



**North Ayrshire Council**  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

**North Ayrshire Council: Communities and Education Directorate**

**Largs Academy**

**School Handbook**

**Session: 2023/2024**



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## Head Teacher Introduction

**Largs Academy** has a **vision** for all learners – at all levels – to be safe, happy and for them to achieve their potential. Positive relationships underpin all of the work that we do.

COVID-19 has impacted on all aspects of our school community. As we rebuild and recover we **aim** to provide high-quality learning and teaching; support for all aspects of wellbeing and develop the skills young people require to transition into a sustained post-school destination.

Our five school **values** underpin our vision:

**Respect**– look after yourself and each other

**Responsibility**– be trustworthy, truthful and self-motivated

**Achievement**– try your best, even when things are tough

**Ambition**– look positively to the future to achieve your goals

**Community**– be kind, open-minded and generous when in school; in your local area and as a global citizen

**John Doherty**

Head Teacher, **Largs Academy**

## **Communities & Education Directorate**

### **What we want to achieve**

#### **Our Overall Aim**

Ensuring our children and young people experience the best start in life.

#### **Our Priorities**

- We will create the conditions for our children and young people to access the highest quality learning experiences from ages 3-18.
- We will support our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- We will offer opportunities to our young people and their families to play a more active role in school life and encourage more participation in learning.
- We will work with all young people to build their resilience, supporting their mental health and physical well-being.

## Section 1: School Information

### School Contact Details

**Address:**

Largs Academy  
Largs Campus  
Alexander Avenue  
Largs  
KA30 9DR

**Phone number:**

01475 687687 Option 1

**email:**

[largs@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk](mailto:largs@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk)

### School Aims, Values, Ethos

Largs Academy has a **vision** for all learners – at all levels – to be safe, happy and for them to achieve their potential. Positive relationships underpin all of the work that we do.

COVID-19 has impacted on all aspects of our school community. As we rebuild and recover we **aim** to provide high-quality learning and teaching; support for all aspects of wellbeing and develop the skills young people require to transition into a sustained post-school destination.

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**Community**– be kind, open-minded and generous when in school, in your local area and as a global citizen

Our school website is updated regularly and contains all of the key documents and policies that will give you more information about our school:

<http://largsacademy.com/>

We also have a social media presence on Twitter which is updated weekly as a means to celebrate success and share the day to day work of our school  
[@LargsAcademy](https://twitter.com/LargsAcademy)

John Doherty  
Head Teacher

## School Staff

<b>SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM</b>	
Mr John Doherty	Head Teacher
Mrs Hazel McClelland	Depute Head Teacher
Mr Barry Wilson	Depute Head Teacher
Mr Colin Frew	Depute Head Teacher

<b>EXPRESSIVE ARTS</b>	
<b><u>Art &amp; Design</u></b>	<b><u>Music</u></b>
Mrs Simpson	Mr Smith
Miss Jarvis	Miss Austin
Mr McLean	Miss McCarron
Mrs Watson	Mr McArthur

<b>SCIENCES</b>		
<b><u>Biology</u></b>	<b><u>Chemistry</u></b>	<b><u>Physics</u></b>
Dr Andrew	Mrs Mazzoni	Mrs Campbell
Miss Cozens	Mr Leishman	Mrs Duff
Dr Mitchell	Mr Roser	Mr Mason
Mrs Furey-McKenna		
Miss McColm		
Mr Trainer		
Mr Rowan		

<b>SOCIAL SUBJECTS</b>		
<b><u>Geography</u></b>	<b><u>History/Modern Studies</u></b>	<b><u>Religious Education</u></b>
Mr Atkinson	Mrs Scott	Mrs Tait
Miss Griffiths	Mr Martin	
Miss Oliver	Mr McCoy	
Mr Robertson	Miss McIlroy	
	Miss Stewart	
	Miss Beaton	
	Miss McLachlan	

<b>ENGLISH &amp; DRAMA</b>		<b>MATHEMATICS</b>
<b><u>English</u></b>	<b><u>Drama</u></b>	<b><u>Mr Blair</u></b>
Mrs Gilmour	Mrs Strahan	Mr Alexander
Ms Cook		Mrs Galbraith
Mrs Griffiths		Mrs Lunday
Mr Halliday		Mr McLean
Dr McMorrان		Mrs O'Connor
Mr McDaid		Mr Stevenson
Miss McKelvie		Mrs Cameron
Mr Ashe		

<b>MODERN LANGUAGES</b>	<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>
Miss Gall	Mr Cavani
Mrs Kerr	Mr Love
Miss Kerr	Miss Parnell
Mrs Paterson	Mr Murchie
Mr McFadyen	Miss Muir

<b>ENTERPRISE &amp; IT</b>	
<b>Computing</b>	<b>Business Education</b>
Mr McCormack	Mrs Denim
Miss Newell	Mrs Beattie

