

STRACHAN SCHOOL



School Handbook 2015-2016

WELCOME TO STRACHAN SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Strachan Primary School. I hope that our partnership will be productive and enjoyable and that your child settles in quickly with us.

We take pride in the fact that this is a happy and hard working school with a real sense of team spirit. We hope that your child enjoys his/her time at Strachan School.

At Strachan School we firmly believe that children flourish where there is a positive atmosphere with parents, staff and pupils working together for the benefit of the child. The education of a child is far too important to be left to a school alone. Parents have a very important part to play too. Our school prospectus explains what you can expect of Strachan School and also indicates what Strachan School expects of you in the way of partnership, help and support.

Aberdeenshire Council School Handbooks are designed to inform parents of as many aspects of life at Strachan School as we can, and has been written in response to 'School Handbook Guidance (Scotland) Regulations 2012.'

Section 5 in this prospectus will be updated annually and you will be asked to replace certain pages with new information.

We hope you find our prospectus clear and informative. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions for improvements.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Temperley
Acting Head Teacher

Please note – "Parent" includes Guardian and any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities (with the section 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) in relation to, or has care of a child or young person.

Please note that whilst all information within this handbook is correct at the time of printing. It is possible that some items may change during the course of the year.

[Find us - Strachan School](#)

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SECTION 1 – GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address Strachan School
Strachan
BANCHORY
Kincardineshire AB31 6NN

Telephone 01330 850231

Fax 01330 850374

Emergency Information Line 0870 054 4999 School Pin No. (02 2620)

**Adverse Weather and
Emergency Closure** <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>
Please refer to page 16 for further information.

E Mail strachan.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

School Website <http://www.strachan.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

Local Area Office Aberdeenshire Council
Education and Children's Services
Queens Road
STONEHAVEN AB39 2QQ

Telephone 01569 766960

Quality Improvement Officer Mrs Adele Scrimshaw
Aberdeenshire Council
Education and Children's Services
Queens Road
STONEHAVEN AB39 2QQ

Telephone 01569 766960

**Director of Education &
Children's Services** Mrs Maria Walker
Woodhill House
Westburn Road
ABERDEEN AB16 5GB

Telephone 01224 665420

THE SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Strachan School is set in the heart of the attractive village of Strachan about 3 miles south west of Banchory on the South Deeside Road. The school serves a wide catchment area including Feughside, Glen Dye and Blackness. The present school in Strachan was opened in January 1877. The school is the main focus for the village. Strachan has a Village Hall situated about 0.5 miles east of the school along the B974. The community coffee morning is held here on the last Friday of every month. Community Council meetings are held here 3 times a year along with other regular activities. The school uses the Village Hall on a regular basis for physical education and supplementary sport activities. At the western end of the village is a large sports field and adventure play park. As well as athletics activities, football matches and our school running club, our school Fairtrade Sports' Day is held here annually.

The school has an attractive front playground with boards painted by the pupils. New playground equipment has recently been installed through support from Awards for All Scotland. We are currently developing an outdoor science area at the rear of the main building. A lane separates the main school from the canteen and a large walled garden (Millennium Garden), which contains a range of play equipment and provides an attractive area for both play and curricular use including willow structures and a magnifying post. There is an area of natural woodland where pupils take part in outdoor learning such as Friends of Durris Forest School programmes. The canteen is surrounded by another play area which the school plans to develop as a productive school garden. During 2010-2011, school outdoor improvements began. This included clearing an area of the garden for growing vegetables and flowers. Further developments are planned continuously.

The main building at Strachan School consists of a class room, a meeting room, a general purpose room with library facilities and a staff area, office and corridor leading to the toilet facilities.

Strachan School is non-denominational school. The school does not teach by means of the Gaelic Language. All Aberdeenshire Schools are Co-educational, providing education for both boys and girls.

Strachan Primary School has 1 full-time teaching staff. The school works closely with a range of other support agencies to provide the best possible experience for children with additional support needs. Our Active Schools Coordinator provides a range of additional sporting activities for the children.

Staff are supported by a school administrator, a clerical assistant, a pupil support assistant, a cleaner and a janitor.

On leaving Strachan Primary School the pupils transfer to Banchory Academy, Banchory. Strachan School is part of the Banchory Community Schools' Network and works closely with the other 2 bigger schools and 3 smaller schools in the Network.

Strachan School is very well resourced and enjoys excellent support from parents and the community. Our enthusiastic and talented Parent Council organise seasonal events, social

events for parents, and fundraising events which provide extras for the pupils. Strachan School works closely with the local community supporting the community coffee mornings and inviting the community to school events. School news is reported in the local Strachan Today community newsletter.

The devolved school budget is managed in accordance with Aberdeenshire Authority guidelines in order to support planned improvements in the school.

The conclusions of the November 2008 follow-through inspection of the school were very positive.

For further information about classes and teachers please refer to the Annual Updates section at the back of this handbook.

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Prospective parents are welcome to contact the school office and request an appointment to come and visit the school and meet with the Head Teacher. During this visit you will get a tour of the school and have an opportunity to ask any questions and discuss any particular needs of your child. You will also have an opportunity to meet with staff and pupils.

ENROLMENT AND ADMISSIONS

New entrants to P1 are enrolled early in the calendar year for entry to school in August. This is for children who will be five on or before the school start date in the middle of August. Those whose fifth birthday is between the middle of August each year and the end of February the following year may also be admitted. Details of the enrolment dates are advertised in the local press by Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services Department. Further information is available at

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/primary-school-registration-2015/>

Prior to entry to Primary 1 in August, the children are invited to attend some sessions in May/June to meet their teacher and classmates. Parents and children are also invited to a number of events throughout the year prior to starting school. Please let us know if you would like to receive emailed copies of the school newsletter to keep you informed of school events.

Each child will be given an educational pack, which they can exchange at their next visit. This could include a puzzle, a book and a booklet for the child to complete prior to starting school in August.

Parents of children joining school classes in the middle of a school session will have agreed a start date following consultation with the Head Teacher. A visit to the school will usually take place. Any transfer information, including school work, can be helpful in supporting your child's continued education. Records from other Aberdeenshire schools are automatically transferred internally but when the school is outwith the Authority, the school will contact the child's previous school to obtain the records.

SCHOOL ZONE

All Aberdeenshire schools serve a local 'zone'. Pupils will automatically be accepted at the school within their 'zone'. A map showing the school zone/catchment area is included at the back of this booklet.

However, parents have the right to request that their child attends a school in another 'zone' if they wish (without giving any particular reason) and Aberdeenshire Council will, where possible, agree to this request. For further information relating to this please follow the link below

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-info/choosing-a-school/>

Please note this includes forms for completion. These can also be obtained from the school or from the area office.

Out of zone admissions are not guaranteed and pupils out of zone are not entitled to free school transport. They are also not guaranteed a place at Banchory Academy and parents would need to submit a further placing request before transition to S1.

Further information is available in *Notes for Parents Aberdeenshire Council* at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-info/notes-for-parents/>



SCHOOL DAY

Start of Day	9.00 am
Interval	10.30 am to 10.50 am
Lunchtime	12.00 am to 12.50 pm
End of Day	3.10 pm

OUR SCHOOL LOGO

We are proud of our school logo which shows Clachnaben, a hill which can be seen from our school and distinguished by the magnificent granite tor on its summit. The River Feugh is shown flowing down the hill ultimately into the River Dee at the nearby famous Falls of Feugh. Clachnaben is the name of one of our school houses, the remaining two are Scolty and Kerloch.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils are encouraged to wear Strachan School sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts. The uniform can be purchased directly online from the Tesco School Embroidery Service within the Tesco website, under S for Strachan. Should you require further information please contact the school. School fleeces are also now available.

Otherwise, pupils should wear navy or grey skirts/trousers, navy or grey jumpers/cardigans and white polo shirts, dark school shoes (children should not wear high heeled shoes as these cause safety concerns). We appreciate your cooperation in support of this. In the summer term girls can wear blue school summer dresses.

Please consider the changeable nature of weather conditions and provide your child with appropriate outerwear and footwear to suit! When your child comes to school wearing boots, please ensure that they have shoes or gym shoes to change into.

For PE, pupils should bring the appropriate kit – shorts, t-shirts and proper gym shoes. Trainers that are also worn outdoors are not appropriate for indoor PE activities. For safety, long hair should be tied back and jewellery removed. All PE kit should be kept in a gym bag.

With regard to safety, the wearing of jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure they can remove and replace earrings by themselves. Any child wearing earrings that cannot do this will be asked to put surgical tape over them for PE lessons. (Parents should provide a named roll of surgical tape for this purpose.)

The school requests that football team tops and designer garments are kept for home use as these can provoke conflict amongst the pupils.

Each pupil should keep an old shirt in school to be worn to protect clothing during art/craft activities.

It helps everyone when all articles of clothing are clearly marked with the child's name so that garments can easily be identified.

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant. More information about this can be found at the back of this book.

PUPIL BELONGINGS & VALUABLES

In each class the children have a peg for hanging up their coats and gym bags and space for storing packed lunch boxes. Each child also has their own named tray for storing their belongings in class.

VALUABLES

The wearing of jewellery is discouraged in the school as it can get lost or add to injuries. The wearing of a watch is encouraged. Children who have pierced ears and need to wear ear rings must wear studs as opposed to hoops or dangly ear rings.

Children should not bring electronic games, mobile phones or other expensive items into school. Should parent's request that their child be allowed to take a mobile phone into school for use after school, the pupil will hand it in to the office first thing in the morning and collect it at the end of the day.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The school provides all of the books and equipment that your child will need to use in school, however many children like to bring their own pencil case and equipment. We would suggest the following pencil case contents – HB pencil(s), a ruler – marked in centimetres, a rubber and some colouring pencils. Children will also require a school bag to carry their belongings and equipment to and from school.

All pupils receive a 'homework folder' at the start of the year for carrying homework jotters and reading books. This helps to keep these resources in good order. Please note, should reading books be lost or damaged, parents may be requested to pay a contribution towards the cost of a replacement.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL & PLAYGROUND INFORMATION

Children should not arrive at school more than 20 minutes before the start of the school day. This is the earliest time we expect children to arrive at school. They will be allowed into the building to use the toilet or if the weather is excessively wet or windy.

There is no legal requirement to have a member of staff in the playground area supervising the children where the school roll is fewer than 50. A member of staff however will be present in the school building for supervisory purposes.

School transport pupils, whose parents have no control of their children's arrival time, will be allowed into the building if the weather is excessively wet or windy. School transport will not drop off pupils more than 20 minutes before the start of the school day.

During morning break pupils have access to the adventure trail, football area and tub of PE resources. During lunch breaks, depending upon the weather and underfoot conditions, pupils have access to the wildlife garden. A member of staff supervises children during morning break and lunch times where possible.

If your child has an accident in the playground, he/she will be treated by a first aider. Your child will be given a minor injury slip, which will inform you of the nature of the injury and the treatment given. We will attempt to notify you by telephone of any serious injuries. **(Please ensure that you keep the school updated of any change in your emergency contact details/new mobile phone number.)**

Children's play areas are indicated on the school map/plan at the back of this handbook.

During morning and lunch break times children will be expected to play outside unless the weather is excessively wet or windy. Children should be sent to school with appropriate outerwear to suit the time of year.

