



Tobermory High School

Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan 2011 for Pre-5, Primary and Secondary



STANDARDS AND QUALITY 2010/11

The Standards and Quality report for Tobermory High School for the session 2010/11 contains an overview of the work of the school and reports on the progress made in a number of areas. It also lists the improvement priorities for session 2011/12.

This report is a summary of just some of the school's work. You can find out more by reading the school handbooks and improvement plans or by visiting our website:

www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

WHAT IS THE REPORT BASED ON?

1. Self evaluation:
 - Teachers shared the standards by looking together at examples of pupils' work.
 - "Learning visits" to classrooms by teachers and the Senior Leadership Team enabled us to discuss progress in aspects of our work.
 - We asked for feedback from staff, pupils and parents on aspects of the school's work.
2. Published information such as SQA exam results and the SCISWIS inspection of our pre-5 unit.
3. Argyll and Bute Council Education Service and national priorities and initiatives, such as the Skills for Work programme in secondary.

TOBERMORY HIGH SCHOOL IN 2010/11

Tobermory High School's primary department serves the town of Tobermory and the surrounding areas. In 2010/11 there were 16 children in pre-5 and 72 in primary. The secondary department, with a roll of 154 in 2010/11, serves the north of Mull. Each year around half of S1 pupils transfer from Tobermory High's primary department, with the remainder coming from our associated primary schools: Salen, Lochdon, Ulva and Dervaig. In 2010/11, 9 pupils attended on placing requests from Lochaline and Kilchoan.

There are twenty seven teaching staff, supported by the four members of the Learning Support Team who work in a number of schools and help us meet the needs of all pupils in class. In addition, there are twenty four support, catering and janitorial staff. Many of these staff are employed part-time.

There is a supportive Parent Council. It supports the school in its aim to ensure that all parents are included in their child's education. A storage shed for primary play equipment was provided by funds raised by FoTHS's Chair, Mr Douglas MacNeilage, kept under the guardianship of Parent Council. In 2011, Parent Council helped the head teacher update school policies on partnership with parents. In June 2011, the Parent Council raised £1134 at their Summer Fair to support school trips.

Members of the local business community contribute to school life by providing work experience placements and mock interviews for senior students. Two local firms provide training placements for S3 and S4 Skills for Work courses. Throughout the year, many members of the community visit pre-5 and primary classrooms and contribute to secondary events such as our annual Language Breakfast, to share their skills and knowledge with pupils.

TOBERMORY HIGH SCHOOL AIMS

Tobermory High School aims to prepare young people for a full and active role as international citizens in a changing world.

To

Be

Ready to learn, now and in the future

Motivated to make a difference

On track for success

Ready to support others

**Young people who are helpful,
confident and purposeful**



WHAT DID WE DO TO IMPROVE TOBERMORY HIGH SCHOOL IN 2010/11?

We worked with colleagues from the North Mull Curriculum for Excellence Cluster (our linked primary schools) to explore Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and issues and to plan developments for 2011/12. We reviewed our arrangements for continuity and progression from P7 to S1, with primary and secondary teachers sharing information about learning strategies, content and standards achieved. We planned and piloted a system of P7 profiles.

We continued to develop interdisciplinary learning in all primary classes and in all secondary faculties.

Mrs Durie led work to ensure good learning, continuity and progression for children aged from 3 to 7. We moved into our brand new pre-5 building in August 2010.

Secondary teachers introduced and reviewed the Curriculum for Excellence in S1 and planned for S2.



WHAT DID WE DO TO IMPROVE TOBERMORY HIGH SCHOOL IN 2010/11?



In partnership with Argyll College and our own Pre-5 unit, we have added a Skills for Work course in Child Care to the Hospitality and Engineering options for S3/4 pupils, from May 2011.

S6 pupils led our application to become a Fair Trade school. Committee members organised a range of events for Fair Trade fortnight in primary and secondary.

The school submitted an application for the Eco School's Green Flag award.

Secondary Student Council organised a Talent Show fundraiser and liaised on the refurbishment of pupils' toilets.

A working group of teachers and support staff researched and reported on strategies for improving pupil motivation. Another group led staff development of the "assessment is for learning" strategies which play a key role in modern teaching methods.

Argyll and Bute Council continued to improve our school buildings. A purpose-designed pre-5 unit was built; part of the Technical block was re-roofed and disabled access to the games hall was provided. A purpose-built store for SQA exam materials was provided.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL'S STRENGTHS?

