



## **Sgoil an lochdair Parent Council Meeting** **Thursday 26 January 2023 at 6pm**

**PRESENT** Joan MacDonald – Head of School  
Mel Butler - Chair  
Martin Butler – Treasurer  
Donna Wilson – Secretary  
Louise McBride – Parent  
Robert Currie – Parent  
Bellina Currie – Parent  
Mairi MacAulay - Teacher

### **APOLOGIES**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. School Improvement Plan**

The school have a standards and quality improvement plan which reflects on work that is being done and planning for the next year. Joan is to submit a standards and quality report draft in March and a school improvement plan draft in May.

The school improvement projects are on parental engagement and Gaelic which can also be linked well together. Joan notes that the nursery staff are also involved in this. There are two groups who are looking at the different areas of the plan.

2 examples of projects as part of the plan are;  
Cothrom Chomhradh agus Cluich

As part of the schools community engagement project the school have had retired members of the public coming in to the school to meet with pupils. The next event is coming up soon. This supports both the Gaelic and Community engagement agenda.

Sradagan

This is held in Balivanich but is open to all children across Uist and the group have been in contact with Ceolas to look at offering a Gaelic class for parents while the club is on.

There is a draft plan in place for next year which will look at transitions between nursery to school and primary to secondary and RME. As part of refreshing the curriculum there will be a focus on RME which also links to work being done this year. Children have a statutory right to have religious education and the school have been using multi-denominational classes in English and Gaelic.

Parent Feedback

The school use questionnaires which will be used to plan next steps in the plan.

Joan has shared the visual of the current Improvement Projects on the school website but the group present agree that it would be beneficial to share the whole document on the website. Joan will update the plan with the feedback from John Daffurn, Attainment Advisor with Education Scotland for CnES and then publish on the website.

#### **2. Curriculum Rationale**

Joan shared the Sgoil an lochdair curriculum rationale summary. This will be circulated with the minutes.

Joan will invite parents in to form a working group to look at the curriculum rationale, sometime between now and the summer holiday.

### **3. First Aid Training and Child Protection**

#### *Child Protection*

Christina MacWilliams was going to try and organise CP training for the football club and Joan was hopeful that the youth club could attend too. Christina is now on leave. Joan is able to provide some child protection training and this can be offered to youth club and football coaches.

Child Protection Session – Wednesday 01 February at 5:30pm.

#### *First Aid*

Joan has been in contact with Fiona MacInnes-Begg who has provided details for Tim Pickering who will be in Uist 25 April for kayaking for the school but will also be able to offer first aid training in the evening as part of his other role. Joan suggests letting groups know and have a couple of members nominated per club. Donald MacAulay was also suggested as a possibility.

### **4. Parent Council Chairs meeting**

Mel will be attending this meeting with other school chair members and will provide feedback on this at the next meeting.

### **5. P7 school trip**

Primary 7 pupils from all four Uist schools will be staying in the Carronvale boys brigade house in Larbert. DA travel will be transporting the pupils away via Mallaig and returning Lochmaddy. There was a meeting today to discuss the program and activities such as Edinburgh zoo, Parliament, dynamic earth, fountain park, laser quest and a trampoline park were all discussed but not confirmed. Each school can then decide what activities they would like to do.

Estimate:

- £800 ferry £2000 bus £7000 accommodation £800 activities

This will be split between 41 pupils. lochdair school have already raised the funds for their pupils.

Car wash

As lochdair have already reached their total the carwash in May could be the first initial fundraising for P7 pupils next year.

### **6. Treasurer update**

There is no update until a recognised signatory is in place. Fiona Macaulay is going to go to the bank and will get in contact with Ann. Mel will discuss this with Fiona.

### **7. CCTV**

No update.

### **8. E-Safety**

Internet Safety Day Tuesday 07 February.

### **9. Rights respecting schools**

lochdair have a bronze certificate which you receive when you initially sign up. There have been delays moving this forward due to Covid. There will be an accreditation visit from Mary Clare Ferguson and Jenny Price in May which will be online. They will be looking to speak to pupils within the rights respecting schools committee as well as members of staff and potentially parents.

