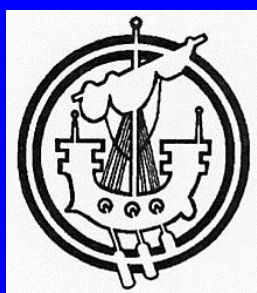


Sgoil a' Bhac Back School



Parent / Carer Consultation Report

EVALUATION OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE
SESSION 2018-19



Sgoil a' Bhac Parent and Carer
Consultation Report

March 2019

INTRODUCTION

As part of the school's self-evaluation process and to help us to establish improvement priorities for the 2019-2020 school session, we circulated a survey to all parents and carers of children in Sgoil a' Bhac and Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

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 a number of areas we wanted to gather information on in relation to both the primary school and the sgoil àraich.

Sets of questions were created around these areas to allow us to gather the views and opinions of parents about how we currently perform. In particular, cognisance was also given to eight of the fifteen Quality Indicators from the HMIE school evaluation document 'How Good is Our School 4'.

These were:

- 1.1 - Self Evaluation for Self-Improvement
- 1.3 - Leadership of Change
- 2.1 - Safeguarding
- 2.3 - Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- 2.4 - Personalised Support
- 2.7 - Partnerships
- 3.1 –Ensuring well-being, Equality and Inclusion
- 3.2 - Raising Attainment and Achievement

INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETION

Paper copies of the consultation were circulated to parents of children in Sgoil a' Bhac and to parents of children attending Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

In total, we received 51 responses out of the 95 questionnaires which were issued. This was further broken down as follows:

15 responses were received from the 27 families connected to Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath. This represents a return rate of 56%.

44 responses were received from the 80 families connected to Sgoil a Bhac. This represents a return rate of 55%.

The typical response rate for this type of survey is between 25% and 50%.

Overall Completion Rate - 54%

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 parents have had a relationship with the school.

Of those who answered the questionnaire the following responses were recorded.

Q1 - I have a child or children in the following year groups.

Sgoil Àraich	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
27%	18%	24%	12%	14%	16%	12%	14%

The percentages above show the percentage of all parents who completed the questionnaire and what year groups their children were in. Not all parents who returned the questionnaire responded to this question.

The total survey response rate was 54% of the parent body.

Q2 - I have been a parent/carer at Sgoil a Bhac for...

Less than a year	10%
1-3 years	22%
3-5 years	16%
5-7 years	18%
7-10 years	14%
More than 10 years	18%
Did not respond to this question	2%

Responses show that 48% of parents who responded had had a relationship with the school for five years or less and 48% of parents who responded had had a relationship with the school for five years or more. This provided a fairly even balance of returns.

SECTION 1 - BACKGROUND INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Q3 - This section was designed to glean general information relating to the school covering themes such as behaviour, child protection and relationships across the school community.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is enjoying his/her school/ sgoil àraich experience.	59%	39%	2%	0%	0%
My child is well motivated in his/her work.	49%	45%	6%	0%	0%
My child is able to identify his/her own strengths/needs.	33%	61%	2%	0%	4%
The school / sgoil àraich is a safe, secure and pleasant environment for my child to learn in.	65%	33%	2%	0%	0%
I know who the Child Protection Officer in the school is.	16%	23%	14%	8%	39%
My child has positive relationships with school / sgoil àraich staff.	69%	31%	0%	0%	0%
The school / sgoil àraich and its staff play a positive role in the life of the local community.	53%	39%	2%	0%	6%
The school / sgoil àraich works to ensure smooth transitions between stages e.g. nursery to P1 and P7 to S1.	51%	37%	0%	0%	12%
My child is able to use a range of digital technologies to develop his/her own ideas and assist in their learning.	51%	45%	0%	0%	4%

Responses indicate that over 90% of parents who returned their questionnaires have positive views about their children's enjoyment of school, their motivation to work, their abilities to identify their own strengths/needs, the safety and security of the learning environment, their children's positive relationships with school staff, the role of the school within the local community and their children's abilities to use a range of digital technologies.

This session, 39% of parents indicated agreement that they knew who the Child Protection Officer for the school was. This is one of the roles that the Head Teacher undertakes. This represents a significant improvement on the same statistic for Session 2017-18 and we will continue to address this through our communication to parents. We accept that this is something which could also be better communicated to parents of children who are just joining the school.

There are very well established transition procedures and events in place for children transitioning from Nursery into Primary 1 and also from Primary 7 into Secondary 1. This includes curricular transition work which is also carried out at these stages. With changes in staffing on an almost annual basis, we do accept that we need to get better at transitioning pupils between the stages where there are changes of class teachers. This is an area which staff are hugely aware of and have done their best to prepare pupils for.

SECTION 2 - ATTAINMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACROSS OUR SERVICES

Q4 - The questions in this section were designed to provide parents with the opportunity to say how hard they feel the school is working to improve children's levels of attainment.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school works hard to improve the attainment of its pupils.	47%	51%	0%	0%	2%
Our learners are successful and confident.	41%	53%	0%	0%	6%
Our curriculum promotes wider achievement and our pupils have wider achievements out-with the school.	43%	37%	2%	0%	18%
Our curriculum promotes wider achievement and our pupils participate in a range of out of school activities.	45%	41%	2%	0%	12%

Responses indicate that well over 90% of parents who returned their questionnaires agree that the school works hard to improve the attainment of its pupils and that the learners in Sgoil a' Bhac are successful and confident.

Some parents were less sure about the degree to which our curriculum promotes wider achievements out with the school and children participate in a range of out of school activities. Class teachers do regularly monitor the wider achievements of our pupils both in and out of school and we are confident that our pupils have good experiences which add to their wider achievement in a range of disciplines including sport, music, dancing and Gaelic related opportunities.

Q5 - The questions in this section were designed to provide parents with the opportunity to indicate the level of knowledge they possess about the school's improvement agenda and how it is reported to parents.

