	53%
I have seen the school's current Improvement Plan	28%	72%
I would like to know more about the school's Improvement Plan	70%	30%

The Improvement Plan is published on our website annually in June and is available for parents to view year-round. The school will work to better engage parents in the sharing of our Improvement Plan and will make efforts to provide more information about it during next session.

Q5 - Please evaluate the following statements in relation to your child's experiences as a learner.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is motivated and eager to learn	49%	47%	4%	0%	0%
He/She understands what their strengths are and how they can improve	18%	67%	5%	0%	9%
My child is treated with equality, fairness and respect	31%	56%	7%	0%	4%
My child is making progress in their learning	45%	51%	4%	0%	0%
The school listens to my child's ideas and opinions and works to act on them	18%	51%	4%	0%	27%

Percentage responses show a high level of agreement with the statements about children's experiences. We will work to ensure that all our children are treated with equality and respect and that they all make progress in their learning. We will improve the information we provide to parents about how we listen to the views and ideas of children to help address the 27% of respondents who don't know.

Q6 - Please evaluate the following statements about your child's experience of our curriculum.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child finds the curriculum interesting and enjoyable	33%	60%	4%	0%	4%
His/Her work is suitably challenging (not too easy or too hard)	24%	67%	4%	0%	5%
Our curriculum promotes wider achievement (Achievements out-with school)	13%	63%	4%	0%	20%
The school works to ensure a smooth transition from nursery to P1 and P7 to S1	25%	67%	2%	0%	5%

Responses to this question again indicate potential lack of opportunity or awareness of opportunities for wider achievement within our curriculum.

Q7 - Please share your opinions on how well we meet your child's learning needs.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Our curriculum meets your child's learning needs	27%	62%	5%	0%	5%
Learning progresses at a good pace	27%	64%	5%	0%	4%
My child is provided with suitable resources for learning	24%	67%	5%	0%	4%
The school takes account of my child's individual needs.	24%	64%	4%	0%	9%
IF APPLICABLE* The school involves me in my child's IEP or Co-ordinated Support Plan	15%	69%	8%	0%	8%

**Some children with specific support needs will have an IEP or CSP. This question was only answered by parents who this applies to.*

The percentage of responses to this question that were either Strongly Agree or Agree indicate a strong level of satisfaction from respondents about the curriculum we offer and the ways that we meet children's needs.

In the question about IEPs and CSPs, 8% indicates one response. We will work to identify the case where the parent indicated their disagreement with their opportunity to be involved in their child's IEP and ensure that this matter is addressed.

Q8 - What is your view on the following statements relating to expectations and achievement?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school sets high expectations of children's attainment, attendance and behaviour	31%	56%	4%	4%	5%
Children receive appropriate praise and their achievements are recognised	35%	50%	9%	2%	4%
Children have high expectations of their own learning	20%	56%	7%	0%	16%
We share achievements in school and with the wider community in a variety of ways	26%	54%	2%	0%	19%
Relationships across the school are positive. We have shared values and a sense of community	16%	56%	7%	2%	18%
Across the school, pupils are well behaved and show consideration for others	21%	62%	4%	2%	10%

The statements within this question received generally positive responses, although a notable percentage do feel that we do not provide suitable praise for achievements or set high expectations in learning.

The school will need to work to provide better information to parents about the statements in this question as many of them received a significant percentage of 'Don't Know' responses.

Section Three - Parental Involvement, Resources and Self-Evaluation

This section relates to how effectively we we engage, involve and communicate with parents. It also evaluates the awareness of parents about the Parent Council. It focuses also on how well we evaluate our service and the quality of our building, grounds and resources.

Q9 - Please give your views on the following statements about partnerships with parents.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school encourages parents to participate in their children's learning and education	28%	63%	6%	0%	4%
We welcome parents to communicate with us	33%	61%	4%	0%	2%
We provide parents with suitable opportunities to discuss their children's progress	24%	65%	9%	0%	2%
The school's annual written report provides me with sufficient information about my child.	20%	61%	16%	0%	2%
I am aware that the school produces an annual Standards & Quality Report	11%	42%	15%	2%	31%
I know how to make a complaint to the school	14%	82%	2%	0%	4%

We have identified that 16% of parents are not happy with the level of information provided in the school's annual written report. To help us find out more about what issues parents have with the report, we will include a supplementary question when reports are shared with parents in June 2015. This will give parents the opportunity to reflect on the latest report and provide us with specific feedback on the issues with the information it provides.

Similarly to the responses received earlier in the survey about the school's Improvement Plan, the survey highlights a lack of awareness amongst parents about the Standards and Quality Report that the school produces annually. We will ensure that we share this document with parents in as many ways as possible when the next one is published.

Q10 - How effectively do we use the following methods of communication?

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Don't Know
School Letters	74%	24%	2%	0%	0%
School Website www.sgoilabhac.org.uk	60%	28%	6%	0%	6%
E-mails	65%	24%	7%	0%	4%
Social Media Facebook & Twitter	37%	26%	7%	2%	28%
Groupcall Text Messaging	62%	30%	4%	0%	4%

Responses indicate a strong level of satisfaction with the effectiveness of the school's communication methods. The 28% of respondents who indicated they didn't know about our social media feeds have, most likely, not accessed them, which is why we continue to send out information using all of the above methods.

