

OUR CHILDREN...



THEIR FUTURE...

Community Services: Education

Primary Area Report: Helensburgh and Lomond

Introduction

The Helensburgh and Lomond area has eleven primary schools and Parklands School providing specialist education for pupils of both primary and secondary school age. Nursery provision is provided within five of these schools and nine partners providers.

This report provides a range of key information about the schools in the area and highlights some of the wide and varied range of activities our young people have been involved in during session 2016-17.

The Standards and Quality report to Community Services, 14 December 2017 provided elected members with important information on the progress made in relation to education within all of Argyll and Bute.

Most recently (March 15, 2018) the Community Services Committee paper – The National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education, provided an overview of the Primary achievement in Literacy and Numeracy for P1, P4, P7 in Argyll and Bute, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) Levels 2016/17.

Additional and more detailed information about each school can be found in the school's Standards and Quality Reports. In addition each school's Improvement Plan outlines its main priorities for improvement. Most schools have an active website where these documents can be accessed and further links or information can be obtained from the Head Teacher.

Primary School Profiles:

Helensburgh and Lomond

* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
Arrochar Primary School	64	59	62	65	60	-6.25
Cardross Primary School	183	176	176	157	164	-10.38
Colgrain Primary School	253	256	271	287	305	20.55
Garelochhead Primary School	89	83	84	100	110	23.6
Hermitage Primary School	381	398	398	399	377	-1.05
John Logie Baird Primary School	167	170	167	159	151	-9.58
Kilcreggan Primary School	75	86	89	82	90	20
Luss Primary School	19	16	9	7	7	-63.19
Parklands School	14	16	20	24	22	57.14
Rhu Primary School	179	194	206	211	221	23.46
Rosneath Primary School	85	91	87	86	88	3.53
St Joseph's Primary School	181	190	189	184	178	-1.66
Total Roll for cluster	1690	1735	1758	1761	1733	2.54

¹ Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 and is not an average.

- The rise in primary pupil placements at Parklands has directly impacted on the rolls of other schools from which pupils have been placed

Number of pupils at each SIMD level in each cluster area											
Cluster	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Bute	14	51	113	138		47		28			391
Cowal	109	83	77	200	305	124	15				913
H&L	54	94	114	4	347	43	339	295	348	121	1759
Islay & Jura	10			43		144	19				216
Kintyre North				1	1	98					100
Kintyre South		92	90		157	96	88	2			525
Mid-Argyll	10	1		49	44	220	187		1		512
Mull						124		83			207
OLI	35	20	159	39	127	438	254	188			1260

- The SIMD data for HALCO shows that 8% of primary aged pupils are in the two most deprived deciles and 27% in the least deprived two deciles.

Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Helensburgh & Lomond Cluster

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18²
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	287	255	270	218	223
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	17.0%	14.7%	15.4%	12.4%	12.9%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1096	1113	891	801	875
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.2%	14.6%	13.8%	14.89%
	13/14	14/15	15/16³	16/17	17/18²
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	225	198	216	186	177
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	13.3%	11.4%	12.3%	10.6%	10.2%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	898	856	675	666	581
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	15.8%	14.8%	11.1%	11.5%	9.9%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	20.6%	55.3%	54.1%	53.4%	Not yet collated
National Average for Free School Meals for P4-P7 only (%)	Not collated	Not collated	19.2%	17.9%	Not yet collated

² 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 2017-2018 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2018) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

³ On 5 January 2015, the Scottish Government launched the extension of free school meals eligibility to include all children in primary 1-3.

National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Healthy Living Survey 2017'

- The numbers of pupils receiving a clothing grant or a free school meal is significantly lower than the national average over the past five years and has fallen again in 2017-18.

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Helensburgh and Lomond Cluster

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17⁶	17/18⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	96.02%	95.25%	95.60%	95.12%	96.04%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.81%	0.89%	0.89%	0.94%	0.68%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.40%	95.87%	95.52%	95.60%	95.27%
Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	0.87%	0.89%	0.98%	1.09%	1.03%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated	Not yet collated	Not collated
	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17⁷	17/18⁷
Exclusion Openings	30	7	19	25	0
Exclusion Incidents	5	2	4	8	0
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	14.9%	4.8%	38.8%	25.8%	0%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	8.1%	5.9%	30.8%	27.6%	0%

⁴ 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.

⁵ Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2013/2014 or 2015/2016 academic year. It was collected at the start of 2017/2018 session for 2016/2017.

⁶ Please note that attendance data for 2017-2018 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

⁷ Please note that exclusion data for 2017-2018 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

National Averages for Attendance have been taken from Attendance and Absence 2016/17 - Supplementary Data – March 2018.

