

# **Dunoon Grammar School**



## **Area Committee Report**

**February 2015**



**School Profile 2014/2015**

**School Name** Dunoon Grammar School  
**School Address** Ardenslate Road, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8LU  
**Head Teacher** David Mitchell

**Overview**

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	% change in Roll over 5 years
Roll (as at census)	947	894	871	824	775	-18.2%
Clothing and Footwear Grant (number of pupils)	95	95	95	110	168	
Clothing and Footwear Grant (% of number of pupils)	10.0%	10.6%	10.9%	13.3%	21.7%	
Clothing and Footwear Grant (%) - Authority Average <sup>A</sup>	6.90%	7.56%	8.51%	9.54%	15.60%	
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	129	no data	123	127	121	
Free School Meals (% of number of pupils)	13.6%	no data	14.1%	15.4%	15.6%	
Free School Meals (%) - Authority Average	10.2%	0.0%	13.1%	12.0%	10.8%	
Free School Meal - National Average for Secondary Schools (%)	14.4%	15.2%	15.4%	15.5%	not yet collated	

## Attendance, Absence and Exclusions<sup>1</sup>

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Range of Attendance (%) over 4 years <sup>B</sup>
	<b>Attendance:</b>					
Attendance (% of school roll)	90.4%	92.0%	91.3%	91.9%	92.0%	
Authorised Absence (% of school roll)	6.0%	6.1%	5.7%	4.8%	5.3%	
Unauthorised Absence (% of school roll)	3.5%	1.9%	2.9%	3.2%	2.6%	
Attendance Number of Pupils (%) - Authority Average	92.5%	93.3%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	
Attendance Number of Pupils (%) - National Average	93.1	not collated	93.6	not collated	not yet collated	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>14/15</b>	
<b>Exclusions:</b>						
Exclusion Openings	260	165	208	180	74	
Exclusion Incidents	61	56	67	65	24	
Number of Pupils	45	44	46	33	18	
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils	64.4	62.6	76.7	78.9	30.5	
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils - Authority Average	61.1	51.5	51.4	37.2	22.9	
Exclusion Incidents per 1000 pupils - National Average	40	not collated	32.8	not collated	not yet collated	

### SQA Performance<sup>3</sup>

	<b>Intermediate 1 *</b>			
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	492	527	368	72
Number of passes Grade A-C	408	397	291	58
% of number passes Grade A-C	82.9%	75.3%	79.1%	80.6%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	79.8%	78.9%	79.5%	72.8%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	77%	78%	79%	73.5%

	<b>Intermediate 2 *</b>			
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	569	586	577	247
Number of passes Grade A-C	423	466	471	165
% of number passes Grade A-C	74.3%	79.5%	81.6%	66.8%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	81.1%	79.1%	80.5%	70.7%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	82%	82%	83%	78.1%

	<b>National 4 **</b>			
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
Number of passes	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes Authority Average	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes National Average <sup>4</sup>	No National 4 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			

	<b>National 5 **</b>			
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
Number of passes Grade A-C	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes Grade A-C	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>	No National 5 presentations across 10/11 - 12/13			

## SQA Performance

	Higher	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries		440	435	420	444
Number of passes Grade A-C		334	333	319	340
% of number passes Grade A-C		75.9%	76.6%	76.0%	76.6%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average		75.9%	76.2%	77.6%	76.9%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>		77%	79%	79%	77.6%

	Advanced Higher	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
Number of Entries		22	19	24	20
Number of passes Grade A-C		18	16	20	14
% of number passes Grade A-C		81.8%	84.2%	83.3%	70.0%
% of number passes Grade A-C Authority Average		75.5%	85.2%	79.3%	79.0%
% of number passes Grade A-C National Average <sup>4</sup>		81%	82%	84%	81.5%