In accordance with Aberdeenshire Council's Health & Safety Policy, children will not be allowed to make ice slides in the playground nor throw snowballs.

At the end of the school day, P1 – P3 pupils who do not go home on school transport should be collected outside the main pupil entrance. Please always ensure your child knows who he/she is going home with if you are unable to collect your child.

For health & safety reasons, dogs are not permitted in the school grounds.

For security reasons, the outer school doors will be locked once children are inside school at the start of the school day and at the end of the school day.

SCHOOL OFFICE

The school office is staffed from:

Mondays	8.45 am – 2.45 pm
Tuesdays	
Wednesdays	9.00 am – 3.25 pm
Thursday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Fridays	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

The school has an answering machine for leaving messages. All messages are collected by 9.05 am each morning. Where a response is required, we aim to do this on the day the message is received, and certainly within 24 hours.

Door Security

All schools in Scotland have security doors fitted as standard. This is to ensure the safety of children and staff at work during the school day. Those accessing school premises **MUST** only do so through the security door system and you are reminded that this should be the

only access you use when visiting the school. In line with Aberdeenshire Council's Health & Safety Policy, all visitors to school will be asked to sign in and wear a visitor's pass badge.

Doors open easily from inside the building to allow for easy exit in an emergency

SCHOOL MEALS

It is the Authority's policy to provide meals and facilities for the consumption of packed lunches in all schools where these are required.

As of August 2014 the Scottish Government committed to giving all children in Primary 1-3 the option of a school meal free of charge and this is provided. Children in P1-3 who wish to take a packed lunch on occasions may still do so. This scheme however does not apply to children in Primary 4-7 who should continue to purchase tickets in the same way. Some children in P4-7, however, may be entitled to a free school meal, details of which can be found in the annual updates section of this handbook.

For current school meal charges please see the updates section of this handbook or check on the webpage noted below. Please make cheques payable to Aberdeenshire Council.

Cooked school lunches are prepared off site and transported to Strachan School where they are served by our canteen assistant. Tickets should be purchased on a Monday. Please make sure that your child knows what their lunchtime arrangements are. For P4-7, making sure that your child always has a lunch ticket with their name on it saves valuable staff time. Pupils can also purchase drinks on a weekly or daily basis. Please make cheques payable to Aberdeenshire Council.

Attractive menu and information leaflets are provided to all Aberdeenshire school pupils and parents. These can also be found by following the link below and also on the Strachan School website.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/>

Should a child forget his/her dinner money, they will still receive a school dinner, and you will be contacted regarding payment.

Before lunch, the children wash their hands. Children sit at tables where we encourage the older pupils to help the younger ones and promote appropriate behaviour and table manners.

Children are encouraged to eat all of their lunch, but not forced. If we feel that a child is not eating enough at lunchtimes we will contact you. Water is provided on the tables and cartons of drinks can be purchased.

Where children bring a packed lunch to school, parents are responsible for ensuring that lunch box contents are stored at the correct temperature, by including an ice pack where necessary.

Parents should be aware that they can request a special diet for their children if there are medical or religious reasons for doing so.

Children who require Medically Prescribed or Modified Diets, with parental/guardian assistance, should be identified during the admission process. Procedures are set in motion to accommodate these diets by parent/guardian completing Admission Form D available from the school administration office.

The school aims to encourage young people to enjoy food which is both attractive to them and nutritionally sound whether this is a school meal, a packed lunch or a snack. We would appreciate your support in achieving this aim.

Some pupils may be entitled to free school meals. Please refer to the annual updates section at the back of the book for further information.

"PLAYPIECE"

Children should be sent with a snack for their "playpiece". Fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. As a health promoting school, we encourage healthy options.

Strachan School is a nut free school and therefore no foods containing nuts or nuts should be brought into Strachan School. Children must not share their playpiece with others in the playground as they may inadvertently cause another child to have an allergic reaction (e.g. a nut allergy – resulting in anaphylaxis). We very much appreciate your co-operation.

Cakes/Treats

We request that cakes/treats etc for birthdays are not sent to school for sharing as this can cause difficulties where there are children in class with food allergies/intolerances or other dietary circumstances. Thank you for your support.

PUPIL ABSENCE PROCEDURES

In recent years increasing attention has been paid to the issue of Child Protection and safety due to reported occasions where children have been seriously or fatally injured because of the inappropriate or criminal behaviours of adults.

Whilst it should be noted that there has been no such instance occurring within Aberdeenshire it is important that staff and parents do not become complacent and continue to work together to develop and improve upon existing arrangements for monitoring the care and welfare of all children and young people.

With that specific aim in mind, Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services has asked all schools to implement a series of standard procedures to monitor pupil attendance and absence from school and to invite the co-operation of parents in making these changes work. All parents are asked to assist the staff in the schools which their children attend in the manner described below:

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE PROCEDURES

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly and arrive on time. They are also responsible for ensuring the safety of their children on their journeys to and from school except whilst on school transport where Aberdeenshire Council has clear guidelines about pupil safety. Absence of pupils travelling on school transport must also be communicated to the bus company or (where known) the bus driver.

Regular and punctual attendance is linked closely to achievement and school staff wishes to work with parents to ensure that children can reach their full potential. The school is required by law to maintain an accurate record of the attendance and absence of each pupil and parents are requested to assist in this process by keeping the school informed if their child is to be absent for any reason.

UNPLANNED ABSENCE

It is important to note that if a child does not arrive at school and there is no reasonable explanation provided for his/her absence then members of staff will be required to ascertain the whereabouts and safety of the individual child. In order to avoid causing unnecessary concern for staff and parents the importance of good communication between home and school cannot be over-emphasised.

Parents are asked to assist school staff in the manner detailed below:

- If your child is unable to attend school through illness/other reason please telephone or email the school between 8:30 am and 9:00 am on the first day of his/her absence or send a signed note via a brother or sister where applicable. If a pupil does not come to school, we will contact the parents by 9.30 am to ensure the pupil is safe. If your child is home for lunch and becomes unwell at lunchtime making them unable to return to school in the afternoon please telephone the school before the beginning of the afternoon session to inform a member of staff.
- When you contact the school it would be helpful if an indication could be given as to the child's expected length of absence from school.
- On your child's return to school a signed and dated note or email should be provided explaining the reason for absence and confirming the periods of absence from the school.

PLANNED ABSENCES

As part of Government Regulations we are required to record all absences as "authorised" or "unauthorised". Authorised absences are due to illness or family bereavement and can also include time off to attend, e.g. sporting events or music exams. The Scottish Government has deemed that holidays taken during term time should be recorded as unauthorised absence unless there are special exceptional circumstances. Should you wish to remove your child from school to attend a family holiday you must request permission from the Head Teacher. On most occasions this will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Parents are advised to limit the number of holidays taken during term time, to minimise disruption to your child's education. For annual **holiday dates** for Aberdeenshire schools please see the section at the back of this book, contact the school office or go to <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-term-dates-and-in-service-days/>

- Under normal circumstances we do not send work home in the case of absence.

For medical or dental appointments the teacher should be informed beforehand by email or in writing. Children should always be collected and returned by an adult on these occasions. As far as possible such appointments should take place outwith the school day.

COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

When pupils are off school because of sickness or diarrhoea, they should not be sent back to school until 48 hours after symptoms have passed. Pupils must be kept off school for a period of time where they have an infectious or contagious disease. These include common ailments such as impetigo, conjunctivitis, chicken pox etc. Please contact your GP or local health centre for up to date advice if you believe your child may have a communicable disease. For further information regarding how long children need to be kept at home and not sent to school either contact the school office or go to www.nhsgrampian.org exclusion policies for infectious diseases.

HEAD LICE

Please check your child's head regularly (we recommend frequently) and notify the school if you find head lice. An information leaflet is available from the school office. Current advice on the treatment of head lice is also available from your local pharmacist.

ASTHMA INHALERS

Parents of children who carry their own inhalers should supply a spare named inhaler to be kept in the school medical cupboard, just in case your child's inhaler is lost or misplaced.

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON SCHOOL CLOSURES

SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO BAD WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCY

We want to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the safety of children at all times. These guidelines outline the procedures for dealing with school closures during bad weather or other emergency.

PARENTAL ROLE

We would like you to:

- Ensure your child wears appropriate outdoor clothes throughout the winter.
- Decide whether it is safe for your child to travel to school in bad weather, either by school transport or on foot.

- Provide the school with information about emergency contacts to whom your child can be sent at short notice if you are not available. Also tell the Head Teacher about any changes to this information and to your daytime contact details.
- Provide the school with a bad weather address within safe walking distance of the school.

Also:

- If school transport is not running please do not take your child – or other children – to school yourself unless it is safe for you to do so. You will be responsible for ensuring that the children you took to school are transported home again and therefore need to be available in the event that the school has to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions.
- In difficult weather conditions pupils should not wait any longer than 15 minutes past the normal pick up time before returning home. In case the transport doesn't arrive please make sure you have made alternative arrangements for your child.
- If your child travels by school transport you are responsible for their safety *to and from the pick up/drop off point* whether they use school transport or a public service vehicle.

School transport contractors have been told not to allow children to walk home alone from drop-off points *under any circumstances* during extreme weather conditions. If you can't meet or arrange for your child to be met, the school transport will return them to a designated location.

Public service vehicles – drivers of these vehicles follow a specified route and keep to timetables – they cannot make special arrangements.

When will schools be closed?

Head Teachers decide if and when schools should close due to bad weather or another emergency. In bad weather they will decide this after receiving information about local weather conditions. This decision can be made during any time, day or night.

During bad weather some staff may not be able to get to school – so the school may have to close because there are too few teachers present. Sometimes only part of the school will be closed or only some of the pupils will be dismissed early.

If you are concerned about local weather conditions contact the school. You may wish to collect your child yourself and are free to do so provided you make arrangements with the school.

STRACHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

If Strachan School is to close early, we will contact you by telephone. If you cannot be reached the school will contact your named 'emergency contact'.

No child will be released from school without contact being made. It is important contact details are current and the people named are available – particularly during bad weather.

WHAT EDUCATION MIGHT MY CHILD BE MISSING?

Some parents and pupils worry that important examinations or work is missed because the school is closed or conditions make it difficult to attend. But the *safety and welfare of children must take precedence* when making judgements about travelling to school in bad weather.

Arrangements can be made for lost time to be made up and examinations can be rearranged.

At Strachan School, pupils are given a "Snow Pack" with activities for completion during emergency closures. Information regarding the continuation of learning may also be posted on GLOW or the school website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Outwith school hours, your local radio station is a good place to find out information on school closures. The following radio stations receive updated information every 15 mins from our website:

Northsound 1

FM 96.9 Tel: 01224 337000

Northsound 2

MW 1035 kHz

BBC Radio Scotland

FM 92.4 - 94.7 MW 810 kHz

Moray Firth Radio

FM 97.4 MW 1107 kHz

North East Community Radio

FM 97.1 - 106.4

Waves Radio

FM 101.2

Original 106 FM

Tel: 01224 293800

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/aberdeenshire>

Aberdeenshire Council Website

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

You also have the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school updates its closure status:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/alerts/index.asp

SCHOOL INFORMATION LINE

Tel: 0870 054 4999 then for Strachan School 02 + 2620. If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

Please note: Call charges to the School Information Line will depend on your contract with your telephone service provider, for example, calling from your home telephone may differ in price from calling from your mobile phone.