- Attendance is fractionally above the Argyll and Bute average for all primary schools.
- Unauthorised absence is lower than in the rest of Argyll and Bute.
- There have been no incidents of exclusion this session.

Achievement of a level data June 2017

CLUSTER	STAGE ROL L	STAGE	ELT	ER	EW	N	ROLL	GLT	GR	GW
BUTE	59	P1	88%	76%	73%	88%				
	49	P4	88%	76%	71%	76%				
	57	P7	77%	58%	68%	47%				
COWAL	118	P1	82%	73%	71%	77%	*	83%	83%	83%
	127	P4	76%	70%	62%	65%	*	100%	0%	0%
	103	P7	67%	60%	49%	50%	*	60%	20%	20%
HALCO	254	P1	97%	94%	91%	93%				
	252	P4	92%	85%	81%	84%				
	232	P7	93%	83%	78%	85%				
ISLAY AND JURA	24	P1	100%	92%	79%	75%	*	100%	100%	100%
	34	P4	74%	68%	65%	71%	*	80%	80%	80%
	32	P7	88%	75%	72%	69%	*	100%	100%	100%
MID ARGYLL	72	P1	85%	78%	65%	83%				
	74	P4	84%	84%	72%	74%				
	83	P7	77%	70%	55%	65%				
MULL AND IONA	25	P1	52%	48%	40%	44%	*	25%	25%	25%
	28	P4	79%	75%	64%	93%	*	43%	43%	43%
	32	P7	88%	88%	69%	88%	*	100%	50%	50%
NORTH KINTYRE	17	P1	76%	76%	76%	76%				
	12	P4	50%	58%	58%	58%				
	18	P7	72%	78%	72%	50%				
OLI	162	P1	80%	79%	80%	80%	14	100%	93%	86%
	171	P4	79%	75%	67%	74%	10	100%	100%	70%
	141	P7	84%	84%	75%	87%	*	43%	57%	57%
SOUTH KINTYRE	69	P1	78%	78%	74%	78%				
	83	P4	73%	65%	59%	60%				
	68	P7	74%	76%	66%	69%				

NOTES:

ER English reading, EW English writing, ELT English Listening and talking N Numeracy

GR Gaelic reading, GW Gaelic writing, GLT Gaelic Listening and talking.

* Pupil numbers are suppressed

The data highlighted in green indicates that this is above the national average for this stage and curricular area.

- Pupils in P1 and P4 have outperformed the national average in all areas with the exception of P7 writing and numeracy.
- Curriculum for Excellence expectation or benchmark is that 75% of pupils will achieve the level appropriate for their stage. Due to the small sample size it is important to note that the data may vary considerably from year to year and that caution should be used when making comparisons between schools or with national data.
- The path most children and young people are expected to follow through the above levels reflects the stages of maturation and how they engage with learning as they develop. Some children and young people will start

learning at these levels earlier and others later, depending upon individual needs and aptitudes.

- The table below outlines the National expectations of when most children and young people may achieve each level:

CfE Level	Stage
Early	The final two years of early learning and childcare before a child goes to school and P1, or later for some.
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some.
Third and fourth	S1-S3, but earlier or later for some.

Further information

2018 National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education –

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/2018-national-improvement-frameworkimprovement-plan/>

Achievement of CfE Levels 2016/17 document -

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529096.pdf>

National Improvement Framework – 2017 Evidence Report -

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/national-improvement-framework-scottisheducation-2017-evidence-report/>

Early Years Update

Early Learning and Childcare

Children and families within Helensburgh and Lomond access Local Authority Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) - offered as either a morning or afternoon session.

ELC is also provided by Voluntary and Private operated groups in addition to Local Authority Services. The 3rd sector are in a position to provide 'wrap around' Childcare for Parents who wish to purchase hours to allow them to work, attend college etc.

Community Childminding is a service which is provided for children following a referral from Health or Social Work; it is designed to be an early intervention to support families predominately for children aged less than 3 years. Partner Childminders can also provide ELC for eligible children aged 2 years.

Proposed expansion of ELC

The Scottish Government is proposing to increase the number of ELC funded hours to 1140hrs per year from 2020. At present, children aged three and four and some two year olds access 600 hours of ELC per year. An ELC Delivery Plan has been developed to plan the implementation of 1140 hours of ELC in Argyll and Bute. As part of this plan, a survey was carried out to find out what parents wanted to help shape future provision in Argyll and Bute. A total of 577 parents responded, with 58% of parents showing a preference for ELC provision which follows the school year – eg. a pattern of provision which follows the school day during term time. 40% of parents wanted ELC provision across the year – both within the school term and during the holidays. This data was used to inform the development of the proposed Argyll and Bute ELC delivery model.