**School Leaver Destination Returns (SLDR)\*\*\***

Measure	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Number of Total Leavers	185	154	176	136	
Number of Young People entering Higher Education (%)	33.5%	39.0%	35.2%	34.6%	
Number of Young People entering Further Education (%)	28.6%	27.9%	29.5%	22.1%	
Number of Young People entering Training (%)	4.9%	1.9%	4.0%	4.4%	
Number of Young People gaining Employment (%)	23.2%	18.2%	20.5%	24.3%	
Number of Young People gaining Voluntary Work (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	
Number of Young People entering Activity Agreements (%)	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	2.2%	
Number of Young People - Unemployed Seeking (%)	9.2%	10.4%	6.3%	11.0%	
Number of Young People - Unemployed Not Seeking (%)	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%	0.7%	
Number of Young People - Unknown (%)	0.5%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%)	90.3%	87.0%	92.6%	88.2%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%)	9.7%	13.0%	7.4%	11.4%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%) Authority Average	89.8%	90.1%	92.5%	91.0%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%) Authority Average	10.2%	9.9%	7.6%	9.0%	
Total number of young people in a Positive Destination (%) National Average	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%	92.3%	
Total number of young people in Other Destination (%) National Average	11.1%	10.1%	8.6%	7.7%	
					Data not yet collated

## Footnotes

<sup>A</sup> Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) is not shown as a National Average as each authority set their own criteria and therefore cannot be compared accurately. Please note that 2014-2015 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (start of January 2015) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

<sup>B</sup> Please note that Attendance and Exclusion data can only be compared over a 4 year period as academic session 2014-2015 is not yet complete and therefore the data for these years may change. The 4 year percentage change compared 4 full years.

\* 2014/2015 is the last academic year that Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 qualifications will be offered as part of the SQA diet of examinations. They have been superseded by National 4 and National 5. Standard Grade qualifications were offered for the last time in 2012/2013 and were superseded by National 4 and National 5.

\*\* 2013/2014 was the first year National 4 and National 5 Qualifications were offered as part of the SQA diet. Therefore no performance data is available prior to this date.

<sup>1</sup> Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2011/2012 or 2013/2014 academic year.

<sup>2</sup> Authorised absence includes bereavement, short – term exceptional domestic situations, religious observance, weddings of immediate family. Unauthorised absence includes truancy, unexplained absence and most family holidays during term time. Attendance and absence is outlined in Management Circular 3.03.

<sup>3</sup> SQA Performance data was collected on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for all data. The data was collected from SEEMIS Vision. Information previously provided in the SQA Authority Analysis 2014 report for Committee differs slightly to information provided here in order to ensure consistency of approach in collating data for comparative purposes.

<sup>4</sup> Results up to and including 2012/13 national percentages were sourced from the Annual Statistics Report 2013 (available only as whole percentages). National percentages for 2013/14 came from Attainment Statistics (December) 2014. Both documents produced by SQA.

\*\*\* SLDR data is published by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of The Scottish Government. The year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July each year and the data was collected on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in October each year. The data shown in this profile is the initial data collected.

- Higher Education includes HNC, HND and Degree courses
- Further Education includes Access, NPAs and Highers
- Training includes Employability Stage Funds 2 and 3 (previously called Get Ready for Work)
- Employment includes Modern Apprenticeships and any employment over 16 hours per week
- Voluntary includes Barnardos, Oxfam, Red Cross and community based volunteering
- Activity Agreements are for young people who are furthest removed from employment/training/education that are receiving mentoring support from a Trusted Professional
- Unemployment includes those young people who can't work through ill health, are caring for others or are pregnant

National Averages for FSM, Attendance and Exclusions have been taken from Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.4 | 2013 Edition, 11th December, 2013 (amended 11th February 2014).

## Session 2014-15

- **New Daily Structure**

On the 12th August 2014 the school's normal operating hours changed to an asymmetric week (31 periods).

### **Our new weekly times**

***Monday - Wednesday 8.45am-3.45pm    Thursday - Friday 8.45am-2.40pm***

We now offer a wide range of activities for our pupils particularly on a Thursday and Friday. We offer a number of supported study sessions and we have increased our extra-curricular provision.

There was a minor issue with transport from Tighnabraich on a Monday morning. I met with a group of parents to discuss the best way forward. We now offer a breakfast club for Hostel pupils.

A full evaluation will take place at the end of January 2015.