	Yes	No
I know that the school produces a Standards and Quality Report in May of each year.	61%	39%
I know how to access the Standards and Quality Report for the previous session.	41%	59%
I have read the Standards and Quality Report for the previous session.	41%	59%
I know that the school produces a School Improvement Plan in May of each year.	71%	29%
I am told when a new School Improvement Plan has been published.	75%	24%
I know how to access the current School Improvement Plan.	59%	41%
I have seen the school's current Improvement Plan.	59%	41%
I have received a copy of the School Improvement Plan Summary for Sgoil a' Bhac.	75%	25%
I would like to know more about the current School Improvement Plan.	47%	53%

Over 70% of the questionnaires which were returned indicated that parents were aware that the school produces a School Improvement Plan each year in May, that they are told when it has been published and that they have received a copy of the School Improvement Plan Summary. Though the majority of parents were also aware that a Standards and Quality Report was produced for the school each year the percentages were lower.

Approximately 60% of parents indicated that they had accessed the School Improvement Plan for the school, a copy of which is on the school website.

All parents receive a letter in Aug/Sept of each session with a copy of the School Improvement Plan Summary sheet. This document is also located on the school website.

SECTION 3 - HOW WELL DO CHILDREN LEARN AND ACHIEVE?

Q6 - The questions in this section were designed to provide parents with the opportunity to say how well they feel their children are learning in school, what they feel about children's levels of attainment and how well their children are achieving both in and out of school.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Class teachers provide my child with stimulating and challenging (not too easy or too hard) opportunities for learning.	68%	27%	5%	0%	0%
My child is given lots of opportunities to express his/her views about their work.	55%	41%	2%	0%	0%
I am kept well informed about all that my child is achieving in school.	59%	32%	7%	2%	0%
My child's teacher has high expectations for their attainment.	75%	21%	2%	0%	2%
My child's learning is progressing at a good pace.	52%	41%	5%	0%	2%
I am kept well informed about how my child is progressing through regular reports and parent-teacher meetings.	59%	30%	11%	0%	0%
The school listens to my child's ideas and opinions and works to act on them.	25%	41%	2%	0%	32%
The class teacher shares information about my child's attainment in a variety of ways.	41%	52%	7%	0%	0%
My child has the opportunity to select from a wide range of resources to meet their individual needs.	36%	52%	0%	0%	11%
My child finds the curriculum interesting and enjoyable.	43%	52%	5%	0%	0%
The school curriculum provides my child with opportunities to personalise and choose what they learn.	52%	32%	7%	0%	23%

A very high percentage of parents have expressed positive views about how well children are learning and achieving at Sgoil a' Bhac. This is comparable with the results from last year's questionnaire. Parents responses show that the vast majority feel that there are challenging and stimulating opportunities for learning to take place, that children are given lots of opportunities to express their views about their work, that class teachers have high expectations of the children they teach and that children find the curriculum to be interesting and enjoyable.

There was a decrease this session in the number of parents who indicated their satisfaction with the level of opportunities which exist for class teachers to inform parents of their children's progress. This is done through regular reporting and parent-teacher meetings and school staff are committed to ensuring parents receive regular up to date information about their children's learning. As the Local Authority is currently developing new systems for tracking and reporting to parents, it is unlikely that changes will take place to the current reporting systems or structures. Changes may be made as the Local Authority rolls out the work it is doing on tracking and reporting. In the meantime, class teachers will continue to look for ways in which they can share with information with parents about their children's learning.

A number of respondents indicated that they did not know the extent to which the school listens to children's ideas and opinions and works to act on them. The School's Pupil Council and Eco Committee play a large part in gathering the ideas and opinions of children in relation to school wide activities and improvements. In addition the Head Teacher meets with Pupil Focus groups regularly to gather children's views and opinions about a variety of matters and class teachers work with their own classes to gather their opinions and act on their ideas.

SECTION 3 - HOW WELL DO CHILDREN LEARN AND ACHIEVE? (Contd.)

Q7 - We also gave you an opportunity to comment further on how well your child learns and achieves in Sgoil a' Bhac.

27% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to twelve responses and included the following comments from parents:

- As parents we really enjoy getting our child's book of progress home every 2-3 weeks. It provides us with information on how he is getting on. It also helps us to support him and help him at home with any areas that need more work.
- My children are doing very well in Back School. Sometimes there is a lot of homework and it's hard to complete it before after school activities. We don't want to do it after!
- We don't see much about my child's work/progress. Not enough communication in the diary re spellings or anything!
- I ticked disagree for a statement because I feel we are not kept well informed about how our child is progressing. We have had one parent-teacher meeting since my child started school and received home the learning journey (I think it's called) only a few times (maybe twice). However, I do know I can ask the class teacher about this but feel she is busy enough so would feel a bit guilty asking her for this information on my child. If I had concerns, be sure I would though!
- My children have had positive experiences throughout their years in Back School. Great communication between school and home and very lucky with the teachers they have had.
- Would like more feedback on homework.
- My child's teacher provides the class with lots of opportunities and experiences. He continues to make very good progress across the curriculum due to the excellent teaching.
- My child's teacher has very high expectations and a very thorough understanding of her strengths and next steps. Homework could reflect my child's learning in class more and be more flexible (weekly) and active/stimulating (e.g. active tasks/games) At present it can still be quite laborious for children who should still be mainly learning through play.
- My child learns very quickly and enjoys the variety of topics covered and the range of different learning resources. My child is very confident in understanding areas in which they need to improve on and areas in which they are more confident in. The traffic light system works well for them.
- I think it's great that we get to see the children's learning logs and exceptional work that they have done e.g. pieces of writing. At times there has been too much pupil work coming home and looking for parental feedback and it was difficult to offer constructive comment on some of the work. I trust the teachers to show us our own child's best/worst work when necessary.
- Since meeting with the Head Teacher there has been vast changes at home and in school to the extent that our child received a busy bee award. Our child seems happier in school and talks to us about their time there in a positive way. It would be good if staff see negative and/or positive changes in a child's behaviour that parents are informed sooner as at home we may be so consumed by other difficult circumstances that we can be blinkered to the changes in front of us. It's not the school's responsibility but it would be good to work in a positive way with parents before it reaches the point of formal intervention.
- Both our class teachers set challenging work which enables our children to work towards and meet their high expectations.