Local Authority Proposed ELC Delivery Model

When developing a service model for ELC for local authority provision, the following elements were taken into consideration:

- The needs of parents and families within ELC clusters across Argyll and Bute.
- The sustainability of partner providers which provide much valued wraparound childcare within the towns and surrounding areas of Argyll and Bute.
- The sociodemographic profile of each of the ELC clusters.
- Projected economic development within ELC clusters.

This information was gathered through a robust mapping exercise within each of the localities of Argyll and Bute. It was then used as a basis for proposing two service models for local authority ELC expansion:

Model One - ELC provision which matches the school day, offering term time provision and totalling 30 hours per week – this model will be used in smaller settings where it would not be financially viable to open for extended hours. This model will also be used if there are partner providers within the local area which already offer wraparound ELC provision and there is sufficient capacity to meet local need

Model Two - ELC provision which runs from 8.30 – 5.30 every day, throughout the year, offering flexibility of uptake– this model will be used in larger local authority settings where there are no partner providers offering wraparound ELC within the local area and there is a demand for such provision.

Phasing Delivery of ELC By 2020

It is important to ‘test’ the expansion of ELC prior to implementation in 2020. As stated in previous reports, the Scottish Government is funding two 1140 hours trials in Argyll and Bute – one in Tobermory and one in Tiree. Additional capital and revenue funding from the Scottish Government will be utilised to phase increased ELC hours to a range of settings across Argyll and Bute over the next three years.

Again we looked at the following elements in planning to phase our expansion of ELC within Argyll and Bute:

- The needs of parents and families within ELC clusters across Argyll and Bute.
- The sustainability of partner providers which provide much valued wraparound childcare within the towns and surrounding areas of Argyll and Bute.
- The sociodemographic profile of each of the ELC clusters – using the SIMD profile of each nursery.
- Projected economic development within ELC clusters.
- Availability of workforce.

Plans for the phased expansion of ELC also include the use of partner providers, local authority providers and childminders when increasing provision to 1140 hours. So far, clusters of settings within Bute and Cowal and Mid Argyll have been used which have met the criteria listed above and were ready to begin implementation with minimum changes to provision. Within the Helensburgh and Lomond area, there is a higher number of partner providers, including childminders, which have the potential to offer parents a wider range of ELC options than in other areas of Argyll and Bute. There is also further work to be done to ensure the expansion of ELC within local authority providers does not have a negative impact on the sustainability of partner providers and childminders, which offer valuable wraparound and 0-3 provision to families in those areas. Provision within the Helensburgh and Lomond area will be included in future ELC phasing plans.

Next Steps

Plans are in place to phase in the expansion of ELC to more settings across Argyll and Bute in preparation for full implementation in August 2020. However, this will be dependent on receiving the appropriate funding from the Scottish Government.

For more information on expansion of ELC in Helensburgh and Lomond, please contact Ailsa Dominick – ailsa.dominick@argyll-bute.gov.uk

For further information on expansion of ELC across Argyll and Bute, please contact Alison MacKenzie-alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Workforce Development

The Early Years Service offers all practitioners free access to a wide range of professional development training – ranging from centrally based training days in Inveraray to support sessions within and across ELC settings.

We also held a number of CPD courses locally across Helensburgh and Lomond:

- Paediatric First Aid
- Bringing Picture Books to Life
- Literacy and Numeracy Twilights
- Childminder Network Meetings

In addition to the above CPD opportunities, the Early Years Service offered local training around Bookbug and held 'Bookbug Explorer Effective Gifting' sessions in Helensburgh.

Building Our ELC Workforce

The Service is currently working in partnership with Argyll and Bute's Learning and Development Team, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and secondary schools across the local authority to deliver a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People (SSCYP). There will be 10 places available initially, starting in August 2018. Timetabled into students' choices for S5 and S6, year 1 will comprise 5 units towards the national progression award and year 2 will include nursery placements for 1 day each week.

A bid has also been submitted to SDS to deliver 6 Modern Apprenticeships in SVQ3 (SSCYP). Commencing in August 2018, this will be offered as a two year apprenticeship where students are supernumerary and paid a salary as they work towards their Practitioner qualification within Local Authority nurseries. In future years, if a student successfully completes the Foundation Apprenticeship in S5 and S6, he or she could subsequently complete the Modern Apprenticeship in one year. The Early Years Service will also be working with Argyll College and the Council's Lead Officer 16+ to raise the profile and attractiveness of the sector and actively increase diversity.