<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>	
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	<b>Food Technology</b>
Mr Beattie	Mrs McPherson-Mitchell
Mr Sinclair	Mrs McNicol
Mr Thomson	Miss Griffin
Miss Donnelly	

<b>PUPIL SUPPORT</b>		
<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Classroom Assistants</b>	
Mrs McTaggart	Mrs Abercrombie	Mrs Sutherland
Mrs Charlwood-Green	Mrs Logan	Ms Brennan
Mr Halbert	Mrs Gray	Mrs Gillespie
Mrs Henderson	Mrs Moore	Mrs McCann
Mrs Blair	Ms O'Hara	Mrs Bardell
Mr Elliott	Mrs Robertson	
Ms Guthrie	Mr Scott	

<b>SUPPORT STAFF</b>		
<b>Office</b>	<b>Technicians</b>	<b>Librarian</b>
Mrs Weir	Mr Reid	Ms Newbury
Mrs Mills	Mr Pllu	
Mrs Mungin	Mr Campbell	<b>Youth Worker</b>
Mrs MacKintosh	Mr Head	Dr Smith
Mrs Wilson	Mr Horne	
Mrs Paton		

<b>JANITORIAL STAFF</b>
Mr Lewis
Mr Kelly
Mr Dorey
Mr McIntyre
Mr Black



## School Holiday and In-Service Dates 2023/2024 (Mainland Schools)

Term	Dates of Attendance	Day	Date	Cumulative Holiday / Closure Total	Cumulative Working Days
<b>Term 1</b>	Teacher (In-Service)	Thursday	17-Aug-23		
	Teacher (In-Service)	Friday	18-Aug-23		
	Pupils Return	Monday	21-Aug-23		
	Teacher (In-Service)	Monday	18-Sep-23		
	Close	Friday	13-Oct-23		42
<b>Term 2</b>	Pupils Return	Monday	23-Oct-23	5	
	Local Holiday	Friday	17-Nov-23		
	Local Holiday	Monday	20-Nov-23	7	
	Close	Friday	22-Dec-23		85
<b>Term 3</b>	Re-open	Monday	08-Jan-24	17	
	Local Holiday	Friday	09-Feb-24		
	Local Holiday	Monday	12-Feb-24		
	Teacher (In-Service)	Tuesday	13-Feb-24		
	Pupils Return	Wednesday	14-Feb-24	19	
	Close	Thursday	28-Mar-24		142
<b>Term 4</b>	Re-open	Monday	15-Apr-24	30	
	May Day	Monday	06-May-24	31	
	Teacher (In-Service)	Friday	24-May-24		
	Local Holiday	Monday	27-May-24	32	
	Pupils Return	Tuesday	28-May-24		
	Close	Friday	28-Jun-24	67	195

*Pupil attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days*

## **Section 2: School Procedures**

### **School Security**

North Ayrshire Council has introduced procedures to ensure the safety and security of children and staff when attending or working in a school. A number of security measures are used including the use of a visitors' book, badges and escorts while visitors are within the school building. Any parent/carer or visitor at a school for any reason will be asked to report to the school office. The school staff will then make any necessary arrangements in connection with the visit to the school.

It is the policy of the school that any member of staff will approach a visitor and ask for verification of identity. This measure ensures that children work in a safe and protected environment. We appreciate your support in carrying out all the above measures.

### **Positive Relationships**

The school is committed to developing a nurturing approach and promoting positive relationships. Like every community, our school is built on the relationships within it, across it and its connections with others. Every member of staff is responsible for establishing and maintaining positive relationships with each other, with parents and with partners and most importantly with the young people in their care.

Our expectations of behaviour for children and young people are high. Some children may require additional support in relation to their behaviour, and the school will work positively with the young person and the parents, and other partners, as appropriate, to ensure positive outcomes are achieved.

North Ayrshire Council is committed to the principles of restorative practices. This is a solution-focused approach to managing behaviour and resolving difficulties and which promotes healthy relationships that enable better behaviour and better learning.

The school has a code of conduct to ensure the safety and well-being of all and parents are asked to support the school fully in this matter.

### **Playground Supervision**

The Council meets the terms of the legal requirement that pupils be supervised in the playground by at least one adult during the interval or lunchtime if there are fifty or more pupils at the school. Our policy reflects that of North Ayrshire Council in terms of the Schools (Safety and Supervision of Pupils) (Scotland) Regulations 1990.

An adult presence is provided in playgrounds at break times. Pupils who travel by contracted school transport and arrive at school more than ten minutes before the start of the school day have accommodation allocated to them within the school during inclement weather.