SECTION 4 - QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH

Q8 - The questions in this section related to the themes around how effectively children are supported in their learning, both by teaching and non-teaching staff, other agencies and by systems and processes which are in place for pupils with additional support needs.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I am satisfied with the range of activities on offer in the Sgoil Àraich.	66%	33%	0%	0%	0%
My child is very well motivated when at Sgoil Àraich.	66%	33%	0%	0%	0%
The Sgoil Àraich staff interact very well with my child.	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
My child is encouraged to make decisions for him/herself when at Sgoil Àraich.	66%	27%	0%	0%	7%
My child talks enthusiastically about what he/she has been doing in Sgoil Àraich.	53%	40%	7%	0%	0%
The Sgoil Àraich staff share with me information about what my child has been doing in Sgoil Àraich.	74%	27%	0%	0%	0%

Responses indicate that a very high percentage of parents feel that Sgoil Àraich staff provide a wide range of activities for the children, that children are motivated when at Sgoil Àraich. Parents were positive in their agreement that the Sgoil Àraich staff interact well with the children and also communicate effectively with their parents about what they are learning.

Some parents did not feel that their children talked enthusiastically about being at Sgoil Àraich and this is an area we will seek to address to ensure that all our children enjoy their time of learning and are able to talk positively about being in Sgoil Àraich.

Q9 - We also gave you an opportunity to comment further on how well your child learns and achieves in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath

60% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to nine responses and included the following comments from parents.

- My child is picking up Gaelic very quickly and is happy at nursery.
- They are young children learning new skills without parental supervision. Playing and being happy should be the main aim at the youngest stage.
- My child is always happy when she has been to Sgoil Àraich. The staff have encouraged her to join in activities and she always tells me what she has been doing. I can always tell when they have been teaching the children new words and helping with her development.
- My child enjoys Sgoil Àraich very much and has a good relationship with the staff who are friendly and helpful.
- It is great for the children to spend time outdoors and I feel the Sgoil Àraich is fantastic at outdoor play.
- We are very happy with all aspects of the Sgoil Àraich. It will be even better if it gets extra hours in line with additional funding next year.
- Staff in the Sgoil Àraich are warm and welcoming. My child loves going and learning new things every day.
- The noticeboard with daily plans/tasks is a great addition and keeps me informed.
- My child loves Sgoil Àraich - the staff are wonderful, helpful, caring, informative.

Q10 - We asked people to grade the provision within the Sgoil Àraich in relation to the quality of children's experiences there. The results were as follows:

6	Excellent	<i>excellent</i>	74%
5	Very Good	<i>major strengths</i>	27%
4	Good	<i>important strengths with some areas for improvement</i>	
3	Adequate	<i>strengths just about outweigh weaknesses</i>	
2	Weak	<i>important weaknesses</i>	
1	Unsatisfactory	<i>major weaknesses</i>	

SECTION 5 - QUALITY OF CARE AND SUPPORT IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH

Q11 - The questions in this section related to the views of parents on the quality of the care and support your child receives in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I know who my child's designated Nursery Key Worker is.	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
My child is well cared for. (Physical / Emotional Care)	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
The Sgoil Àraich is warm and welcoming.	87%	13%	0%	0%	0%
The Sgoil Àraich is safe and secure.	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%
My child is happy in the Sgoil Àraich and looks forward to being there each day.	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
My views are listened to by staff.	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%

Responses in this section indicated that all parents were in agreement with the statements which were presented. A high percentage of parents found the Sgoil Àraich to be a warm and welcoming place to come into and felt that their children were well cared for by staff and that staff listened to them and took their views on board.

Staff will continue to work on making the Sgoil Àraich environment a place where children want to be and will continue to listen to parents and work in partnership with them for the benefit of their children.

Q12 - We also gave you an opportunity to comment further on the quality of care and support provided by the Sgoil Àraich staff in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

33% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to five responses and included the following comments from parents:

- A warm caring environment. I can walk away feeling my child is being looked after as if one of the play leaders own. Keep it up.
- In the past, when I have spoken with the staff, they always have my daughters well-being at heart when addressing any issues about her medical condition and aim to support her as much as possible in joining in physical activities.
- It isn't always secure in terms of the door being open and access to anyone but I like that it is easy for us as parents to get in and out. My child isn't a fan of loud, boisterous children so some days doesn't like it if they are in, but it is something he has to get used to and absolutely nothing staff can do about that.
- The staff are always welcoming and my child looks forward to going each day.
- Couldn't ask for any better. Very happy with service.

Q13 - We asked people to grade the provision within the Sgoil Àraich in relation to the quality of care and support that it offered their children. The results were as follows:

6	Excellent	<i>excellent</i>	80%
5	Very Good	<i>major strengths</i>	20%
4	Good	<i>important strengths with some areas for improvement</i>	
3	Adequate	<i>strengths just about outweigh weaknesses</i>	
2	Weak	<i>important weaknesses</i>	
1	Unsatisfactory	<i>major weaknesses</i>	

SECTION 6 - QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH

Q14 - The questions in this section related to the views of parents on the quality of the environment in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The Sgoil Àraich is very well resourced.	40%	53%	0%	0%	7%
The play environment is stimulating for children.	40%	53%	0%	0%	7%
The Sgoil Àraich is well laid out with different play areas within it.	53%	47%	0%	0%	0%
There is plenty of outdoor space for the children to play in.	53%	40%	0%	0%	7%
There are plenty resources for the children to play with in the outdoor spaces.	33%	27%	27%	7%	7%
My child benefits from the Sgoil Àraich children being split by age.	87%	13%	0%	0%	0%
My child benefits from the wider resources available to them within the school.	73%	27%	0%	0%	0%
My child enjoys going for walks or trips in and around the local community.	87%	13%	0%	0%	0%

Almost all parents agreed that the Sgoil Àraich is well resourced and that the play environment is stimulating for the children who attend. In addition almost all parents were of the view that there is plenty of outdoor space for children to play in at Sgoil Àraich.

All parents who responded were in agreement that their children benefited from the wider resources available to them as part of the school. Such resources would include access to primary teaching staff, specialist teachers, Gaelic Music instruction and access to the canteen and the gym. In addition all parents stated that their children love being outdoors and benefit from activities in the wider environment. Finally 100% of parents indicated their agreement that their children benefited from the playrooms being split by age with 87% of parents being strongly in agreement about this.

The majority of parents agreed that there were plenty of resources for children to play with in the outdoor spaces, but just over a third of parents disagreed with this. It is fair to say that the Sgoil Àraich is well resourced for indoor and outdoor play. However, a lot of the outdoor play equipment is stored in the Sgoil Àraich sheds and is taken out on a rotational basis. Weather dictates that it must be stored away. The bikes and trikes are stored in the storage shed at the rear of the school. These are taken out when needed but it is hoped that in the very near future we will have a purpose made storage unit at the front of the school so that the children may access the bikes and trikes more easily as part of their daily Sgoil Àraich routine.