Public Transport Unit (9am – 5pm) 01224 665194

Education Offices (9am – 5pm)

Banff – 01261 813340

Fraserburgh – 01346 515303

Peterhead – 01779 473269

Inverurie – 01467 620981

Stonehaven – 01569 766960

Contact Details

It is **vital** that parents keep us informed of up to date telephone contact numbers – home, work and local emergency contact(s) so that we can be sure of reaching you in any emergency situation.

Strachan School Wet Weather Arrangements

- Please do not come to school before 8.45 am.
- Please follow the "Staying In or Going Out?" notice.
- Children should stay in their classrooms.
- Prefects will help to look after the younger class.
- Children are expected to play quietly.
- Staff will tell the children what they are allowed to do.

PARKING, ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL

Parents/guardians are requested to park at the front of the school on the B976 but beyond the place reserved for the school bus. Parents/guardians should keep the entrance to the lane clear for access and take great care that children keep on the pavement.

Parents must not park near the entrance to the lane as this can prevent drivers using the lane having a clear view joining the main road.

Children must keep into the side using the marked pathway to walk up the lane and into the playground. Children must never leave school grounds without being accompanied by an adult. School gates must be kept shut.

TRANSPORT

The Council provides free transport to all primary school children who live over two miles walking distance from school. Free School Transport is also provided for children with additional support needs. School transport routes are determined by the pick-up locations required for pupils who are entitled to free school transport.

PRIVILEGE TRANSPORT

Pupils who live within two miles of primary school may be able to travel on school transport at a charge. Where spare seats are available on a school transport route parents/carers can apply for a privilege place for their child by downloading an application form. The application form includes information on prices and payment methods for Privilege Passes. Discounts are available for pupils entitled to Free School Meals, and to families with 3 or more children travelling to the same school.

For further information click on the link below or contact the school.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport/school-transport/school-transport/>

SECTION 2 – CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

AT STRACHAN SCHOOL WE AIM TO:

- Fulfil the intellectual and social potential of each child by offering a curriculum tailored to the needs of the individual.
- Continue to develop the curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence and Aberdeenshire guidelines and school needs.
- Use a variety of teaching approaches appropriate to the needs of the child.
- Ensure lessons are well planned and evaluated.
- Work towards the children becoming more responsible for their own learning.
- Encourage children to achieve their personal best through encouragement, praise and appropriate support and challenge.

Our Curriculum is based on national and Aberdeenshire guidelines. The curriculum is delivered in line with the values, aims and principals of *A Curriculum for Excellence*.

Values

Wisdom

Justice

Compassion

Integrity

Principles

Challenge and Enjoyment

Breadth

Progression

Depth

Personalisation & Choice

Coherence

STRACHAN SCHOOL PUPIL AIMS

We will:

respect each other and be kind,

follow our school code,

look after our environment,

be fair,

do our best.

Discussed and written by the pupils (November 2012).

STRACHAN SCHOOL ECO CODE

Here is our Eco code. We have designed posters to remind everyone about our code and these are displayed throughout the school.

Save energy by switching off lights.

Turn the tap off.

Reduce, reuse and recycle.

Always put litter in the bin.

Compost your waste.

Help the community to be aware of the environment.

Always help wildlife.

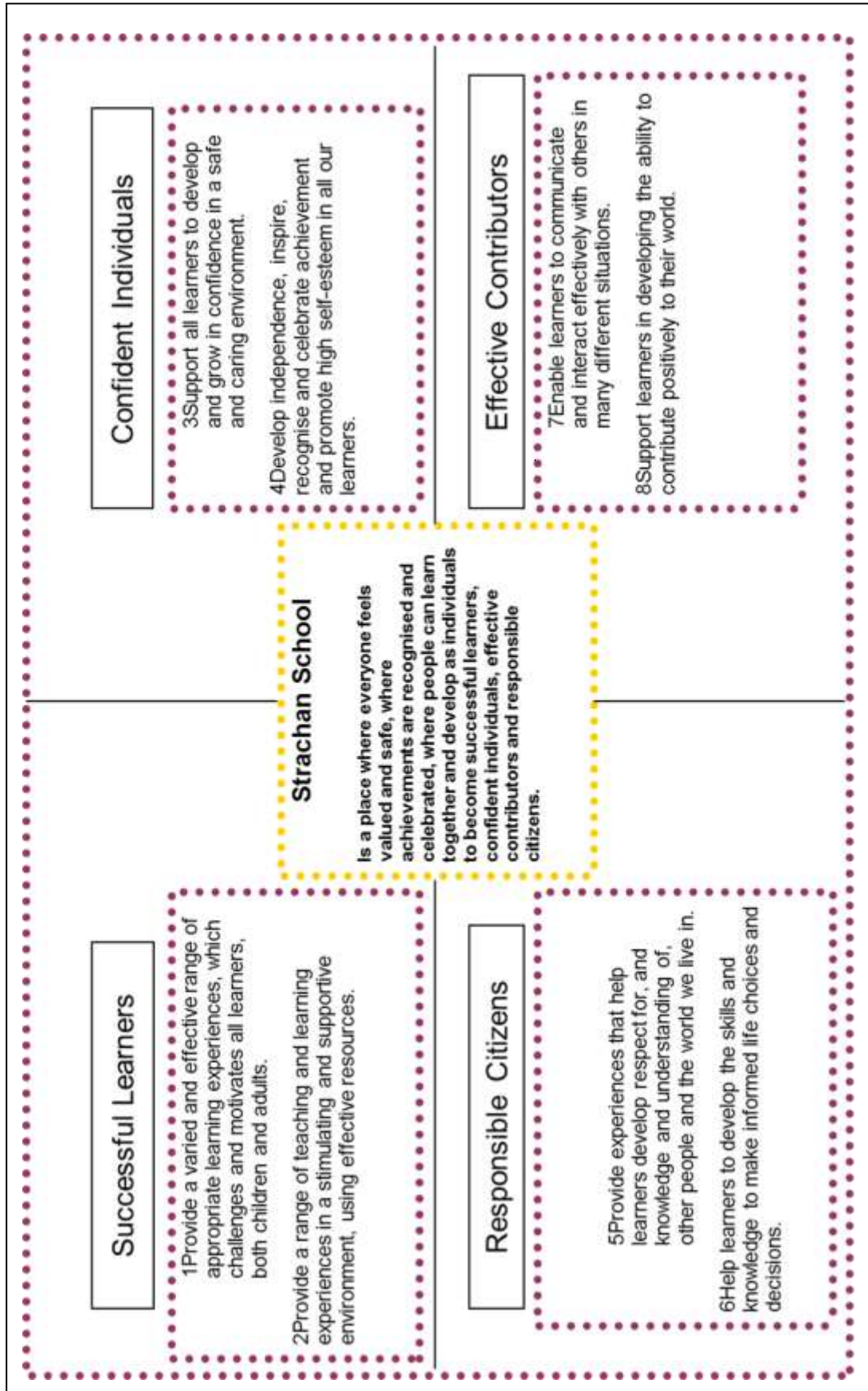
Never waste paper, always recycle.

Unicef Article 24

All children have the right a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay alive.



STRACHAN SCHOOL AIMS AND VALUES



STRACHAN SCHOOL POSITIVE PLAYGROUND

- We take care of equipment and toys.
- We play together and choose games that don't hurt anyone
- We invite children on their own to join in with our games.
- We are helpful and kind; we remember our manners.
- We never hurt people's feelings.
- We show respect to everyone.
- We put our litter in the bin. Everyone takes their turn on our Eco Litter Rota.
- We line up quietly when the bell goes.
- Keep safe in the playground.
- Have fun!

Unicef Article 31

All children and young people have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

BANCHORY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NETWORK

Strachan is part of the Banchory Community Schools Network. Partner members are Durris Primary, Drumoak Primary, Crathes Primary, Banchory Primary, Hill of Banchory Primary and Banchory Academy.

The aims of the CSN are:

- To provide mutual support for all its members.
- To encourage good liaison and communication between schools, teachers and pupils.
- To promote effective teaching and learning.
- To ensure curricular continuity and progression.
- To foster a group identity whilst valuing the social and cultural differences of member schools.

Head teachers of the schools in the Banchory CSN meet regularly and work together on a number of initiatives.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Positive Behaviour Management is a vital component in helping Strachan School to achieve its aims and values. Our Positive Behaviour Management Policy also provides our pupils with the boundaries and rules that they need in order to fulfil their potential and contribute to the wellbeing of others.

Positive Behaviour

We want the pupils at Strachan School to enjoy coming here. A calm, relaxed atmosphere is what we aim for and this is only possible if certain standards of behaviour are maintained. The school community consists of pupils, staff and parents. Any codes of behaviour we may have apply to all of us and are in place for the safety and well being of everyone.

We work hard to adopt a positive approach, encouraging

- Mutual respect
- Consideration for others
- Courtesy
- Kindness
- Punctuality
- Regular attendance
- Respect for property
- Independence
- Understanding

Promoting positive behaviour is a joint responsibility, resting on both home and school. Working together we can help our children to become respectful, caring and responsible citizens.

If unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour occurs

- Any member of staff who happens to be on the spot will check it immediately.
- The matter will be discussed with the pupil with a verbal reprimand or sanction given, should this be appropriate.
- If unacceptable behaviour is persistent, staff will contact the parents to discuss how best to support the child in improving behaviour.

Any child with serious behavioural problems will, after consultations with the parents, be referred to the Psychological Service. Should our joint efforts to improve behaviour fail the option of exclusion or suspension, where the pupil is removed from school, is available.

ANTI-BULLYING

Bullying may be defined as a range of pre-meditated, persistent and often deliberate actions, undertaken by a person or a group of people, which cause the victim(s) physical or emotional distress.

It may be useful at this point to draw a distinction between acts of bullying and incidents which, although not to be encouraged, are commonplace when groups of children play together. An occasional tussle or quarrel between two children will be treated as a breach of discipline by staff, but it is **not** bullying. Similarly, reciprocal or casual name-calling is not to be condoned, but it is **not** bullying. **Sustained victimisation** is. The crucial distinction is where the imbalance of power is such that the victim clearly needs positive support. At the same time the bully needs to be made aware of the damage, which his/her actions are causing.

The school is opposed to all forms of bullying behaviour, be this physical, verbal, threatening and intimidating behaviour or ostracism from groups, games or activities, and we will do everything in our power to prevent such behaviour amongst our pupils, and to deal effectively with any incidents which might occur. Victims of bullying are supported by a range of strategies and resources depending upon the needs of the child and the nature of the incidents. However, please be reassured that incidents of bullying in Strachan School are few and far between.

We believe that a strong, positive school ethos and constant work on building a caring school community, together with close contact with parents, offer the best way forward.

Restorative Approach to Bullying Behaviour

Whilst many believe that children who bully must be punished for their behaviour, it is widely accepted that this type of response can at times be ineffective, dangerous and breed resentment and can make the situation worse.

Punishment can make a person resentful instead of reflective. Children who bully must be given the opportunity to hear about and face up to the pain, hurt, distress and anger they have caused to others. Punishment does not help to restore relationships and can result in further retaliation.

Aberdeenshire Council has a responsibility to protect those being bullied but also to provide an education for all pupils including children who bully or those with behavioural problems. Whilst appropriate action will be taken by the school, it is also important that all parents involved, work with the school to resolve the problems in the best interests of their child or young person.