Q11 - Please evaluate the following statements about our Parent Forum and Parent Council.

	Yes	No
I know that I am a member of the Parent Forum	54%	46%
I know that the Parent Council is elected from the Parent Forum annually	73%	27%
I am aware of and understand the work of the Parent Council	89%	11%
I am aware of the current membership of the Parent Council	69%	31%
I know how to contact the Parent Council	81%	19%

The survey confirms an issue that we were aware of about the lack of understanding that all our parents are members of the Parent Forum, with nearly half of respondents indicating this. It is also notable that a little over a quarter of respondents did not know that the Parent Council is elected from the Parent Forum and nearly a third are not aware of the current membership.

We will work with the Parent Council to develop ways of more effectively communicating this information to all parents.

Q12 - How good is the school at evaluating its work and service provision?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I feel happy to express my views to the school	13%	71%	4%	2%	11%
The school consults me about my views	13%	56%	9%	2%	20%
I am aware that the school uses self-evaluation exercises to identify areas for improvement	11%	63%	6%	2%	19%

Although there are a notable number of positive responses to this question, the number of parents who either disagree or don't know indicate that the school must do more to provide parents with opportunities to express their views about the school and the service it provides.

Q13 - Please evaluate the following statements about our campus and resources.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school building is safe and fit for purpose	35%	56%	6%	0%	4%
The school provides a stimulating environment through displays and organisation of public spaces	31%	65%	2%	0%	2%
The school grounds are safe and fit for purpose	28%	61%	6%	2%	2%
The school's access to computer technology is appropriate	19%	65%	4%	0%	13%
School resources are fit for purpose and of good quality	19%	69%	6%	0%	7%

The survey indicates that the vast majority of parents believe that the school building, grounds and resources are suitable and fit for purpose.

The school will benefit from a full upgrade of all computers and wi-fi networks in June 2015.

Q14 - Additional comments

Of the 54 respondents to the survey, 11 provided additional comments. Where comments related directly to the structure of the survey, they have not been included. The explanation for the structure that was adopted is included on page two of this report.

Some content was redacted to maintain the confidentiality of the respondents or staff members.

There's an issue with children swinging on the gates.

Have different experiences and opinions depending on class/age etc.

Oftentimes, I have found my child's education disrupted by staff absence/change of teacher throughout primary and their education has definitely suffered because of it. On the other side, I find continuity and good teaching for my other child. ■■■■■ need to be preparing children for secondary. I am disappointed that the well-fitted lab is not used for science.

I don't feel that bag-drops are an acceptable way to keep parents of 'blended' families up to date with what is happening in the school or with their children's education. If children live between two homes or indeed, see only one parent, the information is not getting to all those with parental rights and responsibilities.

We're very happy with the school and the progress our child has made.

In general, educational provision at Sgoil a' Bhac is very good but sorry to say that there's still a bit of the 'them and us' feeling between GM and EM classes, though not half as bad as it was when I became first aware of it (at least two competitions, where participation through Gaelic language was tenuous, to say the least), however, obviously measures have been put in place to ensure more even distribution of resources, opportunities etc, which is great to see - with a wee way to go yet.

As a parent of children in English mainstream, I see a clear division between them and Gaelic Medium. I am aware that this is out-with the control of the school but this is the reasoning behind my responses due to imbalance in funding, equality cannot be met. This is also the reason I feel that there are not suitable resources (lack of funding).

The school grounds have been needing improvement for years! There is no play equipment - we were promised a pirate ship. There is so much space that it would be great to improve outdoor learning potential through improving the playground.

I have answered to the best of my knowledge and experience but as my child is in Sgoil Araich, as yet, my experience of a lot of these topics is limited. I am very happy with the staff and education received in Sgoil Araich.

As our children are currently only in Sgoil Araich, it is difficult to answer all the questions but we are very happy with the care, learning opportunities and resources at this level and our children are very happy to attend.

Feel that links between Sgoil Araich and the school could be strengthened.

Section Four - Strengths & Action Plan

The survey responses have indicated the following strengths:

- parents' understanding of the school's focus on continuous improvement
- the vast majority of our children are motivated and eager to learn
- most parents believe that their children are making progress in their learning
- children find our curriculum interesting and enjoyable
- a strong view that our learners are successful and confident
- the majority of parents feel happy to communicate with us and know how to make a complaint
- parents feel that they have appropriate opportunities to discuss their child's learning
- effectiveness of communication methods with parents is very good
- most parents understand the work of the Parent Council
- most feel that the school building, grounds, resources and displays are suitable and fit for purpose.

Proposed Actions

Action Points
Improve opportunities for out-of-school activities and the acknowledgement of wider achievements
Share the school's Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report more effectively with parents
Continue to monitor the progress and attainment of all children
Share with parents our processes for consultation with children and the results of such tasks, where appropriate.
Find ways of sharing with parents, the schools expectations of learners and learning as well as how we share and communicate achievements and successes.
Conduct a follow-up consultation about the annual school report to find out more about the issues parents have with the information it contains.
Work with the Parent Council to improve the communication to parents about how the Council works and what the current membership is.
Provide more opportunities for consultation with parents to allow them to express their views about aspects of the school.