For more information on EY Workforce Development and Transitions, please contact Linda Bugar – linda.bugar@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Family Learning

The following regular family groups are on offer by the local authority to parents across the Helensburgh and Lomond Area:

- Roots of Empathy (delivered within some schools in the Helensburgh and Lomond Area to children in Primary 1-3).
- Bookbug.
- Psychology of Parenting Programme (PoPP).
- 'Tea and a Blether' parent and child sessions.
- 'Messy Play' / 'Active Play'.
- 'Meet and Eat' – intergenerational sessions.

For more information on Family Learning in the HALCO area, please contact Jeanette McGourlay – jeanette.mcgourlay@argyll-bute.gov.uk

ELC - Learning and Development

As part of the Education Strategy 'Our Children, Their Future', the Argyll and Bute 'ELC Learning and Development Framework' has been developed to provide strong and consistent guidance on learning and development from birth through to a child starting school. Every setting and childminder has been issued with this guidance and providers are encouraged to use this tool as part of their self- evaluation, along with 'Building the Ambition' and 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare?' Members of the central support team use the Framework as a key document as part of their support visits, focusing on 'Environment', 'Experiences' and 'Interactions'. Data is also used to analyse the quality of provision with progress being tracked through 'Care Inspectorate' and 'Education Scotland' inspections. Twice a year the local authority gathers data in relation to 4 year old children's progress within their developmental milestones, and this is used to target resources more effectively. Teams are being trained in the use of improvement methodology to support their own improvement journeys – being clear about how they know a change has led to an improvement.

As well as tracking progress in children's learning outcomes, practitioners in nurseries also track each child's progress within their developmental milestones. We know that most children achieve their milestones as a matter of course. However, some children might need a little extra help or time to achieve theirs. The milestones we track are:

- Social, emotional and behavioural
- Speech and language
- Cognitive and sensory
- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills

The Early Years Service gathers data twice a year to find out how children are progressing within their milestones. In Helensburgh and Lomond, the data shows us that 43% of our four year olds had already met all of their developmental milestones by the end of December 2017.

There are currently 14 settings which provide ELC throughout Helensburgh and Lomond. At present 86% have been graded '4' (good) or above as a result of Care Inspectorate inspections.

For more information on ELC Learning and Development, please contact – Kathleen Johnston – kathleen.johnston@argyll-bute.gov.uk April 2018

Teaching and Learning

Health and Wellbeing

Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Learning through health and wellbeing enables children and young people to:

- make informed decisions in order to improve their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing;
- experience challenge and enjoyment;
- experience positive aspects of healthy living and activity for themselves;
- apply their mental, emotional, social and physical skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle;
- make a successful move to the next stage of education or work;
- establish a pattern of health and wellbeing which will be sustained into adult life, and which will help to promote the health and wellbeing of the next generation of Scottish children.

Seasons for Growth

Seasons for Growth is a loss and grief peer-group education programme to support young people aged 6-18 years who are affected by change, loss and grief. Again this session a number of courses have been delivered in schools in partnership with Education staff, Youth Work, Royal Marine Royal Welfare Team and our MOD pupil support worker to ensure learners develop resilience, personal growth and acceptance of change in their lives.

Athlete

On Tuesday 26th September, Rhu Primary welcomed Christ Bennett, GB Hammer Throw athlete, to work with pupils and inspire them to achieve their own goals in life. Chris led an afternoon fitness session for all pupils. achievements. As part of the school ethos, in which they are keen for all pupils to be fit and active as well as develop a positive mental attitude, this was a great opportunity for all pupils to gain an insight into how sportspeople achieve their goals.

PE at Cardross

In the third term every class focused on gymnastics and enjoyed using apparatus and equipment to gain confidence and develop more dexterity in their movement. With newly serviced apparatus and recently purchased new mats, it was great to be able to utilise, so well, the resources the school have.

The second half of the term saw the children take their ball skills into hockey – using real sticks and balls for the first time. Using the proper equipment gave the children the opportunity to experience the weight and power capabilities, the appropriate grip and the ability to manoeuvre the head in a controlled manner – all essential to success in the game..



Active Schools Cup

On Friday the 29th of September, Hermitage Primary Football team won the annual Adrencaple Active Schools Cup. Competing against 5 other schools in very poor weather conditions the team did well scoring 23 goals in total across all of their games and only conceded a single goal.

Numeracy

Being numerate helps us to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute effectively to society. It increases our opportunities within the world of work and establishes foundations which can be built upon through lifelong learning. Numeracy is not only a subset of mathematics; it is also a life skill which permeates and supports all areas

of learning, allowing young people access to the wider curriculum.

We are numerate if we have:

Developed the confidence and competence in using number which will allow individuals to solve problems, analyse information and make informed decisions based on calculations.

