



Tìree High School
(Pre-5 Unit, Primary & Secondary
Departments)
**Standards & Quality
Report**
Session 2014-2015



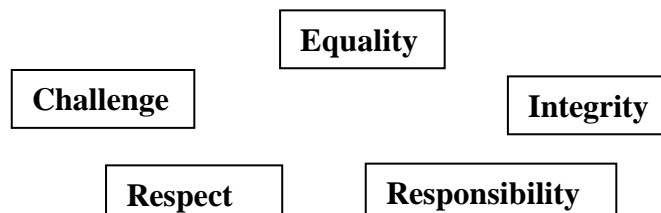
Pre 5 visit the local Heritage centre

Tìree High School
Aiming for Excellence

In the context of 'Curriculum for Excellence'¹ and supported by our values of Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, Equality and Challenge, our aims are:

1. To continue the development of courses using teaching and learning methods which enable all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability
2. To continue to provide varied and enriching opportunities for pupils to develop and practise skills outwith the classroom
3. To place a high value on developing positive, responsible and caring attitudes which allow pupils to leave school confident of finding a meaningful place in society

The values we hold in Tìree High School



¹ Visit www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hgiosjte

Progress of School Improvement Plan

Session 2014/2015 showed continued progress and improvement across the school and considerable development towards Tíre High School's Curriculum for Excellence.

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE):

Broad General Education (BGE) Pre5 - S3

Senior Phase: S4-S6

Pre-5 Education

- Continuing developments to outdoor learning opportunities resulted in the Garden Project where children focussed on growing produce and constructed their own



scarecrows to help protect their crops.

The children enjoyed watching their caterpillars grow and were excited to see the adult butterflies released when they emerged.

- Wellbeing indicators are now in use routinely in discussion with children and with their parents.
- Revised structure for reporting to parents is working effectively with planned programme of parental conversations throughout the year. Feedback from parents is very positive with all saying they prefer the dialogue to a written report.
- As part of our ongoing parental consultation, questionnaires have now been issued for most of the Care Standards. This has resulted in amendments to our procedures in light of feedback received.
- Following the introduction in December 2013 of Gaelic Medium sessions in our Pre-5 unit, there has been considerable development and provision of Gaelic resources for our youngest children. The children about to enter P1 in August have experienced 18 months of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and the uptake of GME in P1 is higher than previously seen with 12 of the 15 new P1 children entering the GME stream.
- As part of whole school improvements in Curriculum Development, Pre 5 staff attended training events and adopted *Plan Do Review* ladders as the first step towards Floorbook use, making planning more integral with new topics sparked by pupil responses.

Broad General Education (S1-S3)

- To include more opportunity for pupil choice in the curriculum and to provide more opportunities for wider skill development, an activities afternoon has been built into the secondary curriculum. Activities are organised in blocks of 6-8 weeks and pupils choose from 2 or 3 options in each block. Activities provide opportunity to develop skills less frequently experienced through subject curriculum. Feedback from pupils has been very positive and teachers report that young people engage more positively with the learning and take more responsibility for achieving goals.

- A number of new interdisciplinary learning (IDL) were introduced in both Primary and Secondary departments during session 2014-2015. Learning tasks are created and amended depending on the interests, abilities and mix of age and stage within a teaching group. Feedback from each IDL task is taken to colour future planning. The Tiree Tour was reintroduced this session and we were pleased to receive very positive feedback and appreciation from our 'Tourists'. The tour was heavily oversubscribed this year with the bus full and as many people again wishing to take part. The growing skill and confidence of our young people is evident in these learning tasks.



Tiree Tour



Senior pupils prepare Food Heaven or Hell for staff



Mr Rossiter tucks into Food Hell



Restaurant 'Italiano Tiree' – exclusively open for one day only



Skills are being developed throughout the curriculum and we follow a Plan, Do, Review method to undertake challenges. Skill development is tracked and recognised through ASDAN certification. All pupils in S3-6 received ASDAN Awards at Silver or Gold level in 2015. All pupils are more aware of the importance of skill development, when and how they are developing skills, how they can use their skills in future and in different contexts and they have better language to describe the skills developed.

Curriculum for Excellence: Senior Phase

- All subject courses at Higher (H) were successfully completed and students presented for examination in all available subjects.
- New courses have been prepared in several subjects at Advanced Higher (AH).
- In light of feedback from 2013-2014, adaptations were made to delivery of National 5 (N5) and National 4 (N4) courses. Presentations were made at these levels across the curriculum.

On-Track

- To fulfil Curriculum for Excellence requirements for supporting children's learning, daily opportunities for young people to discuss their learning with a key member of staff were introduced for all pupils from Primary 1 to Secondary 6 in August 2014. All young people have regular discussions with the teacher while other pupils in the group undertake a range of planned activities covering aspects of health and wellbeing, literacy and religious and moral education.

Feedback from most of the young people and staff has been positive. Primary pupils from the earliest stages are able to describe their learning, talk about their strengths and areas for development and set targets for themselves. They appreciate the attention given by the teacher and enjoy their learning conversations.

Most Secondary students recognise the value of the On-Track sessions and value the opportunity to have a discussion about their learning and progress. Aspects of feedback have given us areas to consider for improvement.

