



Tìree High School
(Pre-5 Unit, Primary & Secondary
Departments)
Achievement Report
Session 2013-2014



In the Edinburgh Fringe Schools' Poster Competition, P5 pupil Erin Byfield 's entry was shortlisted from 3400 to be displayed in the Museum of Childhood from May to August 2014

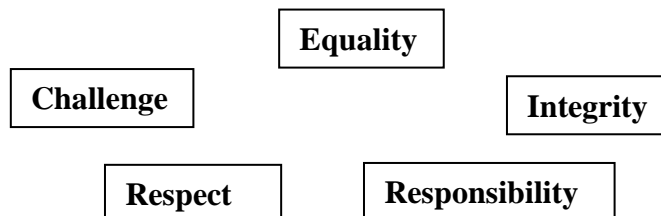


Tìree High School
Aiming for Excellence

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 2013/2014 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

Pre-5 Education

- With the introduction of new outdoor equipment to the Pre-5 garden and the purchase of new outdoor clothing, the children have experienced greater involvement in outdoor learning. They are more confident in selecting play equipment and in engaging with each other within the freedom of the larger play area.



- Staff have developed greater expertise in carrying out daily risk assessments and involve children in assessing risky situations.
- Staff are helping children to understand the meaning of wellbeing indicators and use the indicators to assess children's development.
- As a result of organised weekly staff meetings, planning for educational experiences is considerably improved and children enjoy more meaningful learning experiences.
- In addition to our regular parental questionnaires, staff questionnaires are issued to evaluate our performance against the Care Commission Standards. This has improved our self-evaluation procedures. Action has been taken on any feedback from parents e.g. Information session on Wellbeing Indicators. All information is displayed for parents to see in the Playroom.
- The beginning of December 2013 saw the introduction of a pilot with provision of additional Gaelic Medium Sessions in Pre-5 Education. The Pilot will run until June 2015. New Gaelic speaking staff were successfully recruited and children are becoming familiar with the language. All children registered for pre-5 education in 2014-2015 are registered for Gaelic Medium sessions.
- Children engage well with technology as appropriate and actively engage with their interactive screen enjoying singing and dancing along with presenters. The recent introduction of an i-Pad has provided children with more opportunities to develop communication skills.

Broad General Education (P1-S3)

- In light of experience, all teachers continually evaluate courses, methodologies and pupil performance. Amendments are made regularly as information is accumulated over the session refining, improving and modifying activities to suit the appropriate cohort of children.

- Pupils are increasingly provided with aspects of choice within their curriculum with different activities being on offer to meet an aim. Pupils are involved in planning Interdisciplinary tasks where their input is key to the direction the learning will take.
- Our emphasis on skill development means children have a real understanding of the progress they are making with identified skills. These are set in real context through children being involved in ASDAN Challenges. ASDAN Awards are achieved through completion of a series of challenges which help develop skills for life and work. This programme is now a firmly embedded aspect of the school curriculum which was clearly demonstrated during session 2013-2014 with all pupils in S3 achieving a credit at Key Steps level and all pupils in S4 achieving the ASDAN Silver Award with some making good progress towards the Gold Award.
- Big Writing is now firmly established as a key part of literacy with pupils in Primary and Secondary departments routinely using this methodology. Performance is tracked alongside the A&B Literacy Baseline Assessments and will be used to evaluate effectiveness of the programme. Teacher observations are positive with children writing more extensive pieces than previously achieved.
- To enhance understanding of the world of work, extensive use is made of technologies in regular class learning and teaching. Good use is made of podcasts, visualisers, Dictaphones, video-cameras and digital stills cameras to capture learning and achievement. Our recent additions of i-Pads, sublimation kit and glass kiln provide many more opportunities for children to appreciate the practical applications of their learning.
- Health and Wellbeing is delivered across the curriculum alongside a special focus class where relationships and health and vocational skills are studied. An overview of the coverage of Health and Wellbeing is maintained through teachers making entries to central table.

Curriculum for Excellence: Senior Phase

- All subject courses at National 5 were verified and successfully met the criteria. Pupils were presented for National 5 examinations across all school subjects having successfully completed all aspects of their courses.
- Teachers are well advanced with preparation for new Higher courses to be delivered in 2014-2015 with the majority of subjects progressing to this stage next session. In mathematics and the sciences, the new Higher will be introduced in 2015.

Pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN)

- Pupils are well supported across all three sectors in the school i.e. Pre-5, Primary and Secondary. A Learner Profile is prepared for each child with an identified need and progress is monitored through regular entries into a 'round robin' database.
- A 'Peaceful Place' has been set up in the primary department as a nurture area where children can take time out in a safe environment to calm down or compose themselves as required.

On-Track

- To fulfil Curriculum for Excellence requirements for supporting children's learning, we have planned time for all pupils to engage with their identified adult to discuss their learning. This daily time slot will provide learning opportunities for all young people in the areas of Health & Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy while allowing each child to regularly engage in learning dialogue across the whole curriculum with their identified adult. The plan goes live in August 2014 with the launch of ON-Track.

Working with Partners

FilmG

Secondary pupils wrote and produced their own short film in entering the FilmG 2014 competition. Their film was available for viewing online.

Daffodil Tea

Pre-5 children invited parents to join them for a daffodil tea and entertained their guests with songs from their repertoire.



Glass Mural

Primary pupils took part in a glass-making workshop at our local artisan's studio. Ms Frances Woodhead explained the glassmaking process to the children and helped each of them to design and make a glass tile. The tiles were later assembled into a beautiful mural depicting our scenery and decorated with ancient symbols, which now adorns the school entrance.

Mock Interviews

Volunteers from our community provided a challenging panel for our S4 pupils in their Mock Interviews. All pupils performed well and enjoyed a valuable learning experience.

Bookbug

Pre-5 children invited their parents to join them for their Bookbug session. They enjoyed listening with their parents to the stories being read.



School Concert

This very successful evening saw a wide range of pupils performing on chanter, accordion, fiddle, piano and guitar. A large audience of parents and friends joined us in the village hall to appreciate the children's performances and express our thanks for the hard work of our volunteer instrumental tutors. Three secondary pupils have grown in confidence as they have tutored younger children in guitar.

Studying our Environment

Following an interesting topic looking at animals and plants in our environment, P1-3 pupils dressed as their chosen animal or plant to present information about it.



Gala Day

Our annual Gala Day was a great success due to the enormous input of staff and volunteers, particularly our PTA who provided wonderful teas. Our dual purposes of fund-raising and having fun were met in equal measure.



Burns Day

Pre-5 Children invited Parents to their Burns Songs and Food Presentation.

Charity Fund-Raising

S4 pupils organised a charity Quiz evening to which all members of the community were invited. The evening was a great success and their efforts were rewarded by raising a tidy sum for Cancer Research UK. Pupils at all stages were involved in organising and participating in a range of activities raising funds for Children in Need. Pre-5 children raised an amazing sum for Sports Relief with their sponsored jumping.

Christmas Plays

Primary children performed plays in Gaelic and in English to a large audience in the village hall. Pre-5 children added to the evening by singing their Christmas songs. A very enjoyable evening was appreciated by parents and friends who attended.



S4 Vocational Pathways Trip

All S4 pupils took part in the trip to visit universities, colleges and workplaces to help prepare them for the important decisions ahead. The weeklong trip left plenty of opportunity for social activities and everyone enjoyed the experience.

Primary World War 2 Theme

Upper Primary children worked on the theme of WW2 and parents made a substantial effort to help kit them out for WW2 Day when the school travelled in time to 1940. Landgirls, cooks and army personnel mingled with our evacuees for the day.



S4 Work Experience

All S4 pupils spent a week on work experience. Most pupils went to the mainland for the experience with some travelling far and wide to stay with relatives to enable the experience.



The Scottish Referendum

S4 hosted an in depth discussion with invited guests culminating in a mock vote with pupils and adult guests participating. Pupils performed very well leading the discussion groups and presenting their research material. Pupils were assessed during the event as part of their English Added Value Unit.

Swimming Lessons

Primary and Secondary pupils received swimming instruction in the nearby loch thanks to a week of lessons organised and provided by the Tirie Windsurfing Club. This was a really valuable experience in helping children to develop confidence in the water.

Twitter

Our Twitter feed now links directly to the tickertape in the Cobbled Cow Cafe allowing those having lunch to read our news.