- **Communication**

We have strived to improve communication links from the school to parents and the community

- Dunoon Observer
- School Website
- School Facebook page
- Monthly Newsflash
- Praise letters to pupils
- Text messaging
- S4 reporting pilot – monthly reports



- Curriculum Design

We have been focusing on developing our curriculum to meet the needs of our all pupils. A number of visits have been made to Secondary Schools that have been identified by Education Scotland as having a very good or an excellent curriculum. We have now confirmed our S1-S3 Curriculum (Broad General Education). We are now developing our Senior Phase (S4-S5)

### S1 Curriculum

Curricular Area	Language and Literacy	Maths & Numeracy	Social Subjects	Science	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Health and Wellbeing	RWPS							
Subject	English	Modern Languages	Maths	Geography History ModernSt	Biology Chemistry Physics	Art and Design	Drama	Music	Design and Tech	IT	PE	Home Ec	PSE	RE	
Number of periods	4	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1

### Interdisciplinary learning topics

### S2 Curriculum

Curricular Area	Language and Literacy	Maths & Numeracy	Social Subjects	Science	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Health and Wellbeing	RWPS						
Subject	English	Modern Languages	Maths	Geography History ModernSt	Biology Chemistry Physics	Art and Design	Drama	Music	Design and Tech	IT	PE	Home Ec	PSE	RE
Number of periods	4	4	4	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1

### Interdisciplinary learning topics

### S3 choices

Curricular Area	Languages	Social Subjects	Science	Expressive Arts	Technologies	Health and Wellbeing	Free choice
Subjects to select from	French German Gaelic	Geography History Modern Studies RMPs	Biology Chemistry Physics	Art and Design Drama Music	Design and Manufacture Graphic Communication Computing Science Business Management Administration and IT	Physical Education Home Economics	2 x any subject Includes Rural skills & Childcare

### End of S3

Pupils moving into S4 will select 7 subjects to study at National Qualification level. All learners will study English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy. Learners will then select 5 other subjects. Alternative opportunities will be on offer during the option process.

## **2014-15 School Improvement plan**

Our key areas for improvement/focus during session 2014-15

- Learning and Teaching, Self-Evaluation, CFE Development, Professional Learning (Staff input), Parental Communication (Parental input), Meeting pupil's needs and to promote pupil voice and involve pupils in the life of the school.

### **Action taken so far**

- We have introduced a Learning and Teaching staff working group to identify areas for improvement.
- We have developed a Communication charter. This led to a parental communication leaflet being introduced.
- A professional learning calendar has been introduced to support teaching and non-teaching staff
- An annual parental, staff and learner questionnaire has been produced. This will be completed in January 2015. This will be an annual event. The findings from these questionnaires will help support the school improvement plan.
- A number of whole school support events have been held for staff and parents i.e. dyslexia input. 42 parents attended.
- More choice available for our young people. EXite, John Muir, work placements
- House councils have been established however, more development work is required.

## Some highlights from session 2014-15

We held the Karra Downrie Fun run in memory of Karra.

Karra sadly passed away in August 2013. We raised £210,000



Dunoon Grammar School was visited by Lab in a Lorry

The Lab in a Lorry provided pupils with an enriched learning experience through relevant real life applications with a fun hands-on approach.



Pupils from Dunoon Grammar School again played a key role at a significant

International Reception hosted by Education Scotland at the City Chambers, Glasgow this year.

The reception was part of the Scottish Learning Festival, an annual exhibition and conference at the SECC, Glasgow that attracts thousands of education professionals to attend and discuss education innovation and share effective approaches to learning.

The Dunoon Grammar School Pipe Band and Highland Dancers entertained a distinguished audience consisting of educationalists from across the globe



We introduced a merit system this session. Staff award merits to pupils who produce a good piece of work, consistently perform well in class, contribute to the wider school and general good Conduct. The top 30 pupils are rewarded with a coffee morning. A reward trip is being arranged for the top 60 pupils throughout the whole year.



Dunoon Grammar School was visited by Dylan Kerr, former Leed United and Kilmarnock footballer. He spent the day delivering assemblies and coaching some of our young people. Dylan spoke about his career highs and lows and encouraged all our pupils to follow their dreams and be all they can be.