SECTION 6 - QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH (Contd.)

Q15 - We also gave you an opportunity to comment further on the quality of the environment in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

47% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to seven responses and included the following comments from parents:

- I feel that there is a lack of outdoor play resources.
- External areas surrounding the Sgoil Àraich is very open. The gates are easy to open but I understand they are well supervised. They seem to lack equipment.
- My child LOVES the days he plays with the Primary children in the gym. And Music on a Friday is his favourite. It's great that they get access to the Primary. It will make the transition much less daunting.
- I was very pleased to hear that they take the children into the gym to play and also to have time outside as well.
- My child enjoys all aspects of Sgoil Àraich. In particular she enjoys any trips and playing/going for a walk outside.
- Sgoil Àraich is a bright, friendly environment, but I don't know what resources they have/lack so am unable to comment. Outdoor resources are minimal.
- I am aware that there are ongoing improvements to the resources available in the outdoor spaces which will improve the children's experiences.

Q16 - We asked people to grade the provision within the Sgoil Àraich in relation to the quality of the environment that it offered their children. The results were as follows:

6	Excellent	<i>excellent</i>	66%
5	Very Good	<i>major strengths</i>	20%
4	Good	<i>important strengths with some areas for improvement</i>	13%
3	Adequate	<i>strengths just about outweigh weaknesses</i>	
2	Weak	<i>important weaknesses</i>	
1	Unsatisfactory	<i>major weaknesses</i>	

SECTION 7 - HOW WELL DOES THE SCHOOL SUPPORT CHILDREN TO DEVELOP AND LEARN?

Q17 - The questions in this section related to the themes around how effectively children are supported in their learning, both by teaching and non-teaching staff, other agencies and by systems and processes which are in place for pupils with additional support needs.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Teaching staff work hard to support my child's learning.	82%	18%	0%	0%	0%
Non-teaching staff work well with my child to support his/her learning.	70%	23%	0%	0%	7%
I am provided with a good number of opportunities to work with school staff to review my child's needs.	41%	48%	7%	0%	5%
School staff are approachable and helpful and listen to my concerns about my child's education.	68%	32%	0%	0%	0%
School staff deal with my child's needs sensitively and effectively and treat my child with equality, fairness and respect.	61%	34%	0%	0%	5%
The School actively supports me in engaging in my child's learning in a meaningful way.	41%	50%	0%	0%	9%
The School takes account of my child's individual needs.	55%	36%	5%	0%	5%

Responses indicate that a very high percentage of parents feel that staff support their children well in their learning and also in their development. There were clear percentage increases from last sessions questionnaire in relation to the views of parents about how well non-teaching staff support their children, the number of opportunities provided to parents to work with school staff to review the needs of children and how actively the school supports parents with their child's learning. These results are very pleasing and staff will continue to ensure that they work closely in partnership with the parents of children in their classes.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The School involves me in my child's Action Plan, IEP or Co-ordinated Support Plan.	71%	21%	0%	0%	7%
My child has access to specialist support services as and when they require it.	71%	21%	0%	0%	7%
I have regular opportunities to meet with the school and specialist support services to discuss my child's needs.	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%
My child is involved in setting targets in his/her learning and (where applicable) Child's Plans/IEP's.	79%	14%	0%	0%	7%

14 of the total of 51 questionnaires received completed Question 18 which was only to be completed by parents of pupils with recognised additional support needs. This is a return rate of 27% of the total responses received. This is a fair representation of the number of children within the school who have recognised additional support needs and are on the staged intervention process.

It is pleasing to see that almost all parents who responded to these statements are in agreement about how the school involves them in the review processes for their children. We have a number of children with additional support needs and it is clear from the responses to the above statements that parents do feel well supported by school staff and participate willingly in order to set reasonable targets for their children, track and monitor their classwork and review their progress.

School staff have worked very hard to implement improvement methodologies within their classes and use arrange of strategies to meet the needs of all the pupils in their classes.

SECTION 7 - HOW WELL DOES THE SCHOOL SUPPORT CHILDREN TO DEVELOP AND LEARN? (Contd.)

Q19 - We gave you an opportunity to comment further on how well your child learns and achieves in Sgoil a' Bhac.

11% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to five responses and included the following comments from parents.

- My child's class teacher goes the extra mile with helping my child in areas where he struggles. Teacher is also a great help to us as parents sharing tips on what to work on at home.
- I find the staff very approachable and helpful. As neither of us have Gaelic we have found the homework difficult. We have found the staff very helpful when needed.
- My child is well supported in her learning and has made fantastic progress. More open days/opportunities to view her work would be appreciated. Learning Logs are fantastic and very insightful, although there is perhaps an over-emphasis on testing/timing for daily improvements—not always helpful for an overly anxious child— she can feel quite pressurised. More play based experiential learning would be brilliant.
- The teachers and assistants do a great job. They have enough on their plate without having to compose and prepare Learning Logs and other unnecessary time consuming items.
- As a parent, I find the sensory activity days and other opportunities allow me to be interacting with other parents and teachers and allows me to support my child in their learning.

SECTION 8 - QUALITY OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH

Q20 - The questions in this section related to the views of parents on the quality of the partnerships which exist between them and the Sgoil Àraich staff in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I am pleased with the curriculum on offer at the Sgoil Àraich.	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
I am kept informed of the topics being covered and of the daily activities which have been planned for my child	53%	47%	0%	0%	0%
My child enjoys the activities he/she engages in.	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
My child's needs are well catered for by Sgoil Àraich staff.	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
I know how my child is getting on in Sgoil Àraich.	60%	40%	0%	0%	0%
Sgoil Àraich staff share my child's pupil profile and record with me.	47%	40%	7%	0%	7%

Responses indicate that a very high percentage of parents feel that they are able to work in partnership with the Sgoil Àraich staff very well. In conjunction with Primary 1 staff, Sgoil Àraich staff have worked hard to develop the curriculum at the Early Level and it is clear from previous questionnaires that there is an improvement how parents view the partnership they have with the Sgoil Àraich staff.

Respondents views around the sharing of the pupil profile have shown the biggest improvement. This may be due to better sharing on the part of the staff or indeed a different parent group. However, Sgoil Àraich staff will make every effort to share the Pupil Profile with parents at least once a term, so that parents are clear about what their child is learning and how well they are progressing.