Numeracy across the Area

In September we commenced our Numeracy pilot, working with West Dumbarton, focusing on the Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning (SEAL) with 10 schools across the Authority. Within HALCO, Colgrain is involved in this pilot. The training focuses on the pedagogy supporting the early acquisition of numeracy skills. The feedback received has been positive. The feedback received so far has been positive with practitioners from the HALCO area stating, "I believe all of my pupils will achieve Early Level by the end of Primary 1 as SEAL strategies provide pupils with a stronger understanding."

The Authority have purchased resources to support all schools with effective numeracy strategies including Number Talks and Numicon. Training for these resources has been delivered through school visits and a twilight programme, tailored for each Cluster. In the HALCO area, 6 primary school are currently using Numicon resources provided by the authority to support their pupils. Many of our schools took part in Maths Week in September, making maths engaging and fun.

Sum Dog

Arrochar Primary School's P4/5 class were Argyll and Bute Sum Dog champions. It was the first time the competition was run in Argyll and Bute and P4/5 were winners.



Parklands

During this session Parklands primary pupils have been working hard with sum dog in some of their classes, this has been a valuable online tool that the pupils have enjoyed using. Sumdog is highly motivating for Parklands pupils and due to the visual nature of its content helps maintain interest for pupils. This year has also seen the purchase of Numicon resources which have been put to good use both in and out of the class as the resources have been taken all around the school grounds to encourage and develop the pupils' number skills. Numicon has helped demonstrate a number of concepts in a visual manner.

Champions!

Mr Morrison's P4/5 class at Rosneath Primary school were on 28th April confirmed as Overall Winners of the Argyll and Bute Sumdog Competition.



Maths Week as part of Scottish Maths week Primary 2 pupils at John Logie Baird created their own numeracy board games.

Literacy

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Our ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture. Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities for the individual

in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work.

The literacy experiences and outcomes promote the development of critical and creative thinking as well as competence in listening and talking, reading, writing and the personal, interpersonal and team-working skills which are so important in life and in the world of work.

Accelerated Reading

Some of the Pupil Equity funding at Heritage Primary was allocated to accelerated reading to allow every child, from P2-P7, to engage in this reading programme. A whole school initiative was established this year to encourage pupils to read for pleasure whilst developing their key reading skills. The books are set at an appropriate level to meet the needs of each pupil. The level is established by sitting an online test at the beginning of the school year. When a pupil finishes a book they complete an online comprehension test. If they achieve 80% or above they earn a bee for their class. At the end of the learning block the class with the most points earns themselves an Accelerated Reading trophy and a movie afternoon. A Gold, Silver and Bronze certificate is also awarded to the pupils who have earned the most points throughout the learning block. Many of the individual certificates presented for learning block 2 were issued to children who were in the target group to close the attainment gap. This indicates that the initiative is encouraging them to engage more in reading and enhance their reading skills.

Outdoor Learning Supporting Literacy

Primary 6 pupils at Rhu Primary took an inspirational walk around their local woodland to gather material for a descriptive poem. The sun shone and it was a beautiful day which enhanced the depth of descriptive words and phrases that pupils expressed.

In class they had learned about poetic techniques including metaphors and similes. In the woods they were looking for images to use in their poems. Walking through the crunchy leaves, gazing up at towering trees and listening to the gentle sound of the trickling stream all enabled the children to gather some amazing imagery. When they returned to the class to write their poetry, the results were fantastic. Feedback from the children reflected their enthusiasm and the ease with which they had created descriptive imagery. They all thought it was much easier to create a poem after walking through the woods than trying to imagine what it was like while sitting in the classroom. Another great example of how outdoor learning can enhance literacy skills.

1+2

The Scottish Government's policy, Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach, is aimed at ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn a modern language (known as L2) from P1 until the end of the broad general education (S3). Additionally, each child is entitled to learn a second modern language (known as L3) from P5 onwards. The policy should be fully implemented across the country by August 2021.

The Language Learning: 1+2 approach is now well underway in the Helensburgh and Lomond area. All 12 primary schools are delivering French as language 2 from P1 onwards. Colgrain and Arrochar are delivering Gaelic as the third language. Rosneath is teaching Spanish and Scots, whilst Parklands School is teaching Makaton as the third language. Makaton is a spoken sign language that has finger spelling as well as special signs for words and phrases. Most of the other schools in the area are planning to implement the third language during the academic session 2018/19.

The cluster is now working towards ensuring effective progression in language learning from P1 through to the end of the BGE.