Skillsbook

- The Argyll & Bute Skillsbook resource was rolled out to all Secondary and upper Primary pupils from August 2014. Young people record their achievements, set targets, and receive feedback from staff using this resource. They can access their Skillsbook pages from home and parents have been informed so that they can access Skillsbook with their own child. Pupils have opportunities to enter information during their ON-Track sessions but can access at any other times as they wish.

Skills for Work

- At all stages in the school more emphasis has been placed on skills for work from Pre 5 visits to local workplaces and visits from various people in their work role to work experience placements in the senior phase.
- In computing classes vocational contexts have been introduced in learning about databases e.g. Travel Agency and in maths pupils learn about income tax and payslips as they develop their understanding of mathematical processes. In Gaelic



Pre 5 welcome the firefighters

lessons, N4/5, H and AH courses all have World of Work units. New Gaelic booklets based on jobs have been used with Higher class and career posters are on display.

- In Music a Career Wall displays opportunities for career development.

Outdoor Learning

- During session 2014-2015, considerable improvement was made in increasing the level of outdoor learning across the school.
- Pre 5 children learned about growing things and how to help protect their plants and animals during their garden project.
- Primary children studied invertebrates by finding them in the school grounds and also learned about erosion of the machair by visiting our beaches.

- S1-3 pupils completed a task over a number of weeks where they studied 'The land beneath our feet'. The local Countryside Ranger was very helpful working alongside students during this project. This task involved working with local Discover Tìre representatives who challenged the young people to design, construct and install a sign for visitors to the island. The sign has now been installed at Balevullin beach to inform and advise about beach use.



Tourist sign installed at Balevullin Beach



- S1-3 pupils also undertook an RME project which was supported by the local minister and Church of Scotland Youth Worker when they visited local sites of religious significance e.g. standing stones, 'pulpit rock' and St Patrick's Chapel

- Swimming which previously has been an occasional activity was introduced to the core PE curriculum. With no pool on Tìre, swimming lessons took place in the loch. This was only possible with the cooperation of Wild Diamond Surfing who lent wetsuits and supported the activity and Tìre Development Trust who funded a swimming instructor to support our PE teacher. Almost all pupils from P1 to the senior stages took part in the swimming activities. We see all of our young people developing greater confidence and many, greater skill in the water.



S1-3 Water Polo 'Tìre Style'

- Core PE activities have involved many more outdoor experiences with considerably more challenge. One of the choices for activities afternoons involved trying out new



physical challenges. Pupils spent afternoons playing golf and shinty and also tried all terrain biking.

The challenging cross-country course brought great efforts from all participants and was greatly enjoyed by the large team of volunteer community helpers on the day.



- S1/2 pupils spent a week enjoying outdoor activities at Ardentenny where they took part in canoeing, gorge walking and mountain biking



- S5 students faced the Winter Mountain Challenge in Glencoe in February where difficult weather conditions increased the challenge significantly.

Wider Achievement

- For the second time in succession both 1st and 2nd prizes in the Chief Executives Art Competition came to Tíree and we welcomed Sally Loudon to the school to present the awards to our pupil recipients.



- Our S1/2 pupils were all required to form a team to enter the hockey competition at the Youth Games and excelled themselves by coming in as runners up in their competition.

- Charity Fund-Raising
The school continued to support a range of charities during the session with various activities raising funds for Comic Relief, Children in Need, Marie Curie Cancer Care, RNLI, Musgrove Leukemia Group, Trussell Trust



Red Nose Day

Mod Success

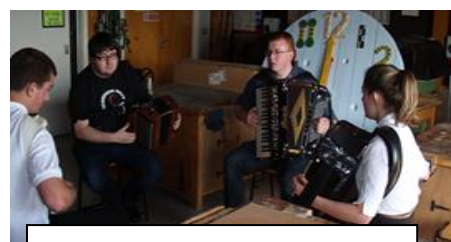
Three of our primary pupils entered singing competitions at Mòd Dhailriada in Lochgilphead:

Rowan Zeinu won her class: Solo Singing Girls 11-12 and was awarded the Donnie Campbell Memorial Cup for highest marks between two competitions. Finlay MacKinnon was third in his class: Solo Singing Boys, 9-10 years. Innes MacKinnon's score placed him in the middle of his class: Solo Singing 8 years and Under.

In Secondary Kathleen MacKinnon came first in the Royal National Mod's literary section for 16-18 year olds.

Working with Partners

We were fortunate to welcome the winning performers from BBC radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year who ran a series of workshops for our young people. It was particularly heartening to see as one of the winners a former pupil, Ian Smith on accordion.



Ian's accordion workshop

Bookbug

Gaelic Bookbug sessions have been running in the school for some time ably led by a community volunteer. Stories are enjoyed by children and adults alike and sessions are proving to be very popular.

The Scottish Referendum

Funding provided by Tìree Development Trust allowed our senior pupils to attend the Big Debate in The Glasgow Hydro prior to the Independence Referendum. This was a great experience for our students which otherwise would not have been possible.

BBC Alba

This session the FilmG group planned and scripted their film around the school, highlighting the differences and unique qualities and aspects of education in Tìree's remote rural school. The final product was an informative and interesting 'pupil view' of their school.