Q21 - We gave you an opportunity to comment further on the quality of the partnerships which exist between parents and staff in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

47% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to seven responses and included the following comments from parents.

- Staff are great at keeping parents informed.
- Notification of activities could be given a bit sooner.
- No complaints at all. Love the Sgoil Àraich.
- I have seen the Pupil Profile once.
- I am very happy with the staff and their care. However, I do not see it necessary to have such detailed reports when the child is at this age.
- We have enjoyed seeing all the photos of the children taking part in all sorts of activities.
- I have been given pictures that my daughter has made and have been given information on what new Gaelic words they are learning.

Q22 - We asked people to grade the provision within the Sgoil Àraich in relation to the quality of the partnerships which exist between parents and staff. The results were as follows.

6	Excellent	<i>excellent</i>	67%
5	Very Good	<i>major strengths</i>	27%
4	Good	<i>important strengths with some areas for improvement</i>	
3	Adequate	<i>strengths just about outweigh weaknesses</i>	7%
2	Weak	<i>important weaknesses</i>	
1	Unsatisfactory	<i>major weaknesses</i>	

SECTION 9 - QUALITY OF MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SGOIL ÀRAICH LOCH A' TUATH

Q23 - The questions in this section related to the views of parents on the quality of the management, leadership and quality assurance procedures which are undertaken in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The Head Teacher manages the Sgoil Àraich very well.	40%	40%	0%	0%	20%
The Play Leader leads activities within the Sgoil Àraich very well.	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
I am clear about the aims of the Sgoil Àraich.	53%	47%	0%	0%	0%
I am confident that the Head Teacher is sufficiently qualified and experienced to manage the Sgoil Àraich.	60%	33%	0%	0%	7%
I am confident that the Play Leader is sufficiently qualified and experienced to lead the Sgoil Àraich.	67%	27%	0%	0%	0%

Responses indicate that a high percentage of parents feel that the Sgoil Àraich is well managed by the Head Teacher and well led by the Play Leader, and also that both are sufficiently qualified to carry out their roles.

20% of parents indicated that they did not know how well the Head Teacher managed the Sgoil Àraich, with some parents stating that they had not met her. The Head Teacher does make an effort to regularly be around the Sgoil Àraich when parents are dropping off/collecting their children so they meet and get to know her, but with three intakes of new children every year, the Head Teacher is also conscious that she does not always meet parents of new children immediately and that it takes time to build relationships.

Q24 - We gave you an opportunity to comment further on the quality of the management, leadership and quality assurance procedures which are undertaken in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath.

27% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to four responses and included the following comments from parents:

- Play Leaders are fantastic, caring and approachable and always keep parents informed. My child loves Sgoil Àraich and the Play Leaders.
- I have never met the Head Teacher, therefore I am unable to comment on her.
- There are always plenty of activities for the children to engage in. I have confidence in the Play Leader's ability and in the Head Teacher to make sure the children are well attended to.
- Very happy with the Sgoil Àraich.

Q25 - We asked people to grade the provision in relation to the quality of the management, leadership and quality assurance procedures which are undertaken in Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath. The results were as follows.

6	Excellent	<i>excellent</i>	67%
5	Very Good	<i>major strengths</i>	33%
4	Good	<i>important strengths with some areas for improvement</i>	
3	Adequate	<i>strengths just about outweigh weaknesses</i>	
2	Weak	<i>important weaknesses</i>	
1	Unsatisfactory	<i>major weaknesses</i>	

SECTION 10 - HOW WELL DOES THE SCHOOL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ITS WORK?

Q26 - The questions in this section related to the themes around how effectively we engage, involve and communicate with parents. It evaluates the awareness of parents about the Parent Council and focuses on how well we evaluate our service and the quality of the service we provide.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The Head Teacher is approachable and helpful.	49%	41%	2%	0%	8%
I have a clear sense of the shared vision, values and aims of the school.	59%	41%	0%	0%	0%
I have the opportunity to work positively with the Parent Council and community groups.	39%	53%	2%	0%	6%
The Parent Council plays a positive role in supporting the school with its improvement agenda.	49%	49%	0%	0%	2%
My child's learning benefits from the school working with a range of partners (e.g Community Associations, An Lanntair, Local Museums and Places of Interest etc).	49%	43%	6%	0%	2%
I know who to contact at school if I need further information/ advice/guidance for my family relating to Literacy/Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.	47%	47%	2%	0%	4%
I am given opportunities to express my views about the school and to suggest ideas for improvement.	51%	47%	0%	0%	2%
The Head Teacher manages the school and its resources well.	53%	41%	0%	0%	6%

Almost all parents (over 90%) expressed positive views about how well Sgoil a' Bhac improves the quality of its work. In addition all of the statements with the exception of one in this section saw a percentage increase from when the questionnaires were issued last session.

Statements which saw the largest percentage increases from Session 2017-18 related to parents having a clear sense of the vision, values and aims of the school, how well they recognised the benefits to their children's learning through working with community partners and how effectively the Head Teacher managed the school and its resources.

Some statements indicated that parents did not know enough to agree or disagree with the statements and in order to address this we will endeavour to ensure all parents are aware of the different ways in which the school improves the quality of its work.

Q27 - We also gave you an opportunity to comment further on how well your child learns and achieves in Sgoil a' Bhac.

14% of respondents made further comments within this section. This amounted to seven responses and included the following comments from parents.

- My interaction with the school is only recent and I have found everyone helpful when I have needed anything.
- I have had to bring up concerns with the Head Teacher and her responses left me feeling very disappointed with the outcomes. I felt as if my concerns were not dealt with in the right way—very negative response.
- I think the school could still do more to work with the wider community and partners in terms of culture, art, local history etc though I think it has been developing links well with those parents who want to be involved through the DYW project.
- I find the HT very approachable and she sets an appropriate amount of time aside to meet with parents who have concerns. We are aware of Parent Council meetings but as of yet have not managed to attend, so although I am aware of it I don't as of yet understand the work of the Parent Council.
- Parent Council Working Groups are very active and have made a very positive contribution to the school's learning environment. Foyer and library are looking a lot more pupil friendly. Could children be taking books home from the library?
- I answered I don't know regarding the Head Teacher managing the school and its resources well. I assume she does and have no concerns, but I don't actually know for sure.
- The Parent Council have made excellent progress within their working groups this session. The school maximise partnership working for the benefit of the pupils and they have visited partners and have had excellent workshops at the school that my child has thoroughly enjoyed.