Race Relations Act

Schools actively discourage any racist language or behaviour. Where any such behaviour has been reported schools are required to record the incident and the person(s) involved. The behaviour will be dealt with according to school policy.

Exclusion

Where pupils who repeatedly display behaviours which compromise the good order of the school i.e. disruption of learning and teaching, unsafe practices, bullying and other forms of abuse and where other forms of support and sanctions have proved unsuccessful, the authority exclusion policy will apply. For further information on exclusions contact the school or go to http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/3901/policy_disc_exclusion.pdf

CURRICULUM

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence has now been introduced across Scotland for all 3 –18 year olds - wherever they learn.

Principles for Curriculum Design

Schools and learning communities in Aberdeenshire apply the principles for Curriculum Design that are drawn from National advice but reflect our unique Aberdeenshire context. Those principles are:

- Challenge and enjoyment in learning
- Breadth of learning
- Progression in learning
- Depth of learning
- Personalisation and choice e.g. in how to present learning
- Coherence (with other areas of learning)
- Relevance of learning

CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENTS

The following entitlements are also provided for all pupils in Aberdeenshire Schools:

- A cohort curriculum from 3 to 18
- A broad general education, including well planned experiences and outcomes across all the curriculum areas. This should include understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it and understanding of the environment
- A senior phase which provides opportunities for study for qualifications and other planned opportunities for developing the four capacities
- Opportunities for developing skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work
- Opportunities to achieve to the highest levels they can through appropriate personal support and challenge
- Opportunities to move into positive and sustained destinations beyond school

In Aberdeenshire Schools this includes a strong focus on learning **In, About and Through** the environment i.e. outdoor learning.

Learners are provided with a broad, balanced set of experiences designed around the curriculum areas of:

- Expressive arts
- Languages and Literacy (Both classes are taught French)
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Health & Wellbeing
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

The core curriculum consists of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-Being. These subjects permeate all other curricular areas and attainment and achievement in these areas are continually scrutinised and reviewed annually by the school to ensure standards are maintained or improved.

Learners are given opportunities to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work with a continuous focus on:

- Enterprise and Creativity
- Citizenship and International Education
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Health & Wellbeing
- Sustainable Development
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)

SCHOOL POLICIES

School and authority policies are currently being reviewed and updated to reflect Curriculum for Excellence requirements. Please contact the school office if you would like more information about current school or authority policies.

Further information on “A Curriculum for Excellence” may be obtained at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk.

THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE IS STRUCTURED INTO DIFFERENT LEVELS

Early The pre-school years 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.

S1 to S3, but earlier for some. The fourth level broadly equates to Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4.

Third and

Fourth The fourth level experiences and outcomes are intended to provide possibilities for choice and young people's programmes will not include all of the fourth level outcomes.

**Senior
phase**

S4 to S6, and college or other means of study.

Learning and Teaching

Our teaching approaches recognise and reflect that each child is an individual with their own aspirations and aptitudes. We aim to develop each child to their full potential and to cater for a range of learning styles.

We believe in active learning for all pupils at all stages with children fully engaged in thinking. In promoting active learning, we recognise the importance of ensuring that learning experiences are stimulating and challenging.

We make full use of the local environment, including local businesses. Our aim is to make learning relevant and meaningful and to promote enthusiasm for life-long learning.

Not all pupils do the same work at the same time; within any class the teacher will regularly plan tasks that are set at different levels of difficulty according to the carefully identified and agreed next steps for each pupil.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We offer various educational visits during the course of the school year. We believe that 'hands on' experiences greatly enhance a child's education, while also helping to make the necessary links between learning in school and life outwith school. Staff members and parent volunteers provide supervision to standards laid down by Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services. We give parents as much notification as possible with regard to visits that affect their child.



Visiting Crathes Castle

Primary 6 and 7 pupils have the opportunity to go on a 4 day residential trip to the Compass Christian Centre at Glenshee. This takes place in Term 4 and has a focus on health and well-being as well as physical activity. This is a great opportunity for pupils to get to know their peers from the other small schools.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUPIL CHOICE AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT AND HOW THEY LEARN

The school provides a framework for learning based upon the principles of curriculum design and curriculum entitlements. Within this, the school encourages pupils to have a say in how they learn and what they learn e.g. in topic based work in a social studies based topic, the children might choose to communicate their learning through a report, a PowerPoint presentation or a piece of artwork. The pupils also might choose to research a specific aspect of information within the topic framework. Through the use of learning logs and personal planning, the pupils are involved in setting their own targets and planning next steps in learning.

For further information on specific aspects of learning, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

Further information about Aberdeenshire's curriculum framework can be found at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/about/departments/CurriculumFramework.pdf

Further information about Curriculum for Excellence can be found at www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum

PUPILS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Some of the ways that we do this are:

- Prefects – P6 and P7 support the younger pupils at playtimes
- Buddies – P6 and P7 pupils are paired with P1 pupils and help them to settle into school life
- JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) – Two pupils from the senior class delivers important messages on road safety
- P6 and P7 train as Young Leaders – teaching younger children to play co-operatively

Achievement, Attainment and Assessment -

Formal assessment is only one part of a child's progress. Aberdeenshire Schools use standardised tests in P1, P3, P5 and P7 to complement the ongoing formative assessment. This along with professional judgement helps your child and your child's teacher to continually be aware of where they are in their learning across the curriculum. Achievement in personal development, participation in events, extra curricular activities and personal interests are also recognised, recorded and celebrated in different ways across school.

We also invite parents to make us aware of their children's wider achievements outside school on an ongoing basis and to encourage their children to do the same. This gives a more rounded view of an individual and ensures achievement other than academic is given credit and value.

In our partnership with parents, they are welcome to request an interview to discuss their child's progress at any other time during the school session should they wish.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Teachers carry out continuous assessment as part of their daily practice to ensure that learning activities are meeting the needs of their pupils and extending and developing learning. Assessment information is used to track pupils' progress, inform planning, direct future learning and teaching activities and for reporting purposes.

The overall purpose of assessment is to support learning. Staff at Strachan School use a variety of formative assessment techniques in teaching the children HOW they can improve upon their current standards of work. This applies to all pupils, regardless of ability and ensures that opportunities to progress and achieve are fair and inclusive.

Formative Assessment includes:

Sharing learning intentions, success criteria, ideas and expectations

Promoting creative thinking skills by using quality questioning techniques

Giving constructive feedback to pupils which is focused on improvement

Assessing what children **Make, Say, Write** and **Do** and planning teaching activities to support future learning

Children are also encouraged to self and peer assess, and recognise their own strengths and learning needs. Once next steps in learning are identified, children are involved in planning their own future learning. In addition to this, teachers set realistically challenging targets for their pupils, helping to ensure that the pace of children's learning is appropriate.

More formal assessments are also carried out to confirm teachers' professional judgement about learning. This may include summative assessment, diagnostic assessment and the use of national assessment resources.

All Aberdeenshire schools use PIPS standardised assessments (**P**erformance **I**ndicators in **P**rimary **S**chools) in P1 and InCAS standardised assessments (Interactive Computerised Assessment System) in P3, P5 and P7. These assessments provide Quantitative Data to support other sources of assessment evidence to provide the fullest picture of progress in learning for individual children and within schools.

In the Banchory Cluster of Schools moderation also takes place. This involves teachers from different schools comparing samples of pupils work and applying common approaches to assessment. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of standards between schools.

Parents receive information about their children's progress and achievements throughout the year in a number of ways e.g. through homework diaries, jotters, and samples of work sent home, through visits to school for open days and class assemblies and through visits to school for more formal parent interviews.

At Strachan School, parents are invited to a parents' interview to discuss their pupil's progress with the class teacher early in November. During parent interviews, information will be shared about children's strengths, development needs and next steps in learning. Parents will also be given ideas about supporting their children's learning at home. In spring each year, individual pupil reports are sent home to parents. Parents and pupils are invited to add their comments to these reports. Although these are planned opportunities for parents to meet with class teachers, parents are welcome to contact the school to request an interview to discuss their child's progress at other times during the school session should they wish.

Pupils are developing skills to identify and record their best work and achievements in and out of school. This process, known as profiling, will involve on-going dialogue with the class teacher and will take place at all stages. Pupils will record their 'latest and best' achievements in documents called profiles. These profiles will be produced in P7 and S3 and may be either electronic or paper based. Pupils can add to their profiles in school and at home. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the process with their child. Regular

dialogue between parents and pupils is of course the best way for parents to be informed of their children's progress at school.

There are times when all pupils in the class undertake the same activity. In these circumstances teachers will look for and accept different levels of outcome based on their knowledge of the individual child's strengths.

By the time pupils leave our school we hope that they have acquired many of the attributes of an independent learner. Each will have developed at his/her own pace and in his/her own way. We trust that not only will each of them have gained an awareness of his/her full strengths and areas forward.

Pupil achievement is promoted through:

- Staff providing planned, appropriate learning programmes.
- Regular evaluation and improvement of learning programmes.
- Use of Assessment is for Learning strategies.
- High expectations of all.
- Recognition of children's hard work on star wall and at weekly assemblies. These are recorded in our Strachan Stars Book.
- Celebration of children's wider achievements.
- Pages in learning folders.

1+2 APPROACH TO LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ABERDEENSHIRE

The Scottish Government has introduced a policy 'Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach'. Children are growing up in a multilingual world and to allow them to take their place as global citizens, they need to be able to communicate in many settings. This approach entitles every child and young person to learn two languages at school in addition to their mother tongue language. The approach is inclusive and entitles all children and young people to learn new languages. All language learning is important and will be recognised and celebrated as an achievement.

By 2020 language learning will be part of the everyday life of the classroom from P1 onwards. The entitlement to study the first foreign language will continue into secondary until at least the end of S3 with opportunities to continue into the senior phase. By beginning language learning early there will be more time to develop learner's language skills and knowledge of language so that they will have a greater understanding of how languages work as they go through school.

In Aberdeenshire the first foreign language will be either French, German or Spanish. In Strachan School this language is French. This language will be learned from P1 (in Primary School) through to S3 (in secondary school).

From P4 / P5 our learners will be introduced to another foreign language.

Although like many schools we are beginning to implement this already decisions about this will be finalised as we move towards full implementation of the *1+2 Approach to Language Learning* in 2020.

All schools in our cluster will continue to plan together to make sure that what learners do in secondary school builds on what has been learned in primary school. This will ensure that learning languages remains an appropriately challenging and rewarding experience for learners as they move into secondary.

We are committed to this new approach to language learning because learning languages can play an important role in helping young people to develop their literacy skills, including literacy in their first language, whether this is English or another language. Through languages, learners have opportunities to:

- develop and improve their skills in listening, talking, reading and writing
- get a feeling for how languages work
- learn how to communicate ideas and information in their own language as well as in the new languages they learn
- become familiar with different texts and media in different languages
- Develop skill which will help them further for learning, life and work.

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

From Primary 4 onwards, tuition is available for a range of musical instruments. All disciplines are taught in the secondary schools however not all disciplines are available in primary schools due to limited resources. Orchestral string instruments are not normally available to beginners at secondary level. Tuition is subject to availability.

For further information

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/ims/>

SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Values

The Development of Pupils' Values

In our school we are committed to providing appropriate opportunities for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values through both the ethos and the curriculum. This will be undertaken in partnership with parents and will take account of the individual needs of pupils and the views of parents.