### **Absence from school premises at breaks**

Schools have a duty to look after the welfare of their pupils. This means that the staff should take the same care of pupils as a sensible parent would take, and this includes taking reasonable care of pupils' safety during intervals and lunchtimes.

It is the policy of North Ayrshire Council that pupils should not leave the school grounds at intervals.

Parents should encourage their children to follow these rules in the interests of safety.

## **School Dress Code**

It is the policy of North Ayrshire Council to support the introduction of a reasonable and flexible dress code in schools in its area. The Council encourages each school to adopt its own code, after consultation with parents and pupils.

The Council believes that establishing a school dress code has many benefits. These include improvements in safety, security, positive behaviour and community spirit and a decrease in bullying and in expense for parents.

The Council will support schools in encouraging and helping pupils to conform to the chosen dress code. Some types of clothing will not be allowed at school in any circumstances, for reasons of safety, decency or wellbeing.

[Dress Code / Uniform Policy \(largsacademy.com\)](http://largsacademy.com)

Types of clothing which will not be allowed include:

- Clothes which are a health or safety risk
- Clothes which may damage the school building
- Clothes which may provoke other pupils
- Clothes which are offensive or indecent
- Clothes which encourage the use of alcohol or tobacco

It would be helpful if all items of clothing can be clearly labelled with the child's name in case of loss. It is appreciated that parents and pupils are distressed over the occasional loss of pupils' clothing. Parents are asked to assist in this area by ensuring that valuable items of clothing are not brought to school.

## **Personal Belongings**

It is appreciated that parents and pupils may be distressed over the occasional loss of pupils' personal belongings. Parents are asked to assist by ensuring that valuable items of personal belongings are NOT brought to school.

**Parents should note that the authority does not carry insurance to cover the loss of such items.**

## **School Meals**

Meals are served daily from the multi-choice cafeteria, and can be paid for via iPayImpact. The meals are planned to offer a healthy diet for the children. Please inform us if your child has any specific allergies.

## **Mobile Phones**

While the benefits of mobile phones are recognised, they can be a serious distraction to work. Pupils whose mobile phones disrupt lessons will have them confiscated until the end of the school day. Repeated disruption may result in phones being retained until uplifted by a parent.

Our Acceptable Use Policy can be found here: <http://largsacademy.com/mobile-phone-acceptable-use-policy>

Inappropriate use of text messages and/or photographs/recordings (video and audio) whilst in school may be treated as a breach of the school's code of conduct or a serious incident, which could be referred to the police.

## **Information in Emergencies**

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service but on some occasions, circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather and temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply. In such cases, we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure or re-opening. We will keep you in touch by using texts, emails, letters, NAC website, notices in local shops and community centres, announcements in the press and West FM.

Should you have doubts about deteriorating conditions during the day, it may be advisable to contact the school. Parents should ensure that the school is aware of the emergency arrangements made for their child and have responsibility to update us with contact numbers.

## **Listening and Learning**

The North Ayrshire Council Education Service encourages feedback from parents and pupils and forms part of the Council's overall commitment to providing the best possible service and to support partnership working.

We are therefore very interested in feedback of all kinds, whether it be compliments, suggestions or complaints. If you wish to raise a comment of any type about the school you can do this in writing, by telephone or by making an appointment to see someone. All feedback is welcome and helps us keep in touch.

If, in particular, you have a complaint about the school, it is better that these things are shared openly so any damage to the home/school relationship can be minimised. There are no negative consequences arising from making a complaint and we will deal with the issue sensitively and confidentially if required. If we have made a mistake we will apologise and try to put things right.

There are some things which you should note in relation to making a complaint:

- The Council has a Two Stage procedure when handling complaints from parents and members of the public. More details on the two stages can be found in the Council's complaint page here:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/contact-us/complaints-and-feedback/make-a-complaint.aspx>

- It is helpful if complaints are made initially to the school's Head Teacher. This ensures the school is made aware of what is going on and has an opportunity to investigate and try to resolve the issue at Stage One first
- We try to resolve all complaints as quickly as possible but if a complaint is complex more time may be needed to investigate. It is therefore helpful if you can provide full details of the issue at the outset and ask for an early appointment to discuss it.
- If you are not satisfied with a response you receive at Stage One, you can ask that your complaint is escalated to Stage Two. Should you wish to do this you should contact Education Services at Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE or by telephone on (01294) 324400
- If, after receiving the Stage Two final response letter you remain dissatisfied you can ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to consider your complaint and we'll tell you how to do this in the Stage Two response letter
- Parent Councils have an important role in developing links between the school and the wider parent body and can often be helpful in dealing with issues of general concern. However, parents are advised that individual, personal complaints are not appropriate for raising via Parent Councils due to the possible need for confidentiality
- Please note you can also raise concerns you may have with your local Councillor, MSP or MP but these will be handled under a different process to the Two Stage complaint process

## **Section 3: Educational Grants: Footwear, Clothing, Free School Meals and Transport**

### **Footwear and Clothing Grants**

Parents receiving Universal Credit will normally be entitled to grants for footwear and clothing for their children. Universal Credit claimants' monthly income must not exceed £660.00, however, some parents earning more than this may still be eligible. Parents who receive Income Support, Income based Job Seeker's Allowance, any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance, Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit only (with income under £17,005), both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (with an income up to £7,920) may also still be entitled to grants for footwear and clothing for their children.