SECTION 11 - EXPECTATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Q28 - The questions in this section related to expectations and achievements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school sets high expectations of children's attainment, attendance and behavior.	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Children receive appropriate praise and their achievements are recognised.	57%	39%	2%	0%	2%
Children have high expectations of their own learning.	53%	41%	0%	0%	6%
We share achievements in school and with the wider community in a variety of ways.	55%	39%	0%	0%	6%
Relationships across the school are positive. We have shared values and a sense of community.	49%	43%	0%	0%	8%
Across the school, pupils are well behaved and show consideration to one another.	57%	35%	2%	0%	6%

Almost all parents expressed positive views about the expectations and achievements of the school for the children.

It is notable that some parents have responded with 'Don't Know' for some sections. Though the school can track that it has improved in these areas over a number of years, we will continue work to provide better information to parents about the statements in this question.

SECTION 12 - PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Q29 - The questions in this section related to parental involvement

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The School encourages parents to participate in their children's learning and education.	59%	39%	0%	0%	0%
We welcome parents communicating with us.	61%	37%	0%	0%	0%
I know how to make a complaint to the school.	43%	53%	0%	0%	4%
We provide parents with suitable opportunities to discuss their children's progress.	53%	39%	4%	0%	2%
The School's annual written report provides me with sufficient information about my child's progress.	22%	51%	14%	0%	12%

A very high percentage of parents expressed positive views about how well the school encourages parents to participate in their children's learning. This included how welcomed parents felt when communicating with school staff and also whether they had suitable opportunities to discuss children's progress.

A notable percentage of parents did not agree that the school's annual report provided sufficient information about their children's progress. Class teachers do share information about children's progress in a variety of ways with their parents. However, the written report does focus on targets and next steps for future learning.

Any parent who is unsure about the progress their child is making and who wishes to receive more detailed information should, in the first instance contact the class teacher to discuss their concerns. The Head Teacher is also available to speak to parents who wish to discuss concerns or issues they may have around their child's learning and appointments with her can be obtained via the School Office.

SECTION 13 - EXPECTATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Q30 - The questions in this section related to how effectively parents felt we used different methods of communication.

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Don't Know
School Letters	67%	24%	8%	0%	2%
School Website (https://bit.ly/sgoilabhac)	20%	29%	29%	6%	16%
Emails	33%	25%	24%	4%	14%
Social Media (Facebook/Twitter)	39%	27%	20%	4%	10%
Groupcall Text Messaging	47%	41%	6%	0%	6%

Respondents to this question indicated strong levels of satisfaction with the effectiveness of the school's communication methods. We recognise that parents have different preferred methods of communication and do not necessarily access all of the above which is why we continue to send out information using a range of methods.

SECTION 14 - THE PARENT COUNCIL AND THE PARENT FORUM

Q31 - The questions in this section related to the Parent Council and the Parent Forum.

	Yes	No
I know that I am a member of the Parent Forum.	61%	39%
I know that the Parent Council is elected from the Parent Forum annually.	75%	25%
I am aware of and understand the work of the Parent Council.	84%	16%
I am aware of the current membership of the Parent Council.	75%	25%
I know how to contact the Parent Council.	90%	10%

The majority of those parents who responded indicated a good awareness about the Parent Council and the Parent Forum.

Despite that, almost 40% of parents were not aware that they are a part of the Parent Forum and a quarter of respondents indicated that they were not aware that the Parent Council is elected annually from the Parent Forum.

The Parent Council meets at least once per term and all parents are warmly invited to attend and to hear first hand of its work. The membership of the Parent Council is published on the school website under the Parent Council tab and contact details for Office Bearers within the Parent Council can be located within the School Handbook, which is also found on the school website.

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

SECTION 15 - SELF-EVALUATION

Q32 - The questions in this section related to how effectively parents felt the school took on board their views and also evaluated its work and service.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I feel happy to express my views to the school.	55%	41%	4%	0%	0%
The school consults me about my views.	43%	49%	4%	0%	4%
I am aware that the school uses self-evaluation exercises to identify areas for improvement.	51%	45%	0%	0%	4%

Almost all parents provided positive responses to this question. It is clear from past questionnaires that the school has made improvements to allow parents opportunities to express their views about the school and the service it provides. However there are still some parents who have indicated that these are areas they don't know about or who disagree about feeling able to express their views to the school.

We would encourage all parents to make their views known to the school. School staff do listen to what parents would like but have to work within the constraints of regulations and do their very best to make changes in so far as they can.

SECTION 16 - OUR CAMPUS AND RESOURCES

Q33 - The questions in this section related to parents views about the school campus and the resources which the school has at its disposal for use with its pupils.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The school building is safe and fit for purpose.	35%	61%	0%	0%	4%
The school provides a stimulating environment through displays and organisation of public spaces.	53%	43%	4%	0%	0%
The school grounds are safe and fit for purpose.	27%	55%	16%	0%	2%
The school's access to computer technology is appropriate.	43%	45%	0%	0%	12%
School resources are fit for purpose and of good quality.	31%	51%	2%	0%	16%

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

A notable percentage have either disagreed with these statements or responded with 'Don't Know' A number of comments which have come in relate to the suitability of the outdoor space rather than the building. School staff are trying to address these issues through 'Grounds for Learning' initiatives with the support of the Parent Council who have set up a working group to try and move forward on the playground agenda.

External funding has been successfully applied for and though progress is slow, the Parent Council has supported the Head Teacher and staff in trying to make improvements which will benefit the children.

We will continue to work with the Parent Council Working Group on playground initiatives and will also try to better communicate to parents about the work which is ongoing.

SECTION 17 - OTHER COMMENTS

Q34a - We gave you an opportunity to state what your top three priorities for improvement in Sgoil a' Bhac in the coming session would be.

57% of respondents (20 respondents) made further comments within this question and a total of 42 suggestions were made by them. Many suggestions were the same or similar so we have not included every single comment but we have summarised them and grouped them together and identified what percentage of people felt these suggestions to be a priority for the school.