Our school welcomes and encourages diversity and individuality, while emphasising our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others, compassion and justice. It is a fundamental principle of our school that all who are involved in the life of our school has the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement the Council policy for

Equal Opportunities and ensure that all pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are firmly committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the grounds of age, race, religion, gender, sexuality or disability. See Aberdeenshire Council Policy at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/about/equality.asp

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION

Throughout the school there are opportunities for pupils to learn about aspects of Christianity, other world faiths and to reflect upon their own moral standpoint in relation to world issues. During weekly whole-school assemblies, we encourage awareness of matters of a cultural, social and moral nature.

We aim to develop in our pupils an ethos of tolerance, understanding and respect for the beliefs and customs of others. The school is committed to supporting the development of its pupils as whole people and as a result, wish to encourage their development in moral, social and cultural terms.

The key human aspects of learning are supported by:

- Creating an atmosphere that is both caring and challenging and which provides opportunities for the development of personal responsibility.
- Promoting social and moral learning through the way in which disciplinary issues are handled.
- Ensuring staff and adults within the school provide positive models for pupils.
- Arranging regular gatherings of the school community and using such occasions to encourage and reinforce the values on which the school is based.
- Enriching the curriculum in all appropriate areas with an emphasis on moral, social and cultural development.
- Providing opportunities within the curriculum to advance personal and social development.
- Providing a programme of religious education in which consideration will be given to responses to basic questions relating to the meaning, value and purpose of human life.
- Providing a programme of moral education.
- Taking every opportunity to acknowledge value and appreciate the various cultures and heritage of our pupils and to encourage them to appreciate and value the cultures and heritage of others including visits by representatives of other beliefs or faiths.

Rev Stutter, the School Chaplain visits school on a regular basis and at Christmas and Easter we visit the local church for a short service which is usually led by the children.

Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Religious and Moral Education should contact the Head Teacher so that acceptable alternative arrangements can be made.

RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL HEALTH AND PARENTHOOD

The following Aberdeenshire Council information guidance is followed by the school in providing appropriate learning experiences with regard to relationships, sexual health and parenthood which is part of the health and wellbeing curriculum

Sex education can be defined as a lifelong process whereby children and young people acquire knowledge and skills, and develop beliefs, attitudes and values about their sexuality and relationships within a moral and ethical framework.

(Sex Education in Scottish Schools: Effective Consultation with Parents and Carers, Scottish Executive & Learning and Teaching Scotland 2001).

Children learn about relationships, sexual health and parenthood from a wide range of sources including formal education, parents and families, friends and the media: magazines, books, TV, video games and movies.

Key learning themes from Primary 1 through to P7 are as follows:

Early Years – Primary 4

- Friendships and relationships
- Carers and people who look after us
- Respect and appropriate behaviour
- Keeping safe
- Similarities and differences
- The growing body and body parts (correct terminology)



Primary 5, 6 and 7

- Wide ranging friends and relationships
- Health and wellbeing of others
- Changing relationships
- Respect and appropriate behaviour
- Emotional issues
- Puberty and personal hygiene
- Keeping safe
- Giving birth
- Looking after a baby
- Role of a parent/carer

These areas are not taught in isolation, but are included across many areas of the curriculum. In addition to the learning areas, the following topics may be discussed at age appropriate stages:

- Physical development – e.g. menstruation, reproductive parts
- Sexual behaviour (e.g. masturbation)
- Contraception and safer sex
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Sexuality and gender

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL HEALTH AND PARENTHOOD EDUCATION

Parents/carers/guardians

Education begins at home. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their child. Even if parents do not talk to their child about relationships and sexual health, parental influence will still be strong.

Parents are encouraged to review the school's programme and resources and to speak to their child about what they are being taught in school.

Actively support the work of the school.

School

Building supportive and positive communication with parents.

Encouraging parents to view the teaching and resource materials.

Dealing with parental concerns.

Providing staff with appropriate training and support.

Actively seek parents' support through activities such as homework tasks, questionnaires, training, workshop and information sessions.

Using Appropriate Language

Some families use a range of different names for intimate parts of the body. This can lead to confusion for some children. We would appreciate, therefore, your support in using the correct names for body parts from pre-school through to Primary 7.

In early and lower primary the curriculum focus is on:-

- handling and understanding relationships
- personal and physical changes.
- respecting oneself and others

In middle to upper primary more detailed information will be made available for parents regarding content and vocabulary used.

In some exceptional circumstances, parents or carers may prefer to deal with their child's relationship and sexual health education themselves. This should be discussed with the head teacher or designated member of staff so that appropriate alternative arrangements can be made.

For further information about specific resources or programmes of work please contact the school.

DRUGS EDUCATION / SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The Aims of Substance Misuse Education

- When planning for Substance Misuse Education within the curriculum, it is important to reflect on the guidance outlined in Aberdeenshire Policy. Within the rationale of this policy, the key elements of successful Substance Misuse Education provision are addressed directly within the advice for supporting children and young people in becoming successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

<http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/?p=2930>

An effective Substance Misuse Education programme should aim to:

- Allow pupils to develop knowledge and understanding about legal and
- Illegal drugs, their effects and the implications of use and misuse.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to develop beliefs, attitudes and values about drugs.
- Enable pupils to develop the skills necessary to make healthy, informed choices and informed decisions about drugs, including resistance to peer pressure or influence.
- Link with other components of personal, social and health education to develop life skills and promote access to positive, health-promoting lifestyles.

At Strachan School programmes of study are arranged in compliance with this guidance. For further information on learning and teaching of substance misuse education, please contact the school.

SECTION 3 – PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND PUPIL WELFARE

PARENT COUNCILS

Parent Councils are now established in almost all Aberdeenshire primary and secondary schools. The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their children's learning.

The basic principle under-pinning the Act is the desire to have children become more 'confident learners' through closer working between each family and the school. It is anticipated that this can be done in three ways. These are:

- 1. Learning at Home:** direct parental involvement in the child's learning at home and in the community.

Parents can support learning at home through:

- Reading to and with your child
- Giving your child responsibility for small tasks at home – setting the table, making a shopping list, tidying their bedroom etc
- Helping your child to recognise and develop their skills and to recognise the skills of others
- Encouraging your child to respect diversity and be tolerant
- Helping them to be resilient and have a problem solving attitude
- Helping them to develop social skills though reinforcing the need for manners and politeness.

- 2. Home/School Partnership:**

The home/school partnership is essential to ensure that the child gets maximum benefit from its school experiences. You can support this by:

- Helping with any homework your child may be tasked with and remember to sign the completed work (see Parentzone for further information on helping your child at home.)
<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp>
- Volunteering with an aspect of school life. Please note that all volunteers need to undertake a PVG check. This involves completion of paper documents which are then scrutinised by Disclosure Scotland. PVG is then considered for granting.
- Supporting the school in promoting positive behaviour and the school values
- Completing audits that are sent to you seeking your views and opinions on how the school operates

3. Parental Representation:

- Parent Councils are parent led and supported by the school with all parents automatically being members of the 'Parent Forum', The Parent Council is tasked with representing the views of the Parent Forum.
- The Parent Council assists the school in developing an annual improvement plan
- They comment upon and add to the annual Standards and Quality Report
- Provide an annual report for parents on their work throughout the year.
- You can find out more about your Parent Council by contacting the Parent Council Chair or the Head Teacher or by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/consultations/detail.asp?ref=3C6AEC305BBB4D88802576CE00549127>

COMMUNICATION

We are keen to maintain the excellent and open communication links we have with parents and have a number of ways in which we do this.

A school newsletter is posted on the school website and if preferred, emailed to parents, prospective parents including parents of Strachan under 5s group and the Quality Improvement Officer, detailing information about school events and activities. You are invited to comment on the return pro-forma on any aspect of school whether as a comment/suggestion, compliment or concern. These are responded to as and when necessary.

We also have weekly communication called *Plastic Post*. This is a folder of weekly information which is sent home every Wednesday with the oldest pupil in the family. Parents are asked to sign the record sheet so that we know that the information has been received. The folder is then returned to school by Friday at the latest.

This saves constant pieces of information going home and often getting lost in bags.

Information is also communicated to parents through email. We have up to date information on our school website and encourage parents to sign up to receive our paper-free newsletters.

We will contact you by telephone if there is ever anything specific that we wish to discuss with you. Should you ever wish to discuss any aspect of your child's development, please phone the school and an appointment to meet will be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

In addition to homework, your child will also bring home samples of pupil work for you to see and discuss with your child.

In the autumn term, you will be invited to attend a parent interview. This is a chance to meet and get to know your child's new teacher and to share with her, your knowledge of your child and your hopes for his/her progress and any additional support needs/relevant information. At this interview, the teacher will share information regarding your child's

personal and social development as well as indicating any particular curricular development needs and strengths. The teacher will also share ideas as to how to help your child at home.

You will receive a written report on your child's progress in spring.

Other means of communication include parent workshops, curricular evenings, concerts, class assemblies, performances, open days, the school website and the local newspaper reports, local and national GLOW website. The school website address is www.strachan.aberdeenshire.sch.uk.

HOMEWORK

The school homework diary is another means of communication where parents and teachers can share relevant information about your child. In line with school policy teachers regularly set homework. In the younger class, homework tasks include reading, spelling practice and maths activities. In the senior class, pupils are expected to carry out more independent tasks such as topic research, preparing short talks, science investigations and news items. A copy of our policy is available to all families and there is also an information leaflet for parents, pupils and staff.

Parental involvement is warmly welcomed as homework allows parents an opportunity to be involved in their children's learning.

HOW WE INVOLVE OUR PARENTS

Parent Helpers are welcome in school to help in a variety of ways. We encourage parents to come to school to discuss any concerns they may have. This is done formally at parent interviews or can be arranged informally at any mutually convenient time.

Strachan School is fortunate to have a very active and supporting Parent Council which meets at least once each term. The Parent Council promotes the involvement of parents in the life and work of the school. Regular social and fund-raising events are organised and are well supported.

A copy of the Parent Council constitution is available on request.



Part of our art gallery at our Scottish Afternoon

HEALTH CARE

School staff members provide first aid and we have regular visits from the School Nurse and Dentist. Please tell us as soon as possible if your child has a specific medical condition.

The School Health Team, (eg school doctor, school nurse, speech and language therapist etc) working in partnership with parents and teachers, carries out assessments to ensure the best level of health for all school children.

PRIMARY 1

Parents are asked to return a completed health questionnaire. A Health Support Worker checks height and weight for all children and health interviews will be carried out by the School Nurse on selected children only. Hearing and vision are no longer checked in school.

PRIMARY 7

All parents are asked to return a completed health questionnaire. An opportunity to discuss health problems with the School Nurse is offered.

Children with an identified health need may be seen more frequently.

How can Parents Help?

1. Contact the school if you are worried about any aspect of your child's health, emotional well-being or learning.
2. Please fill in and return all questionnaires sent to you. This helps the School Nurse enormously.
3. If you are offered a health interview, please keep the appointment or request an alternative.
4. If you feel that a problem has not been solved, please let us know.

YOUR CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL HEALTH

Lynn Halliwell is our school nurse. She can be contacted at Banchory Academy.