In May 2009, pupils and parents said:

- High standards of teaching.
- Building self-esteem and social interaction.
- Excellent ethos; team-work, good relationships.
- Stays abreast of educational developments and tries to make sure all benefit.
- Keeps learning interesting and varied; lessons for life.
- Supports and encourages our children in everything they do.
- Identifies and caters for individual needs.
- Encourages children to challenge themselves.
- Happy atmosphere, good trips, nice teachers.



Nine families said that they would like the school to continue to improve the way it keeps them informed about their child's progress in secondary; the changes to the reporting system are designed to address this issue. Eight families felt that their youngsters were not able to benefit from secondary lunch time and after school clubs. The school's club and activity schedule was reviewed with pupils in June 2009, and the school liaised with local agencies to help establish better youth club provision in Tobermory. Unfortunately, Community Education's plans to appoint a part time Youth worker for Mull did not lead to an appointment.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

Almost all pupils make very good progress. The staff constantly search for new ways to motivate and support all pupils. Baseline assessments, Pre-5 to P2, annual primary spelling assessments, the P4 reading assessment and Cognitive Ability tests in P5, S1 and S3 help teachers gain further information on each pupil's potential as a learner. Teachers use the results to check that pupils are achieving the best that they can.

In primary, national assessments are being replaced with assessments better suited to the new Curriculum for Excellence. We are developing tracking systems to enable us to check the progress of each individual pupil. Classroom visits have demonstrated that the focus on active learning in primary Maths has had a real impact on pupils' skills and confidence.

In primary and in secondary, the use of checklists and success criteria involve young people in reflecting on their own progress. As one parent wrote in a secondary Personal Learning Plan: "Good to see XXX being taught to evaluate for herself what she had done and learn from it."

Standard Grade results were excellent in 2011. 10 of the 29 pupils who sat exams qualified for special arrangements to support their needs and did very well. 90% of pupils achieved five or more passes at General or Credit level. 50% of S4 achieved five or more passes at Credit level. These

7 achievements exceeded Argyll and Bute and national averages.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

In S5, 12 of the 28 pupils in the year group qualified for special arrangements in the exams. 43% of pupils who were on the school roll in S4 achieved one or more Higher passes. 23% of the S4 roll achieved 3 or more Higher passes. 13% achieved 5 Highers.

S6's achievements were well above local and national averages. Half of S6 pupils gained at least one Advanced Higher pass. Three pupils left school with a total of 2 Highers in S5 and S6 but added an Advanced Higher in the subject where they showed particular talent. This is a measure of the success of the school's inclusive approach and a credit to our autonomous learners who spend only two periods per week with a teacher, gaining their results largely through supported self study. Two pupils gained 3 Advanced Highers, including Naomi Robertson who added three A1 grades to her equally impressive Higher achievements. She was one of only 85 candidates in Scotland to achieve these grades.

Our relatively small year groups often will account for fluctuations from year to year. However, all results are carefully scrutinised to check that the school has done the best it can for all pupils.

Almost all young people leave Tobermory High School to enter further or higher education (in 2010, 54% of leavers), employment or training. The school aims to identify those who are at risk of not finding permanent work or a place at college and provide additional support.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11

The SCISWIS (Care Commission) visit to Pre-5 in June rated all four key areas inspected as “very good”.

Kitty Raven, Clara Montgomery, Katy Montgomery, Ruth MacDonald and Lucy Langford were all members of the Argyll side which won the U-18 Scottish Schools Rugby Bowl at Murrayfield.



The official opening of the pre-5 unit by Mrs Olive Brown.

With the support of the Isle of Mull Rugby Club, 20 pupils from P4 to P7 and 47 secondary pupils (almost one third of them) have enjoyed a great year of rugby.

Oliver Harris, P5, won the Argyll and Bute Road Safety Campaign poster design competition. Cailean MacLean, P1, Laura Dillon, P5 and Ella Barlow, P6, had highly commended entries.

Hannah Noble and Michael McKenna, S6, with former pupil Katrina MacLean, were selected as members of a team of eight youngsters from across Scotland to travel with SSC to Malawi in June to build a high dependency unit in Chikwawa hospital and work with children in the local community.

P5 pupils became trained peer mediators, able to help resolve any issues at play time. In the secondary ACE course, S5 also trained in conflict resolution.