On Wednesday 29th October a group of pupils from the S3 Numeracy project attended a Challenge Day at Clydeview Academy. . The pupils spent the day working in teams, made up of both schools, trying to solve logic puzzles and problem solving questions. Pupils from both schools worked very hard to be part of the winning team but with only two unsolved puzzles and more than half of the problem solving puzzles correct the winning team included Briège Liddell and Evan Meyer-McDonagh. Each member of the team received an iTunes voucher for their effort. It was a very successful day and we hope to host the Clydeview Academy pupils in the future. This event was set up as part of the ongoing partnership introduced with Clydeview Academy.



Two teams from S5 and S6 had a great time in Stornoway at the BT Alba Debate, the national debate for pupils who speak Gaelic. Nuála Neary, Eilidh Noble, Orla Campbell and Emma Mundell did their very best of the stage. The young people also had the opportunity to visit the Callanish Standing Stones and to explore all that Stornoway has to offer. We're all looking forward to next year when we'll have another opportunity to take part in the debate.





The Scottish Night that took place in DGS on Saturday 1st November was a great success. Well done to our pupils Eilidh Noble, Katie Bicket, Orla Campbell and Lauren Davie who helped organise the event and a big thank you to Miss Howitt and Mrs Ross for all their efforts. We were also joined a two of the Red Hot Chili Pipers.



Arran Downie, Keir Low, Leighann Stirling, Chloe MacDonald and Scott Mackinnon made the trip to Edinburgh to take part in the planning for the Young people's summit. The Children and Young People's summit will take place early next year



Our School Captains took part in this year's Remembrance service. DGS was represented by Arran, Fiona, Keir, Leighann, Scott, Chloe, Kenneth and Simone. Our young people are pictured with Councillor McQueen, Glenda Wilson and Alan Reid MP



**We raised over £1000 for Children in Need**



The Library was delighted to welcome a second visit by award-winning local author, Cathy MacPhail, following on her very popular visit last year. We are already anticipating the third one! Mrs MacPhail spoke to two sets of third year pupils from their English classes, as well as the second year Creative Writing Group members



In June 2013, a number of pupils from Dunoon Grammar School joined together to create a short film to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking. The film was called 'The Last Cigarette' and was made by passionate drama students along with the help of David Hayman's film company, Shooters and NHS Highland. A year later, it has been revealed that 'The Last Cigarette' has been awarded not one but two prizes as part of the British Heart Foundation No Smoking Day 2014 competition. The movie scooped the Best Media Coverage and the Unusual/Innovative Event categories of the prestigious UK wide awards.

## **SCHOOL CHARITY SONG SPARKS CELEBRITY STIR ON CYBERSPACE**

Dunoon Grammar School song for War Child a hit on Social Media. Pupils in Dunoon Grammar School celebrated the success of a song released to commemorate the centenary of World War 1. Arlene Mackechnie (15) and Abigail Pryde (17) from DGS published a version of Eric Bogle's iconic song 'No Mans Land' on Social Media on Remembrance Day, 11 November, 2014 – a version of the song that Eric himself has described as 'truly truthful and emotive'. Many celebrities shared the song on their twitter feeds including Jools Holland, Eddie Reader, John Mackay (STV News), ex-Scotland captain Colin Hendry, former First Minister of Scotland Lord McConnell, Dougie Vipond, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nick Nairn, Christopher Brookmyre, Graham Speirs, Jim Gellatly and Jonathan Watson. The highlight for the pupils was a message of good luck from Judy Murray. Judy took time out from starring on BBC's Strictly Come Dancing to congratulate the pupils.

## **DGS S6 PUPILS VOLUNTEER TO HELP DUNNOON FOOD BANK**

S6 pupils from Dunoon Grammar School kindly volunteered to help with Cowal and Dunoon Food Bank. The pupils organised a collection from school pupils and staff. They also helped at the collection points. Our pupils remain involved with this project.



Our Senior Christmas Ceilidh was a great night.

The pupils danced from the start till the end of the night. It was by far, the best school Christmas ceilidh the school has ever had.

Staff agreed that this was the best school dance they had ever attended





The S6 pupils were served their Christmas lunch by members of the Senior Leadership Team.



Our School panto was great



Our pupils were given a special treat at the end of term. We hosted a staff Vrs pupils "I'm a celebrity" show. A number of staff then took to the stage to take part in a karaoke competition. The pupils had the opportunity

A group of pupils had the opportunity to travel to Edinburgh to see the musical Wicked.

to vote for the best.