Telephone: 01330 823357

THE PROGRAMME OF ROUTINE DENTAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Aberdeenshire Community Dental Service will be inspecting P1 and P7 children in schools as part of the National Dental Inspection Programme. Written parental consent is not required for dental inspections, but parents will be informed in writing approximately one week before the inspection date. Immediately after the inspection, parents will be informed in writing of their child's caries (dental decay) risk category. Those children who are not registered with a dentist are invited to arrange an appointment for their child to attend the Community Dental Service for a single course of treatment after which parents are encouraged to register their children with a general dental practitioner. Treatment is undertaken at a clinic or in a mobile dental unit, at a location convenient to the patient. Parents are invited to attend.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

Many pupils will, at some time in their school careers, need to take medication. For the vast majority this will be a short-term requirement, with pupils simply finishing a course of medication which has been prescribed for them by their family doctor. Wherever possible, parents are requested to ask for GP prescriptions which can be administered outwith the school day, i.e. in the morning and evening. Where this is not possible, parents are required to complete a signed *Authorisation to Administer Medication* form prior to school staff administering medications on parents' behalf. This policy also includes items such as Calpol, throat lozenges and cough mixture.

Sunscreen

As children are out doors for learning and for play, parents should apply this prior to sending children to school or nursery. School staff do not supply, nor do they apply, sunscreen creams.

Illness during the school day

Children who are ill are best kept at home for their own comfort. However, should your child become ill during the school day, we will contact you or your emergency contact. Every care will be taken to make your child comfortable until the arrival of a responsible person. Please be aware that staff in school have a range of duties to perform in a day so we would ask that you make arrangements to collect your child as quickly as possible.

Where pupils have long term medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes which may require on-going support and, if their conditions are not properly managed by taking regular medication in school, their access to education could be limited. In addition, some children have conditions which may require occasional staff intervention - e.g. severe allergic conditions such as anaphylaxis. In certain cases specific training of staff about a child's treatment may need to be given.

TRANSITIONS

We understand that transitions especially at Pre-School, P1 and S1 stages can be anxious times for parents and pupils. At Strachan School we have arrangements in place to support transitions and these are outlined below.

TRANSFER TO PRIMARY 1

In order to support and ease transition into P1, we arrange a series of induction events/meetings for you and your child. These events are planned to allow you and your child to become familiar with the school building, to meet staff, to meet with the other children including your child's buddy and to find out about life in school and what you can do to support your child's transition into P1. The induction process starts in your child's pre-school year, with P1 staff arranging to visit your child in their pre-school setting wherever possible in order to begin to get to know your child.

Induction meetings are arranged for parents around June in order to share information about starting school and how you can help your child at home. This is also an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher and to ask any questions or share any information.

At these induction meetings, parents are issued with a range of materials designed to support children's learning at home and parents are asked to complete a range of forms to gather information about e.g. your child's medical needs, contact addresses, special needs etc.

Our prospective P1s also have the opportunity to come into class for a series of induction sessions in Term 4. This allows the children to begin to get to know their classmates and their teacher as well as familiarising themselves with the school buildings and classroom routines.

Parents are also invited to join their P1 children for a school lunch in Term 1.

Information communicating details of P1 induction arrangements along with dates will be communicated directly to Prospective P1 parents around April.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY EDUCATION

At the end of Primary 7 most children from Strachan School transfer to:

Banchory Academy

Schoolhill

Banchory

AB31 5TQ

Telephone: 01330 823357

Strachan School is part of the Banchory Community Schools Network.

An induction programme for P7 is in place to help ease the transition into S1. P7 pupils spend 3 days at Banchory Academy towards the end of the summer term. Further information is communicated to parents about the induction calendar for secondary school around February each year. Parents also have the opportunity to visit Banchory Academy where information will be shared and questions can be asked.

Liaison between Strachan Primary and Banchory Academy is very good. During the P7 year, pupils have many opportunities to join with P7 pupils from the other Banchory Community Schools Network. Transition art projects, sports festivals, trips, invites to the academy pantomime and other ad hoc activities are arranged for P7 pupils to get together.

Information about our P7 pupils is shared with guidance staff at the academy to help support appropriate continuity of education. Parents are welcome to attend these information sharing meetings, especially when additional support has been provided previously.

Banchory Academy staff also visit our pupils in Strachan Primary where information is shared and questions can be asked.

Where parents opt to send their child to any other secondary school, (following placing requests) Aberdeenshire School supports any alternative transition arrangements wherever possible.

Placing request forms are available from the school.

TRANSITIONS BETWEEN STAGES

For some children, the thought of moving onto their next class/teacher can also be an anxious time. Again, we have structures in place to support these transitions. Teachers share planning and work together on school improvement projects helping to ensure a

commonality of expectations and approaches. Time is arranged for teachers to hand over information regarding the learning needs of the pupils transferring from class to class. Opportunities throughout the year for children to work on joint projects with their peers at cluster events, e.g. enterprise challenges and going on the residential trip help to ensure that the children have opportunities to work with other staff and pupils.

If you have any particular concerns regarding transitions, please make an appointment to see the head teacher.

CHILD PROTECTION

"All children and young people in Scotland have the right to be cared for and protected from harm and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights and needs are respected. The welfare of children is paramount."

(Protecting Children and Young People: Framework for Standards, Scottish Executive 2004)

Protecting children and young people is a priority for Aberdeenshire Council services.

It is everyone's job to ensure that children are kept safe. Schools are required to report any suspected child abuse to appropriate services such as police or social work.

"Child protection means protecting a child from abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a *likelihood* or *risk* of significant harm from abuse or neglect."

Categories of abuse include:

- Physical
- Physical neglect
- Emotional
- Sexual

(From the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014)

A comprehensive set of guidelines provide all staff and volunteers who come into contact with children the essential information about protecting children from harm. Where parents or a member of the public have concerns about the safety or protection of any child they can contact:

The school and ask to speak to the head teacher or a senior member of staff;

Police Scotland by dialling 101 (This number is in operation at all times)

or

The local Social Work Office by dialling one of the numbers below during office hours or if calling during evenings and weekends 08458400070.

Aboyne	013398 87096
Banchory	01330 824991
Banff	01261 812001
Ellon	01358 720033
Fraserburgh	01346 513281
Huntly	01466 794488
Inverurie	01467 620981
	01467 625555
Laurencekirk	01561 376490
Peterhead	01779 477333
Portlethen	01224 783880
Stonehaven	01569 763800
Turriff	01888 569260
Evenings and weekends	08458400070

For further information please go to the Aberdeenshire Council website www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk .

All Education & Children's Service Managers and School Child Protection Co-ordinators have received training to ensure that they are confident, well informed and supported to promote the protection of children.

All schools provide Child Protection awareness raising training to all teaching and non-teaching staff on the first day of each session.

Protecting Children and Young People in Aberdeenshire – Education & Children's Services Guidelines can be accessed through:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/child-protection/>

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC)

Taking care of our children's well-being and making sure they are alright - even before they are born - help us ensure the most positive outcomes for them later in life. It gives them the potential to grow up ready to succeed and play their part in society.

Getting it right for every child is a programme that aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It promotes a shared approach that:

- Builds solutions with and around children and families
- Enables children to get the help they need when they need it
- Supports a positive shift in culture, systems and practice
- Involves working together to make things better

Getting it right for every child is the foundation for work with all children and young people, including adult services where parents are involved. It builds on universal health and education services, and is embedded in the developing early years and youth frameworks.

Developments in the universal services of health and education, such as Better Health Better Care and Curriculum for Excellence, are identifying what needs to be done in those particular areas to improve outcomes for children.

The Getting it Right approach looks at eight areas of 'well-being'. These are recognised as areas in which children and young people need to progress in order to do well now and in the future. They allow those responsible for the care and support of children - including members of their own families - to look at a situation in a structured way that will help them identify any needs and concerns and plan with the child and family any action they need to take.

The eight wellbeing indicators are:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Responsible
- Respected
- Included

The approach gives them a common language and a way to gather information about a child's world, making sure the child is growing and developing, and has everything they need from the people who look after them both at home and in the wider community. It also encourages practitioners to think about who else might need to be involved (for example a teacher might need to contact other professionals to make sure that an education improvement plan with the child and family was meeting all the child's needs).

For more information about Aberdeenshire's approach to GIRFEC go to;

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/what-is-girfec/>

Key Adult

Your child's teacher is generally the person who knows your child best, and as such is your child's key adult, however where significant additional support needs are present, they key adult may change. The school consults with parents where a change in key adult is thought to be in the best interests of the child.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Many children will face barriers to their learning at some time in their school career. These may be short or longer term and for a variety of different reasons. Some children may

benefit from having some sort of support plan in order to develop learning. Pupils, parents and staff are involved in developing support plans, helping to identify specific needs and what might be done to help overcome areas of difficulty. In Aberdeenshire we adopt a multi-agency approach to supporting pupils with additional needs. Within Education and Children's Services we have a number of specialist staff who support children and young people including:

Additional Support for Learning(ASfL) teachers, Educational Psychology Services, Sensory Support Service, English as an Additional Language (EAL), Intervention Prevention Teachers, Nurture Teachers, ASPECTS, Pupil Support Workers, Family Support Workers.

Our partner agencies include , Therapists e.g. Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy; Community Paediatricians, school nurses, Police Liaison Officers, social workers and those from voluntary organisations (e.g. Grampian Autistic Society, Aberlour Trust).

Similar processes may also be put into place for pupils who have been assessed as being able or gifted as these children might also need additional support to reach their full potential.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

Educational psychologists are trained to work in collaboration with school staff, parents and other professionals to help children and young people to achieve their full potential. They use psychological skills and knowledge to improve the learning and wellbeing of all children and young people and offer schools a range of services including consultation, assessment, intervention, research, project work as well as support for staff's professional learning and development.

During planned visits to the school, the educational psychologist meets with staff to discuss whole school and class issues and how best to meet the needs of the children and young people. These informal consultations aim to develop strategies the teacher can use to bring about positive change.

When concerns persist, school staff and the educational psychologist may decide that a more formal meeting would be helpful. If the concern is about an individual child, the school will ask the parent's permission to arrange a consultation meeting. This is a problem solving meeting led by the educational psychologist, with parents, school staff and sometimes others who can usefully contribute. The child or young person can also be supported to attend or contribute to the meeting in another way if it is thought appropriate. The aim is to develop a plan of action to bring about positive changes for the child or young person. Where other agencies are required to help meet a child or young person's needs, the educational psychologist may be involved in any multi agency assessment and planning.

If parents have any concerns about their child's progress or wellbeing at school, they should discuss these first with the class teacher or Head Teacher. Parents may also contact the Educational Psychology Service directly if they wish.

Further information about the educational psychology service can be found at;

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/eps/>

Meeting needs through Enhanced Provision

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to supporting children and young children to be educated in local schools through providing the right support in the right place at the right time. Aberdeenshire Council also uses a Staged Intervention framework to assess and plan for meeting additional support needs through universal, targeted and specialist support. If parents have any questions about their child's additional support for learning, they should discuss these first with the class teacher or Head Teacher

Local, direct support is how we meet pupils' needs initially, and all Aberdeenshire schools support pupils who have additional support needs (ASN). If parents have any questions about their child's progress or well-being at school, they should discuss these first with the class teacher or Head Teacher.