Playground and Outdoor Facilities

20 of the 42 suggested priorities for improvement (48%) related to the playground and the outdoor facilities. These included a variety of comments such as those shown below:

- Outdoor Learning Space and Resources
- Playground—more play equipment
- Resources—especially school grounds and pitch area.
- Security of the playground—there is nothing to stop a child from walking out of the exits—this is a big worry for us and of course anyone can walk in.
- Improvements to the football pitch. Long term. All weather pitch.
- More stimulus for older children in the playground.
- Outdoor Play areas
- Supervision at playtimes—we feel the children need to be watched closer.
- Playground improvements
- Improve the playground facilities. The bus is great and more like this would be welcome.

It is clear from the number of responses made in relation to making improvements in the playground that this is an area which continues to be very important to parents. During Session 2018-19 the school has worked with the Parent Council to make progress in providing loose part play in the playground and to set achievable targets. E.g. Grant funding was obtained from the Stornoway Trust to assist with this and plans are underway to repair the Polytunnel with a view to bringing it back into use with classes across the school. We do recognise that progress is slow but are bound by a number of regulations and have to work within these parameters.

Curricular Issues

11 of the 42 suggested priorities for improvement (26%) related to curricular provision. These included a variety of comments such as those shown below:

- More regular hands on practical and creative work. (cooking, computers, music etc)
- Focus more on Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.
- Coherent Homework Policy throughout school—time and activities—age appropriate and a more flexible approach.
- Stop favouring Gaelic over English Medium education. They should be treated equally.
- Art Lessons
- More open days to view children's learning and work over concerts - work alongside children in learning tasks.
- Specialist teachers more regularly i.e. music
- Inform parents of subjects and lesson plans and how we can be helping our children learn.
- Gym Equipment
- Greater range of learning experiences within the school environment—we have been lucky that our children have benefited from some great trips but these seem to depend on individual class teachers motivation and drive.
- Music Lessons

It is pleasing to see that curricular issues are high on parents priority list. Teaching staff are constantly working on developing the curriculum in order to ensure that children in Sgoil a' Bhac get the best possible learning experiences. Curriculum development remains at the heart of the School Improvement Plan. The delivery of an improved Technologies programme was part of the School Improvement Plan in Session 2017-18 and the improvement of the Expressive Arts was part of the School Improvement Plan for Session 2018-19. Teaching staff will continue to review curricular areas and make improvements for the benefit of the children.

SECTION 17 - OTHER COMMENTS (Contd.)

School Meals

2 of the 42 suggested priorities for improvement (5%) related to the provision of school meals. These included the following comments:

- Improve the canteen menu. Choices are not particularly healthy.
- A wider school dinner variety

Communication

2 of the 42 suggested priorities for improvement (5%) related to communication from the school to parents. These included the following comments:

- Communication re events - giving parents enough time to get organised.
- Better use of social media - e.g. reminders for free dress day

The School uses a range of communication methods and will continue to do so as outlined in Section 13—Communication.

Other Suggestions

The remaining seven suggestions for improvement related to a variety of different things across the school. These comments are all listed below.

- Further support and develop the Parent Council Working Groups
- Indoor areas for children at break times
- More outings
- Greater community involvement
- More parking for safe drop off/pick up
- Permanent After School Club
- Less emphasis on out of school activities as it puts unnecessary pressure on parents and children alike.

Parents have clearly come up with good ideas for improvements across the school The senior management team will raise these with staff at staff meetings and also where appropriate with the Parent Council in order to try to effect some changes across the school.

Where it is felt that it would be beneficial and possible to incorporate some of these suggestions into school life we will commit to consulting with parents, staff and/or pupils about what they would like to see in the school and we will communicate the results of any consultations back to the wider school community.

Q34b - We gave you an opportunity to comment further on what you feel Sgoil a' Bhac does well and could do better. A number of responses were made:

45% of respondents (23 respondents) made further comments about what Sgoil a Bhac does well, whilst 35% of respondents (18 respondents) made further comments about what Sgoil a' Bhac could do better.

In the interests of space we have not included every single comment but we have included on the next page comments to cover all the themes which were raised from the questionnaires.

SECTION 17 - OTHER COMMENTS (Contd.)

What does Sgoil a' Bhac do well?

- ◆ Lovely School Ethos
- ◆ Friendly, approachable and helpful staff who are welcoming
- ◆ Quality of teaching and support staff (Sfl Assistants, office staff, cleaning staff, catering staff) who are excellent—very hard working
- ◆ High expectations of pupils.
- ◆ The teachers work very hard in the classroom to keep the pupils interested and challenged.
- ◆ Supportive environment and good mixing of year groups in activities such as Masterclass, Sgoil Àraich and P4 gym sessions.
- ◆ Educational trips and class outings
- ◆ Very good understanding of children's strengths and development needs.
- ◆ Very good opportunities for parental involvement - e.g. involving parents with children's work
- ◆ Keeping parents informed about their child's progress/ strengths/ improvement needs
- ◆ Curricular Projects including Art and Music projects
- ◆ Letting children have a say in their projects.
- ◆ Engaging with the community
- ◆ Well mannered children
- ◆ Experiential learning - Provision of a range of opportunities in and out of class.
- ◆ Participation in national events and days
- ◆ School assemblies and church involvement.
- ◆ Communication - keeps parents well informed via school letters/newsletters.
- ◆ Outstanding concerts and panto's - improving child confidence
- ◆ Very good, hardworking Parent Council.
- ◆ Golden Time Incentives
- ◆ Learning Logs shared frequently
- ◆ The Sgoil Àraich is very well run.
- ◆ Sgoil Àraich involvement and transition to school.
- ◆ Open to new ideas (e.g. allowing the reception area to be renovated)
- ◆ Care for pupils
- ◆ Daily Mile - Keep doing it.
- ◆ Recognition of children's achievements

What could Sgoil a' Bhac do better?