Our cluster has a Language Leader and holds termly Languages cluster meetings. The cluster is using the online platform- PowerLanguage Schools (PLS) as the main teaching resource to deliver French. This resource can also be used for teaching Spanish and German. The schools teaching Gaelic use the online resource- Go!Gaelic. All schools have resource packs with resources for teaching, primarily, French and additional languages. Each pack contains a talking pen (sound enables resources in any language and can be used as a recording tool), books and language learning games.

During 2017/18 staff in the cluster have been received a range of training opportunities.

Literacy across the Area

In June 2017, as a service, we launched a Literacy pilot, focusing on the Early Acquisition of Literacy (This project focuses on the importance of providing opportunities to develop the early skills for reading and writing, including listening, talking, engaging with music, movement and memory and engaging with stories. John Logie Baird and Hermitage Primary are taking part in this pilot. The feedback gathered so far from staff, parents and pupils has been very positive.

Emerging Literacy

Using PEF money and in collaboration with the Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Collaborative, John Logie Baird have implemented a new assessment tool to identify early literacy skills gaps across the whole school. Particular attention was given to those children from low SIMD and FME backgrounds alongside ASN or other underperforming groups of children in reading.

Support staff were trained in the steps to success for ensuring children engage with stories in a nurturing fashion. With the recent development of a brand new school library, children meet with support staff in twos or threes to hear stories being read by staff. Within this time any new vocabulary encountered is used to enhance children's understanding, dialogue and range of vocabulary, linking this with their own experiences.

Taking account of assessment outcomes, gaps in learning are now being filled very quickly, particularly around rhyming. Staff report increased confidence in specific areas including now the will and motivation of most children to share reading the story together. Almost all children are enthusiastic to attend and even the most reluctant participants are now starting to have the confidence to volunteer to read. Two children, when being called for their session, were overheard saying brightly 'It's our time to shine'. One P5 child also participates in fine motor control skills development.

The next steps are for support staff and class teachers to meet next week to discuss progress and next steps. Parents will be invited to participate in sessions and to hear about their children's progress. In turn we will be able to capture their thoughts/impact on the initiative so far.

Collaborative Action Research

A collaborative Action research project involving John Logie Baird, Colgrain, Garelohead and Rosneath has impacted greatly on the quality of teaching and learning of reading. Notably children are listening more attentively and engaging/participating in deeper discussions about texts to further their comprehension. This work will be shared on 5th June at Colgrain PS should any members be interested in attending.

Teaching and Learning Technology

Digital Learning Support

The Education Digital Learning Team has made 16 visits to Primary Schools in HALCO. These visits have supported staff and learners to develop an understanding of how a range of technology can be used to effectively support and enhance learning. These technologies have included:

- Drones
- Micro:Bits
- IMovie
- Spark+
- Robots
- Raspberry Pi
- Kodu
- Stop Motion
- Green Screen



Solar Ovens for use on the Moon!

Primary 5/4 pupils at Kilcreggan Primary have created Solar Ovens from everyday materials. Pupils were looking at how technology has developed over the past 90 years and thinking about designing some technology for the future. Their discussions led them to think about how people might cook in the future.

They then began to think about if people were living on the moon in the future how they could cook. They decided to try to cook using only the sun. With their ovens completed pupils then cooked "S'mores" This might not be the ideal diet for future moon dwellers but P5/4 enjoyed their cooked S'mores!

Google Suite



Budding Directors

Rosneath Primary are always keen to learn new skills. They were recently filming peers whilst being filmed by the BBC as part of a workshop for Author's live- watch out for them!

Hermitage Primary School were selected as a G Suite Pilot school this session. The use of Google Suite in the school has had an extremely positive impact on teaching and learning as well as collaboration among students and staff. This year, Primary Seven used Google Suite during their Technology Challenge Project. This allowed them to contribute simultaneously to their presentations and business plans and greatly impacted motivation and engagement throughout the project. G Suite also allowed staff to give meaningful and instant feedback to children within their Google Classroom. Primary Five and Six have been using G Suite to increase engagement in homework. This has allowed staff to post help videos and homework instructions within their Google Classroom which can be accessed at home by children to provide support when completing homework tasks. G Suite has also had a significant impact on planning and assessment at Hermitage Primary School.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Outdoor Learning

John Muir Discovery Award

Pupils at Rhu Primary have completed the John Muir Discovery Award. The focus this year was Bees; creating the best environment to encourage them to visit wild places nearby and working with local bee keepers to develop their own understanding and appreciation of these amazing insects. The school Gardening Club was also been involved by sowing seeds to create 'Bee Banquets'. Pupils recycled yogurt pots as seed trays and filled them with the first batch of compost. The seeds will be ready for sale in spring and the hope is to use some of the seeds to make a 'bee corridor' with the school neighbours donating a patch of their garden. The Children explored the local wild places of Ardenconnel Woods, Glenarn Gardens (Mr and Mrs Thornley are local bee keepers), the Churchyard, the school garden and their own gardens.