Some pupils who have more significant and/or complex needs, and may require support beyond their local school, can be supported flexibly through full-time or part-time access to a Community Resource Hub or Enhanced Provision Centre. There is one primary and secondary Community Resource Hub in each of the 9 areas (including the former 4 free-standing all through special schools) plus 17 primary and 17 secondary Enhanced Provision Centres across Aberdeenshire. Access to more specialised provisions is via a multi-agency planning process.

For further details contact:

Quality Improvement Manager (Additional Support)

Education & Children's Services

Woodhill House

Westburn Road

Aberdeen

AB16 5GB

Tel no 01224 664886

Fax no 01224 664615

ELL.Enquiries@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

IDENTIFYING AND REVIEWING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

In Aberdeenshire the 'Staged Intervention' process is used to identify and meet pupils' needs, and to manage and review provision. This is explained in more detail below. Parents and young people also have the right to ask the Education Authority to establish if a pupil has Additional Support Need (ASN), and consider if a Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) is needed. (CSPs are also described in more detail below.)

Parents can also arrange an assessment privately and ask the Education Authority to take the assessment report into account. Requests should be made in writing to the Director of Education describing the type of assessment and why it is necessary. Requests are acknowledged promptly and usually agreed unless this would be 'unreasonable'

Staged Approach to Assessment & Intervention

In order to ensure consistency of practice to assessment and intervention, Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Service have developed a framework to support school decisions and practice around supporting children and young people.

Many pupils attending schools may require support at some time due to a variety of short or long term needs. However the vast majority of these youngsters will have their needs met by standard methods such as differentiation of curricula, multisensory approaches to teaching and learning and a nurturing and positive environment. This is the level of universal support provided in all authority schools and assessed at Stage 0 of the Staged Intervention Model.

A smaller number of children and young people have Additional Support Needs, which as the term implies, require extra provision over and above the standard for universal. They may require additional support from educational services, flexible approaches and timetabling, Individual Education Plan (IEP), Coordinated Support Plan (CSP), Managing Accessibility Plan (MAP), Multi Agency Action Plan (MAAP), planning documents and additional input from Support for Learning teachers, other colleagues and/or partnership agencies – this is the level of targeted support described as Stage 1-3 of the Staged Intervention Model.

Looked After Children (LAC) are deemed to have additional support needs unless assessment demonstrates that this is not the case. Schools are expected to establish whether their support needs can be met at the universal stage or require targeted intervention.

The aim of additional targeted support is to ensure that the educational objectives outlined in planning documents such as IEPs, CSPs, MAPs and MAAPs are supported to enable the development of skills and independence. For some children and young people, bereavement, medical and health care needs, personal care and ensuring safety are also targeted support priorities.

Universal Support Level 0

Class level with advice/consultation within school/Support for Learning (SfL)

Stage 1: School Based Action

- Targeted Support Level 1
- School level with planned SfL Teacher and/or PSA intervention with advice if required from Enhanced Provision/Education & Children's Services (E&CS) specialist services

Stage 2: Education & Children's Service Action (in addition to school-based action)

- Targeted Plus Support Level 2
- School plus cluster level Enhanced Provision/Education & Children's Services (E&CS) specialist services intervention

Stage 3: Multi Agency Action

- Intensive Support Level 3
- Intensive Targeted Support: school with Community Resource Hub (CRH)
- intervention/multi-agency action as required

Individualised Educational Programmes

An Individualised Educational Programme (IEP) is an education planning document managed by schools setting out long and short term educational targets. Parents, and where appropriate, pupils, are involved in review each term.

Multi Agency Plans

Where a pupil has support from agencies in addition to education – eg health or social work, it may become necessary to develop a single collaborative plan to support the pupil. These are known as Multi Agency Plans. Parents (and pupils where appropriate) will be involved in and consulted upon these plans and they will be reviewed as required.

Co-ordinated Support Plans (CSPs)

A Co-ordinated Support Plan is a statutory document for children and young people who require a high degree of multi-agency support. It is an educational planning tool which demonstrates the coordination between agencies to achieve specific educational objectives over a 12 month period. [CSP documentation](#) can be accessed through Aberdeenshire Council website.

What to do if you are anxious about the support your child has in school

The Education Authority values partnership working with parents and will do everything possible to help resolve concerns or differences of opinion at an early stage.

If you have any queries or anxieties about your child's additional needs, or about the support being provided to meet those needs, as a first step please contact your child's class teacher or Head Teacher. If you would find it helpful to discuss a problem informally with someone other than school staff, please contact the Education Department on 01224 664630. Parents and young people have the right to:

- Supporters
Parents can bring a supporter to any meeting about their child. Supporters can take notes, provide clarification and give advice to parents.
- Advocacy
These people can provide relevant information to the parent, speak on behalf of the parent and support them to access their rights.

For more information on Support and Advocacy contact:

Enquire, Princess House
5 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4RG
Helpline: 0845 123 23 03
Email: info@enquire.org.uk
Website: www.enquire.org.uk

For local advocacy contact:

Advocacy North East
Thainstone Business Centre
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 5TB
Tel: 01467 622674

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance can be reached at:

www.siaa.org.uk

Independent Mediation Services

This service is free and involves an independent third party who helps to resolve disagreements between education authority and parents or young people. A local independent mediation service can be accessed at:

Children 1st
15 Frithside Street
Fraserburgh
Aberdeenshire
AB43 9AR
Tel no 01346 512733
Fax no 01346 512810
Email fraserburgh@children1st.org.uk

Additionally, information for the Scottish Child Law Centre can be found at:

www.sclc.org.uk

Additional Support Needs School Policy

The school's policy is to support pupils with additional support needs alongside their peer group, in the normal classroom setting. They may have support from a school Pupil Support Assistant, the Support for Learning Teacher and/or other agencies as noted above. Individually targeted work at a level accessible to the child and designed to support the learning progress is normally provided by the class teacher and learning support staff. Occasionally where deemed necessary the children may be supported individually or in small groups away from the classroom in a quiet setting within the school.

DEALING WITH CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS

CONCERNS

We understand that parents may have concerns about their child from time to time. We are accustomed to supporting parental concerns regarding issues such as friendships, eating habits, behaviour, health issues (including toileting), homework, learning difficulties etc.

Where parents have concerns regarding their child, the class teacher should be contacted in the first instance, as she will be the person in school who knows your child best. Quite often your concern can be addressed quickly and easily via a phone call. At times, another professional colleague may be called upon to support you with concerns e.g. school nurse or additional support needs teacher. You will always be consulted prior to any information being shared with other professionals.

You can contact your child's class teacher either by putting your concern in writing or by telephoning the school and arranging an appointment time to talk to her. The school will make every effort to respond to your concern as soon as practically possible, and certainly within 5 working days.

If you feel that the class teacher has been unable to support you in dealing with your concern, you should contact the head teacher for further advice.

Whilst we understand that there may be times where parents may be upset or angry regarding their concerns, please be reminded that Aberdeenshire Council expects all staff to be treated respectfully and has a zero tolerance policy towards aggression or humiliation of staff.

For further information e mail hrpolicyteam@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

COMPLAINTS

Where a concern remains unresolved in the eyes of parents, parents have the right to make a formal complaint. This complaint can be put in writing, e mailed or communicated verbally to the school. The school will make every effort to respond to and resolve your complaint as soon as practically possible, within 5 working days.

Where complaints remain unresolved by the school, these will be escalated to stage 2 (investigation stage) of the complaints process. In these circumstances the Quality Improvement Officer with line management responsibility for the school or the area Head of Service will investigate the complaint and make a response to the complainant.

Where complainants continue to be dissatisfied with a stage 2 response, complaints can be referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Further information and guidance can be found at – <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online/have-your-say/have-your-say-guide/>

INSURANCE

No insurance is held by Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services that automatically compensates school pupils for personal accident, whether an accident occurs within or outwith the boundary of the school. Insurance of this nature, e.g. personal accident, life, private medical, is seen as a parental responsibility. It is your responsibility as a parent to insure your child for personal accident or death if you feel this is appropriate.

Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services does hold third party liability insurance, which indemnifies the Council against claims from third parties, e.g. parents on behalf of pupils who have suffered injury, illness, loss or damage arising from the negligence of the Council or its employees. In these circumstances all claims are handled on behalf of the Council by external Insurers and Claim Handlers and compensation is dealt with on a strictly legal liability basis.

The Authority has a duty of care in respect of pupils in its charge during school hours and as such has to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all primary and secondary pupils. However, it is thought that secondary pupils should be more mature and, therefore, a lesser degree of supervision would be sufficient.

It may be necessary to provide supervision for primary children on school premises before or after normal school hours if their early arrival or late departure is due to the timing of official school transport. This general duty of care continues if the children go home by way of school transport and ends when the child gets off the bus, at which point the parents then become responsible.

Parents may wish to consider their own insurance arrangements in terms of appropriate extensions to their household insurance or arranging their own separate covers.

SCHOOL OFF SITE EXCURSION INSURANCE

Aberdeenshire Council has in place a School Excursion Insurance policy, whereby both pupils and teachers are covered for offsite activities / trips both within the UK and abroad (offsite meaning off the school premises). The policy covers medical expenses, loss of baggage, cancellation, curtailment and change of itinerary (along with other sundry benefits) etc for worldwide trips and adventurous activities (including winter sports).

If personal items such as jewellery, phones/tablets, watches etc are taken on a school trip then these are taken at an individual's own risk and are not covered under the policy, unless

damage or loss is caused by an Aberdeenshire Council employee. Should a parent or carer want such items to be covered then this would need to be arranged by parents/carers independently of the school

In addition to this policy, Aberdeenshire Council also holds Public Liability insurance cover for any injury or loss incurred by individuals due to the negligence of the Council or its employees (including volunteers).

SECTION 4 – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND DATA PROTECTION

STANDARDS & QUALITY & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

All schools in Scotland are required to report on Standards and Quality and Improvement Planning on an annual basis. Around September each year, a summary of this report is sent to all parents. Parents are welcome to request a copy of the full report or can view this on the school website. Members of the Parent Council are invited to comment on and add to this report before it is finalised and sent to parents.

The Standards and Quality Report measures school performance against a set of national quality indicators and include information about the main achievements of the school. The report also evaluates progress on the school's previous year's improvement plan e.g. how standards have been raised in literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing.

Improvement Planning

In consultation with the Parent Council, the school draws up an improvement plan on an annual basis, indicating the priorities for school improvement. National and local authority initiatives and developments also inform the school improvement plan.

Parents can access comparative information about all Scottish Schools and their education authorities at www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline

For further information on national quality indicators go to www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/about/keydocuments/part3.asp

TRANSFERRING EDUCATIONAL DATA ABOUT PUPILS

Education authorities and the Scottish Government collected data about pupils on paper forms for many years. We now work together with schools to transfer data electronically through the ScotXed programme. This has two functions: acting as a 'hub' for supporting data exchange within the education system in Scotland and the analysis of data for statistical purposes within the Scottish Government itself.

What pupil data is collected and transferred?

Data on each pupil is collected by schools, local authorities and ScotXed. The data collected and transferred covers areas such as date of birth, Scottish Candidate Number (SCN), postcode, registration for free-school meals, whether a pupil is looked after by his/her local authority, additional support needs including disability and English as an Additional Language (EAL), and attendance, absence and exclusions from school. The SCN acts as the unique pupil identifier. Pupil names and addresses are not passed to ScotXed. Your postcode is the only part of your address that is transferred for statistical purposes, and

postcodes are grouped to identify 'localities' rather than specific addresses. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be published by ScotXed.