- ◆ Communication via social media—less notes in schoolbags as these sometimes get forgotten about.
- ◆ Communicating timely.
- ◆ Improve layout of website and update more frequently
- ◆ More opportunities for outdoor learning.
- ◆ Have staff outside in the playground before school starts.
- ◆ Better poverty proofing—too many requests for money especially for class enterprise projects—why not try campaigning enterprise projects instead?
- ◆ Less pressure/timed assessments in Early Years and more focus on play based experiential approach.
- ◆ Provide healthier meal options - change the canteen menu and ask parents for ideas so you can better cater for children's preferences.
- ◆ Treat English and Gaelic medium equally - it seems as though English education is treated as second class.
- ◆ Sports Day could do with being a bit longer to fit everything in.
- ◆ After School Clubs
- ◆ Playground security
- ◆ Prizegiving
- ◆ Better outdoor area for playing sport
- ◆ Informing parents not just of negative behaviour but where hard work has been put in, inform us of any positive changes so we know if we're on the right path.
- ◆ Involve parents in more open days.
- ◆ Less homework—children are working all day in school.
- ◆ Better facilities for older kids in playground.
- ◆ Not all children are academic but try hard and should be treated equal and not in the background.
- ◆ Lengthy newsletters—could be briefer/concise
- ◆ Poverty Proofing—not asking for too many donations at one time.
- ◆ Less paperwork for parents to fill.
- ◆ Management of traffic at school on arrival and departure.
- ◆ Community Events—Fun Day etc
- ◆ More opportunities for children to engage with wider community

Responses to the question "What does Sgoil a' Bhac do well?" were broadly positive and covered a wide range of aspects of school and Sgoil Àraich life. Parents expressed positive views about staff-pupil relationships, the quality of learning and teaching, the ethos of the school, the experiences that school staff provide their children with, communication and parental involvement. Positive comments were also received about the care that staff extend to the children and events that the school puts on for its pupils, parents and the wider community.

Responses to the question "What could Sgoil a' Bhac do better?" also covered a wide range of aspects of school life. A number of comments related to the provision of school meals in the canteen, communication, better use of social media, poverty proofing, the provision of After School Clubs, playground security, traffic management, and homework.

We will commit to looking at the suggestions made by parents and try to improve our practices and systems in these areas.

SECTION 17 - OTHER COMMENTS (Contd.)

Q34c - Finally, we gave you an opportunity to make comments about any other aspects relating to the life of the school.

25% of respondents (13 respondents) made further comments about other aspects of school life.

- I think suggestion boxes for classrooms are a good way for children to communicate ideas and problems which are not easy for them to speak directly about. Encourage openness wherever possible.
- My children are really happy at Back School. They feel secure and comfortable (in fact one said recently that “there are no bullies in Back School. Everyone is nice!”) They are challenged to reach their full potential by teachers who know their individual characters and learning styles and who seem to be bringing out the best in them. Thanks for all your hard work.
- Unsure about the benefit of Pupil Led Evenings. Many pupils already have after school commitments and I feel Pupil Led Evenings are an added pressure on pupils, staff and parents.
- Overall, the school is providing a stimulating, challenging and nurturing learning environment for pupils where achievements are recognised and celebrated and pupils are provided with a broad curriculum. Class teachers are hard working, methodical and caring but could provide a more ‘fun/age appropriate’ introduction to school with alternative ways of measuring progress without formal testing and putting pressure on the child.
- Masterclass—children really enjoy it but it seems a lot of time is lost to it. Three days per term plus teacher planning time. I’m not convinced the educational benefits of them justifies the time devoted to them. I’m not suggesting stopping it—just decreasing the amount/frequency.
- Prizegiving is outdated. It seems to be awards that were issued when the school had a secondary. Also too small to warrant a Dux award. Always seems to be a couple of pupils sitting on the stage that receive nothing—quite sad actually.
- I don’t agree with teachers communicating via Apps or Groups. I think it is unfair to parents who may not have the compatible devices.
- It may be of benefit to have something like a beginner’s guide for parents who have children going into Primary 1 for the first time. Perhaps some of us are more anxious than others.
- High standards of teaching within the school. We are very happy with our school—no problems.
- Opportunities for all (GM and EM) to engage in cultural learning experiences i.e. The Mod.
- As my child is only in Sgoil Àraich, I feel I can’t really comment on improvements but she is always happy so I have no concerns at the moment.
- My child has additional support needs and the staff have gone above and beyond to meet his needs. The lines of communication are fantastic. We are always kept informed. We are extremely grateful to the staff for all their hard work.
- The school foyer looks good—more like a primary school.
- I would like more equality between English and Gaelic as Gaelic seems to be pushed more.

SECTION 18 - STRENGTHS & ACTION PLAN

STRENGTHS

The survey responses have indicated the following strengths:

- ◆ *The school / sgoil àraich is a safe, secure and pleasant place to be and to learn in.*
- ◆ *The vast majority of pupils enjoy school / sgoil àraich, are motivated and eager to learn and are able to identify their own strengths and needs.*
- ◆ *Relationships within the school / sgoil àraich community between pupils, parents and staff are positive in all cases.*
- ◆ *Staff within the school work hard to improve the attainment of its pupils and the pace of learning is very good with all parents recognising that staff set high expectations for pupils.*
- ◆ *Teaching / sgoil àraich staff work hard to support children's learning and meet their individual needs appropriately.*
- ◆ *Almost all parents considered the quality of care and support and the quality of the environment in the Sgoil Àraich to be very good.*
- ◆ *Almost all parents feel that they are kept well informed about their child's learning through reports, parent-teacher appointments and parent evening events and are encouraged to be partners in their children's learning.*
- ◆ *Almost all parents found school / sgoil àraich staff to be helpful and approachable and considered that staff dealt with pupils sensitively and effectively.*
- ◆ *Almost all parents found the Head Teacher to be approachable and helpful and considered that she managed the school and the sgoil àraich well.*
- ◆ *The majority of all parents were aware of the work of the Parent Council in supporting the school and were aware of how to contact members of the Parent Council.*

PROPOSED ACTIONS

Action Points
Further develop tracking systems across the school and monitor the progress and attainment of all children in all curricular areas.
Continue to work on improving communication methods about different aspects of school life.
Ensure that all parents are informed about the publication of school documents such as Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan and School Handbook.
Work to extend the range of parental engagement opportunities which exist for parents to be partners in their children's learning.
Continue to work with the Parent Council to realise improvements in the school grounds and the opportunities which exist for play and for outdoor learning.
Complete work being done in conjunction with the Parent Council to modernise the school library and make it fit for purpose in a primary school.
Look for further opportunities to make provision of After School Clubs.
Ensure that parents and pupils and staff are encouraged to express their views about the school and about the learning that is ongoing.
Make further use of the School Website and our Facebook page in order to inform parents and the wider community about different aspects of school life.