### **10. Healthy Schools Award**

Mairi Macaulay runs the health and wellbeing committee and lochdair school received a gold award a few years ago but due to delays and changes since covid they haven't been re-accredited yet. Sports Scotland have created a new assessment tool and Mairi is liaising with Heather Mackinnon, active school's coordinator with the assessment and are going to create an action plan together to keep the gold certificate. The school are covering a lot of areas already but the action plan will focus on building on these areas further such as parental involvement, interhouse competitions and recognising achievements.

### *Bike training*

Primary 6 and 7 pupils will complete bike ability in May. There will also be cycle leading training which Mairi and Oni are trained in, this might be useful for other staff members and if parents would like to get involved this could be used at youth club.

### 11. **DILEAB**

There will be community events to mark the 100 year anniversary since the Marloch set sail from Lochboisdale to Canada. The Comhairle are helping the school with the history and heritage and have organised for Catriona Black to come into the school to work with the older pupils.

Gillebride Macmillan has written a new song and the children will be involved in learning this with support from Peigi and Amy Mackay and John Joe MacNeil. There will be more details available soon of the events to take place on Saturday 15th April.

### 12. **AOCB**

No other competent business.

### 13. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 25 April at Sgoil Lionacleit 6pm.





**Sgoil an Iochdair Curriculum Rationale Summary**

**Cànan, Cultar, Coimhearsnachd, Cruthachail eachd**

Ethos - valued, respected and included  
 To support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a supportive, caring, happy and purposeful environment

**What makes our school unique?**

- Our Gaelic Language Ethos
- Our Island Culture & Heritage
- We are at the heart of our community Benbecula & South Uist
- Our Creativity - Music, Drama,
- Our History - Built in 1952
- Our talented pupils
- A committed staff team



**Partnerships**

- Active Schools
- Blythswood Care
- Ceòlas
- Children's Parliament
- E-Sgail
- Fèisean nan Gaidheal
- Local clergy
- Local Fèisean
- Mòd Uibhist
- Parents
- Parent Council
- School Gardener
- School Nurse
- Sgoiltean Uibhist
- Tagsa
- Tobar an Dualchais

**Local & National Guidance**

- Getting It Right for Every Child
- Gaelic First Policy
- Developing the Young Workforce
- Raising Attainment
- Equity and Excellence
- Closing the Gap
- Global Citizens
- Digital Literacy and E-Safety

**Principles of Curriculum Design**

- Challenge & Enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation & Choice
- Coherence
- Relevance



**Pupil Voice**

- **Pupil School Improvement Group** - Pupil Council and House Captains/Vice Captains
- Rights Respecting School Committee
- Eco-Committee
- Health & Wellbeing Committee

**Entitlements**

- Coherent 3-18 curriculum
- Gaelic Education - GLE, GME and learning about Gaelic language and culture
- Personal support
- Skills for learning, life and work



**Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)**

*This is proven to boost learning outcomes and enthusiasm around learning and allow pupils to think critically and link their learning to real life contexts.*

**Learning through the Life & ethos of the school**

Buddies, Daily Mile, Dubhlain Dihaoine, Committees, Fun 31

**Opportunities for Personal Achievement**

*Their are regular weekly, termly and annual opportunities*

Sgoillear na Seachdain, Rionnag Na Gàidhlig & Sàr Sgrìobhadair

Assemblies, Class Talks

School and Inter-school sports & festivals

**We prioritise**

- Wellbeing of all
  - Safeguarding and child protection
  - Self-evaluation and accountability
  - Professional Development
- to support our pupils and staff**

**Assessing learning & planning next steps using:**

- Progression pathways
- Benchmarks
- Assessment is for Learning (AiFL)
- Teacher Judgement based on achievement of a level, range of holistic, summative & formative assessments
- Collaboration and Moderation - CLPL to continue professional learning and development
- Regular self-evaluation - individually and collaboratively
- Pupil Voice—Big Questions—Visual Planning Wall
- SeeSaw Parents Evenings & Annual Reports

**Planning learning activities using Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes in:**

- Literacy and English/Gàidhlig Language
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Health & Wellbeing
- Expressive Arts
- Religious & Moral Education
- Modern Languages
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Technologies