Shona MacGillivray, S2, and Kirsten MacLean, S3, won prizes in the McCaig Trust competition. The school was awarded £300 for pupils' levels of participation and commitment to writing in Gaelic.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11

Primary and secondary pupils and staff came together for our first Talent Show in January 2011, showcasing the best musical and comedy performances Tobermory High School has to offer. Led by Secondary Student Council Chair, Dexter Govan, the event raised £619.37 to fund future trips and activities in both primary and secondary.

Engineering Club has gone from strength to strength. The S1 members are investigating a flying model which will carry a cargo of an egg. The S2/3 group are working on a solar-powered model car.

“Olivia”, the school’s first musical show, directed by Mr Lowe, was performed in June by 30 pupils from P5 to S6 with superb support from Mrs Alison Rimell, Mrs Fiona Jappy and many other members of the local and school community. Rothesay Joint Campus band travelled from Bute to provide the musical accompaniment.

Fiona McAdam, S4, won a place to study Higher Music and Gaelic at the School of Traditional Music, Plockton.



For a week in June, S2 and S3 pupils worked with staff on two Social Enterprise projects. “Rubbish to Riches” gathered recyclable materials from beaches which were made into a fantastic range of items, to be sold at the Parent Council Fair. “Team Tartan” researched dyes and weaving and designed tartans for Tobermory and for the 2012 Commonwealth Games.

At the Edinburgh Festival, a secondary folk group gave two great performances on the “Scotland’s Got Talent” stage.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010/11



Pupil-led fundraising benefited a range of charities throughout the year. For such a small school, we have contributed a great deal to improving life for others. The school adopted Mary's Meals as its charity in 2009, and so far we have raised a total of £1,224.95. Rosie Fellows, Ruby Low and Kate Stevens, S4, raised £500.76 for Children in Need. Red Nose Day raised £1300, with 10% donated to Mary's Meals and the rest to Comic Relief. Donations at the Easter service raised £96.91 for the Aberlour Trust.

S3 pupils, parents and friends undertook a range of fundraising activities in February, to support their trip to Paris/Ypres in May. In total they raised £600, part of which was used to pay for wreaths to lay at the British and German war memorials in Ypres.

At the Mull & Iona Primary Sports Day at Garmony, our athletes collected an amazing thirty-two medals.

A Duke of Edinburgh Award group and the P6/7 residential trip were supported by a grant from the Area committee of Argyll and Bute Council.

Ciaran Whyte, S4, won a place in the Glasgow Warriors U-16 rugby team.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2011/12?

We will encourage all young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

This is the third year of a three year improvement plan.

During this school year, teachers and support staff will continue to look for ways to make sure that all pupils achieve their personal best.

We will continue to introduce the national Curriculum for Excellence outcomes from pre-5 to S3 and to consolidate our active approaches to learning. In secondary, this will focus especially on reviewing the new curriculum in S2, making plans for S3 and planning structures to meet pupils' needs in the senior phase. We will continue to develop health and well being, numeracy and literacy in all areas of the curriculum. For example, building on primary writing fans and VCOP pyramids by using 'mini office' prompts in secondary.

We will continue to work with partner schools in the North Mull Curriculum for Excellence Cluster to liaise on approaches to assessment in all our schools. We will work together on ways of enabling and gathering evidence of pupils' skills development and wider achievements.

We will work with Skills Development Scotland (the Careers Service) and other agencies to establish the best possible support for all pupils.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2011/12?

With our partner schools, we will discuss how to structure pupils' courses, P7 to S3, to maximise opportunities for choice and progression.

We will plan and review interdisciplinary tasks, creating meaningful contexts for teaching the new curriculum outcomes.

We will continue to develop our professional expertise, working together in the North Mull Cluster group on assessment, with all teachers meeting in February 2012 to share the standard of pupils' work, 3 to 14.



Our Student Councils will continue to suggest ways of improving the school and to liaise with the Parent Council. They will liaise with the School Fund Committee on fundraising, planning a Hallowe'en Disco and Talent Show.

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2011/12?

The Parent Council, chaired by Mr Gordon Chalmers, will continue to provide an effective channel of communication between parents and the school. It will also continue to raise funds to support the work of the school.

Argyll and Bute Council will continue to make improvements to accommodation at the school buildings:

- Secondary pupils' toilets will be refurbished in Summer 2011.
- In partnership with Argyll College, the Home Economics room will be refurbished as a Hospitality kitchen and a multi-purpose teaching area.
- A full security system will be put in place when the school is rewired in 2013.



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The full school improvement plan and action plans for Pre-5 and Primary can be accessed on www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk

If you would like further information about the school, or would like to contact us, you can email us at:

enquiries@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk
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If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us.