Providing national identity and ethnic background data is entirely voluntary. You can choose the 'not disclosed' option if you do not want to provide this data. However, we hope that the explanations contained in this message and on our website will help you understand the importance of providing the data.

How Does Aberdeenshire Council Hold and Store Pupil Data?

Aberdeenshire Council use a system called SEEMIS which is used in almost all local authorities in Scotland and is subject to independent scrutiny to ensure that it is a secure environment for holding such data. Our schools update the data held in the system when they have an education update to make to a pupil's record or when they receive advice from a parent or guardian either through the Annual Data Check exercise or when they are made aware of a change of circumstances at any other time in the year.

Data Protection Act 1998

When registering your child in one of our schools, and throughout their time in education, you will be asked to provide a range of personal and potentially sensitive information about your child and your family. All information provided by you will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. As such we draw your attention to the following Fair Processing Notice.

Fair Processing Notice

Who may process your personal data?

The information which you provide to your child's school will be processed by Aberdeenshire Council, which is a Data Controller of this information for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. You can tell us at any time if you do not want us to process or share any information that you have previously provided.

What personal data will be collected?

The information which you provide may include:

- Personal contact details
- Employment details
- Child's date of birth
- Physical or mental health or medical conditions
- Income (if applying for free school meals or clothing grants)

For what purposes will your personal data be used?

The information which you provide on the attached form will be used by Aberdeenshire Council for the following purposes:

- Provision of education to your child
- Provision of additional educational support for your child (if required or requested)
- Provision of transport for your child (if required or requested)
- Provision of extra curricular activities for your child (if required or requested)
- Statistical analysis to monitor performance and inform priorities for improvement

Will Aberdeenshire Council disclose your personal data to anyone else?

Yes. Aberdeenshire Council may share this data with partner agencies. These may include NHS Grampian, Careers Scotland, or Scottish Government departments such as the ScotExed statistical return and transport providers.

We will tell you on the forms that you complete, who we may share that information with, and will seek your permission to do so. We will only reveal information to somebody else where we have your permission or as required by law where it is relevant for that purpose. We do not sell or rent information to anybody.

YOUR DATA PROTECTION RIGHTS

The Scottish Government ensures the collection, transfer, processing and sharing of ScotXed data is done in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). This also complies with the National Statistics Code of Practice requirements and other legislation related to safeguarding the confidentiality of data. The Data Protection Act gives you the right to know how the Scottish Government will use your data. This note can give only a brief description of how data is used. Fuller details of each individual ScotXed survey, including the purpose of each and the published data, can be found on the ScotXed website (www.scotxed.net).

The Scottish Government works with a range of partners including Education Scotland, Skills Development Scotland and the SQA. On occasion, in order to help meet the aim of improving the life of young people in Scotland, they may make individual data available to partners such as the National Registers of Scotland to carry out research relating to the national population census and also academic institutions and organisations to carry out additional research and statistical analysis to meet their own official responsibilities. Any sharing of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, and will be consistent with their data policy. This ensures that no individual level data will be made public as a result of the data sharing and that these data will not be used to take any actions in respect of an individual. Decisions on the sharing of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government. At all times pupils' rights under the Data Protection Act and other relevant legislation will be ensured.

If you have any queries regarding how we will process your information under the Data Protection Act 1998, please contact:

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services:

01224 664630 or email: education@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Parental Access to Records

SAR - Subject Access Request information

Subject Access Requests are the formal process by which individuals can seek information held about them (or their children) by the council. The requests can be broad, in terms of everything that is held, or quite specific - everything held by a specific department, establishment, team or individual. We have a legal requirement to provide the information under the Data Protection Act 1998. An SAR is wider than an Educational Record in that it will include all personal data held about a child not just their educational record. Further information can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/personal-information/>

The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003 means that you can get access to your child's records. Details of the regulations and process for obtaining information specific to pupils are available by contacting the school directly or can be found at:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/myschool/schoolinformation/mychildsrecord/>

ScotXed

If you have any concerns about the national ScotXed data collections you can email the Head of Schools Analysis, Mick Wilson, at mick.wilson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to The ScotXed Support Office, Area 2D, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ. Alternative versions of this page are available, on request from the ScotXed Support Office, in other languages, audio tape, Braille and large print.

SECTION 5 – ANNUAL UPDATES

SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANTS

The School Clothing Grant is only available for children up to the age of 17 years attending an Aberdeenshire school and receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment Support allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,010
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6420
- Support provided under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can apply for a school clothing grant for yourself.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/school-clothing-grants/>

CAN MY CHILD GET FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

You can claim free school lunches for your children if you are receiving:

Income Support (IS)

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance

Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,010

Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6420

You may also be eligible if you are an asylum seeker receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can apply for free school meals for yourself.

By email: benefits@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

In person at one of our [Benefit Offices](#)

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parentscarers/financial/meals.asp>

Free School Meals for All P1 to P3 Pupils

All primary 1 to primary 3 pupils will be entitled to Free School Meals in all of Aberdeenshire's Primary Schools.

Lunch tickets will no longer be required for these pupils.

For parents or guardians of pupils that have not previously taken lunch in school the current primary school menu cycle and information on primary school meals can be viewed on the school catering web pages at:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school_meals/primary.asp

Lunch tickets will still require to be purchased for pupils in primary 4 to primary 7 unless pupils are entitled to Free School Meals.

School Meals charges are currently £2.10 per ticket. Cheques should be made payable to Aberdeenshire Council.

THE STAFF

Head Teacher Mrs Marjorie Temperley (also head at Finzean Primary School)

P1-7 Teacher Mr Graham Taylor

Pupil Support Assistant Ms Pamela Slesser

School Administrator Mrs Mette Cormack

Clerical Assistant Mrs Linda Yule

Canteen Supervisor Mrs Amanda Gammack

Janitor Supervisor Mr Gordon Black

CLASS ALLOCATION

Primary 1 – 7 Mr Graham Taylor

We have strong links with the other rural schools in the Banchory Cluster: Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Primary Schools. We work together on aspects of development planning, staff development and provide opportunities for the older pupils to join together for a variety of activities throughout the year.

WHAT DO OUR PUPILS THINK?

"We are nice and calm. We play together and don't fight and are kind to each other."

James N.

"At Strachan School we are welcoming and everyone is friends. The teachers teach children about lots of different things."

Portia

"We get lots of interesting projects. I like doing outdoor learning in our wildlife garden. We built a den. It was great fun!"

James G.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND IN-SERVICE CLOSURE DATES

Session 2015 - 2016 Holidays

School year starts for pupils on **Tuesday 18 August 2015**

	HOLIDAY STARTS	HOLIDAY ENDS
OCTOBER	Monday 12 October	Friday 23 October 2015
CHRISTMAS	Wednesday 23 December 2015	Wednesday 6 January 2016
OCCASIONAL DAY	Friday 12 February 2016	
MID TERM	Monday 15 February 2016	
GOOD FRIDAY	Friday 25 March 2016	
SPRING	Monday 4 April	Friday 15 April 2016
MAY DAY	Monday 2 May 2016	
OCCASIONAL DAY	Monday 6 June 2016	
SUMMER HOLIDAY	Monday 4 July 2016	

IN-SERVICE CLOSURE DATES FOR 2015/2016

- Monday 17 August 2015
- Monday 16 November 2015
- Tuesday 17 November 2015
- Tuesday 16 February 2016
- Wednesday 17 February 2016

FUTURE HOLIDAY DATES

Session 2016 - 2017 Holidays

School year starts for pupils on **Tuesday 16 August 2016**

	HOLIDAY STARTS	HOLIDAY ENDS
OCTOBER	Monday 10 October	Friday 21 October 2016
CHRISTMAS	Thursday 22 December 2016	Wednesday 4 January 2017
OCCASIONAL DAY	TBC	
MID TERM	Monday 13 February 2017	
EASTER	Monday 3 April 2017	Monday 17 April 2017
MAY DAY	Monday 1 May 2017	
OCCASIONAL DAY	TBC	
SUMMER HOLIDAY	Monday 3 July 2017	

IN-SERVICE CLOSURE DATES FOR 2016/2017

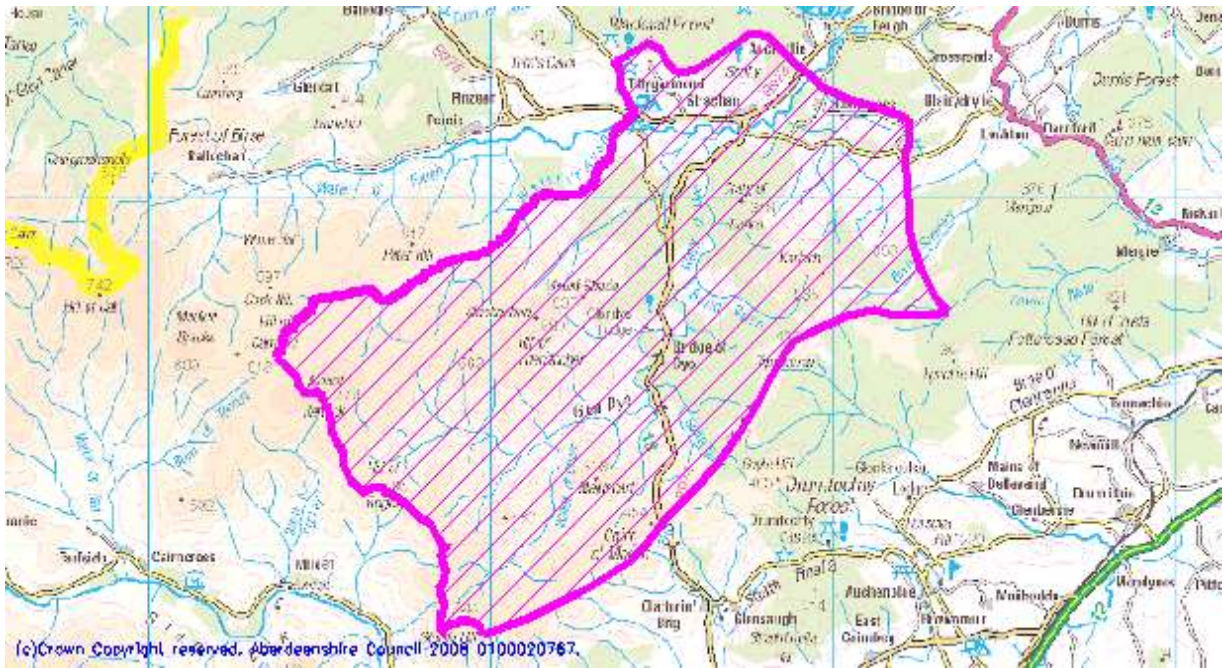
- Monday 15 August 2016
- Monday 14 November 2016
- Tuesday 15 November 2016
- Tuesday 14 February 2017
- Wednesday 15 February 2017

A School Holiday Planner document covering the sessions is available for download at:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/4927/schoolholidayplanner2015-2020_001.pdf

Please note that the 2016-2017 data does not include local holidays specific to Strachan School (known as Occasional Days), which are published on the Aberdeenshire Council website in May for the following school year.

SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA



NOTES

Please note that whilst all information within this booklet is correct at the time of printing, it is possible that some items may change during the course of the year.