Green Day – Raise the Flag!

If anyone had chance to pop by on Cardross on Friday 29th September they might have wondered what "rubbish" was going on! It was the day they chose to celebrate the award of their 3rd Green Flag from Eco Schools Scotland and everyone really entered into the spirit of the event. The theme was "Recycle, Upcycle" after concerted efforts from the whole school last year in this area. Everyone gathered together in fabulously creative "trashion" items made from recycled materials and throughout the day, all the pupils took part in a variety of activities such as creating 'Welly Planters' for our grounds, recycled paper 'fuel-bricks' and bottle-top fence pictures as they further reinforced the message that most things can be reused or recycled. One class also composed a new Eco song for the school. Cardross Primary were delighted to welcome guests before lunch to help them raise the new flag and award the "Trashion" prizewinners their certificates and prizes. Mingling alongside parents and friends were local Councillors, Ellen Morton and Richard Trail, the Policy Lead for Education and Lifelong Learning, Cllr Yvonne McNulty and MP Brendan O'Hara and his wife.

Bulb Competition

The P4/5 class at Arrochar were successful, for the fifth consecutive year, in the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society's annual bulb competition.



P3/4 pupils at Rosneath entered Keep Scotland Beautiful Competition. Pupils decided to design their own garden to attract wildlife. This has been a great success for P3/4, despite not winning the competition all the children have been enthused by this project and collectively designed a garden. Following fundraising and contributions by the School Fund and Parent Council the children have raised £500 to begin creating their garden. Local businesses, parents and local community members will be part of the construction. This exciting interdisciplinary experience has capture the children and extended the use of knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

Luss Primary scoops 7th Eco Schools green flag

LUSS Primary School has scooped its seventh Eco-Schools Green Flag which is a really remarkable achievement. Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, councillor Yvonne McNeilly, said: "To receive one green flag is a great achievement, but to be awarded seven is truly remarkable. "The Eco Schools programme is a great way to teach children about the importance of looking after the world around them and provides a useful learning framework for learning, in line with the curriculum of excellence." The schools hard work and determination to keep a focus on eco work has certainly paid off.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Community Partnership

250 Year Celebration – 1767-2017

Arrochar Primary School celebrated their 250 year anniversary in December 2017. The pupils organised a fabulous 250 year celebration day. There were tours of the school, singing, powerpoint presentations and whole school displays centered around the history of the school. Each class selected an event or decade to focus their learning on. The P7 pupils organised a fabulous buffet which was provided by the Tarbet hotel. We had input from the community; we worked with Mrs Mary Haggarty BEM, from the local heritage group and community council. Parents, pupils and community members, along with some ex staff members, parents and pupils celebrated this marvelous achievement with us.



Family Learning at Rosneath continues to build on the success the school has had in this area in previous years. Activities include cooking club, literacy/numeracy support sessions for parents in a small group and individual basis. This work has led to:

- ✓ Increased positive engagement with school
- ✓ Comments for parental questionnaires
- ✓ Comments from learning conversations between staff and families
- ✓ Participate levels of parents in school activities and events

Scottish Evening

Kilcreggan Primary school's traditional Scottish evening took place on Tuesday 6th February. This event celebrated the traditions and culture of Scottish poetry, song, and dance led by P4-7 pupils. A large number of P4-7 pupils as participated in this evening, many learning their allocated poems as homework. Pupils and staff from the school were joined by a large number of the community and together they all enjoyed a supper of haggis, neaps and tatties followed by cheese, oatcakes and some world famous Scottish chocolate biscuits. It was a fabulous evening of entertainment.

St Joseph's Sweep the Board

What a great evening St Joseph's had at the Rotary Club Young Writer and Young Photographer prize-giving. In total they had four winners taking second and third prize in the Young Writers competition and two first prizes in the Young Photographer competitions. Winning pupils were accompanied to the prize-giving by their families and Miss Docherty who led the competition in school.

Online School Lunch Ordering

John Logie Baird PS piloted the Qkr Payments initiative to help parents to order and pay for lunches online in partnership with catering. Not only does it cut down on administration it helps parents to view and pay for meals easily and at their convenience.

LiveArgyll

In October Colgrain Primary were delighted that they were chosen to be part of the LiveArgyll launch.



Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Contributions to charities

Food Collection

Primary 3 pupils at Rhu Primary organised a Harvest Appeal to collect food donations for charity. They collected over 400 items which were distributed between Glasgow City Mission and the local Helensburgh Food Bank. The project developed Enterprise and Citizenship skills as well as addressing ICT and data handling experiences and outcomes. What responsible citizens!



Colgrain Primary Sports Relief Danceathon

Pupils at Colgrain came together in March to perform a dance to the song "this is me" from the hit film the Greatest Showman. The performance raised money for this year's Sports Relief campaign. The performance was filmed and shared with parents.



Coffee Afternoon

P7/6 pupils at Garelochhead Primary held an assembly for parents in September highlighting the dangers of smoking. The pupils learned a lot of facts about smoking through their 'Smoke Free Me' topic. The assembly was combined with a coffee afternoon for the MacMillan cancer charity held in memory of a young member of staff who recently passed away. They baked cakes and decorated the hall for their visitors. The afternoon was fabulous and raised over £600 for the charity.



MOD Pupil Support

Our schools in Helensburgh and Lomond have for the final time benefited from the MOD Education Fund which sought to mitigate the effect of exceptional mobility or deployment of the Armed Forces community.

This fund has been used to finance an additional Support for Learning Teacher who provides vital support within our schools to Armed Forces children affected by mobility, resulting in frequent moves between schools or even education. They also provide emotional support to develop resilience in children who may have to cope with a parent being deployed for up to 10 months on a submarine, with no communication with family.

This funding has allowed for the continued employment of a Service Pupil Advisor, as requested by parents who wished a liaison between the Armed Forces Community and schools. This post has been in place since February 2015. The Service Pupil Advisor has continued to cultivate partnership working between Argyll & Bute Council and the Armed Forces Community. They have attended various naval families meetings to answer questions relating to our education system and provide support to families moving to the area, usually from Plymouth and Portsmouth.

This session the Service Pupil Advisor has created a significant number of story sacks which have been distributed to schools, families and houses to support children with a parent on deployment.

Another role for the Advisor has been supporting schools with the Children's University, giving children the opportunity to have activities and hobbies accredited.

A "Welcome to Education in Argyll and Bute" booklet has been updated for armed forces families relocating to the area. This supports them with issues such as how to enroll in a school, GIRFEC, local services and supports.

For the past four years, primary, secondary and third sector staff in Helensburgh and Lomond have met together to form a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with the collective aims of:

- understanding the practical, emotional, educational and social challenges children from Armed Forces families face as a result of deployment or mobility;
- identifying strategies for supporting children within both teaching and pastoral roles;
- sharing good practice and resources, and supporting each other.

In Helensburgh and Lomond, the number of Armed Forces families will continue towards 2020, with families expected to relocate from Plymouth and other areas. This is due to HMNB Clyde becoming the UK Submarine Centre of Specialisation. HMNB Clyde is also home to Sandown Mine Counter Measure Vessels and 43 Commando Royal Marines. Evidence from Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW). Headteachers and parents suggest that some children from Armed Forces families may experience increased levels of emotional stress before, during and after deployment of a relative. (Deployments can last up to 9 months with limited or no communication with families back home.) This professional learning community has gained interest both locally and more widely. As a result the professional learning community will be offered for a fifth year.

The funding has also supported ten staff from across the area to be trained in approaches to nurture, with resources and materials to support the development of nurturing approaches in classes and across schools. We are delighted that experienced nurture staff from Parklands are working with the group to support this development with a clear focus on pupils from forces families.

School Contacts:

SCHOOL	HEAD TEACHER	ADDRESS	WEBSITE
Arrochar Primary School	Alison Palmer	Arrochar Primary School, Tarbet, Arrochar, G83 7DG 01301 702261	http://www.arrochar.argyll---bute.sch.uk
Cardross Primary School	Elspeth Davis	Cardross Primary School, Kirkton Road, Cardross, G82 5PN 01389 841433	http://www.cardrossprimary.org/
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Garelochhead Primary School	Denise Donald	Garelochhead Primary Garelochhead, G84 0DG 01436 810322	http://www.garelochhead.argyll---bute.sch.uk
Hermitage Primary School	Lorna Jackson	Hermitage Primary School, Argyle Street East, Helensburgh, G84 7EW 01436 672949	http://www.hermitageprimaryschool.org
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Kilcreggan Primary School	Frances Bretman	Kilcreggan Primary School, School Road, Kilcreggan, G84 0HT 01436 842109	http://www.kilcreggan.argyll---bute.sch.uk
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St Joseph's Primary School	Michelle Collins	St Joseph's Primary School, Old Luss Road, Helensburgh, G84 7LR 01436 671748	http://www.st---josephs.argyll---bute.sch.uk