Parents who may be unsure whether they can apply should contact the Council Contact Centre on 01294 310000 or the Council's Welfare Reform Team on 0300 99 4606 for further advice.

### **Free School Meals**

Children of parents receiving Universal Credit (claimants monthly income must not exceed £660.00), Income Support, Income based Job Seeker's Allowance, any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance, Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, both Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (with an income up to £7,920) are entitled to a free midday meal. Parents and Carers should contact 01294 310000 for further information.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/footwear-clothing-and-free-school-meals.aspx>

### **School Transport Policy**

North Ayrshire Council has a policy of providing free transport to all secondary pupils who live more than three miles from their catchment area school by the recognised shortest suitable walking route or through this link:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Forms/EducationalServices/free-school-transport.docx>

These forms should be completed and returned before the end of February for those pupils beginning school in August to enable the appropriate arrangements to be made.

Applications may be submitted at other times throughout the year but may be subject to delay while arrangements are made. The appropriate officer has discretion in special circumstances to grant permission for pupils to travel on transport provided by the authority, where places are available and no additional costs are incurred.

Where free transport is provided it may be necessary for pupils to walk a certain distance to the vehicle pick-up point. Walking distance in total, including the distance from home to the pick-up point and from the drop-off point to the school in any one direction, will not exceed the Council's limits (see above section). It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child arrives at the pick-up point on time. It is also the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child behaves in a safe and acceptable manner while boarding, travelling on and leaving the vehicle. Misbehaviour can result in children losing the right to free transport.

Please see attached link to the Council's School Transport Policy:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/EducationalServices/school-transport-policy.pdf>

## **Section 4: School Registration, Enrolment and Attendance**

### **Registration and Enrolment**

Parents of pupils who have moved to the area or who wish their child to transfer to the school should contact the school office for information about appropriate procedures and to arrange a visit to the school.

In the case of pupils transferring from associated primary schools, parents will receive the appropriate information from the Head Teacher of the primary school.

The school works in partnership with all associated primaries to ensure a smooth transition. This includes the sharing of information and teachers visiting the primaries to work with the pupils prior to their arrival. In addition, the pupils will visit the school in February of their primary seven year and return in June, where they follow their new timetable for two days.

Parents are welcome to contact the Head Teacher at any time by telephoning the school.

### **Attendance at School/Lateness**

It is the responsibility of parents of children of school age to educate their child(ren). Most do this by ensuring that their child(ren) attend(s) school regularly.

Attendance is recorded at the start of every class. Absence from school is recorded as authorised, unauthorised or temporarily excluded.

Parents are asked to inform the school by email or telephone if their child is/likely to be absent for any reason (eg. sickness, medical or dental appointment). If there is no explanation from a child's parents, the absence will be regarded as unauthorised.

Every effort should be made to avoid family holidays during term time as this both disrupts the child's education and also reduces learning time. Parents should inform the school of the dates before going on holiday. Such absence will be authorised only where certain and very specific family circumstances exist. The majority of family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence.

Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school to make an extended visit to relatives. Only written requests detailing the destination, the duration and the provision that will be made for their continuing education will be granted. Such extended absences will be recorded separately from the normal attendance and absence information.

The Area Inclusion Worker investigates unexplained absence, and the authority has the power to write to, interview or prosecute parents, or refer pupils to the Reporter to the Children's Panel, if necessary.

### **Structure of Classes**

At Largs Academy we operate a 32 period week. This means the school day finishes at different times on different days of the week. On Mondays and Tuesdays classes run from 9:00am - 3:55pm. On Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays classes run from 9:00am - 3:05pm. Each class / period lasts for 50 minutes and we have morning registration every day from 9:00am – 9:10am.

## Section 5: Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence is the national curriculum for Scottish schools for learners from age 3 to 18. It aims to raise standards, prepare our children for a future they do not yet know and equip them for the jobs of tomorrow in a fast-changing world.

Curriculum for Excellence enables professionals to teach subjects creatively, to work together across the school and with other schools, to share best practice and explore learning together. Glow, Scotland's unique, world-leading, online network supports learners, teachers and families in this.

Teachers and practitioners will share information to plan a child's "learning journey" from 3-18, ensuring children continue to work at their own pace whilst providing challenge upon which they can thrive.

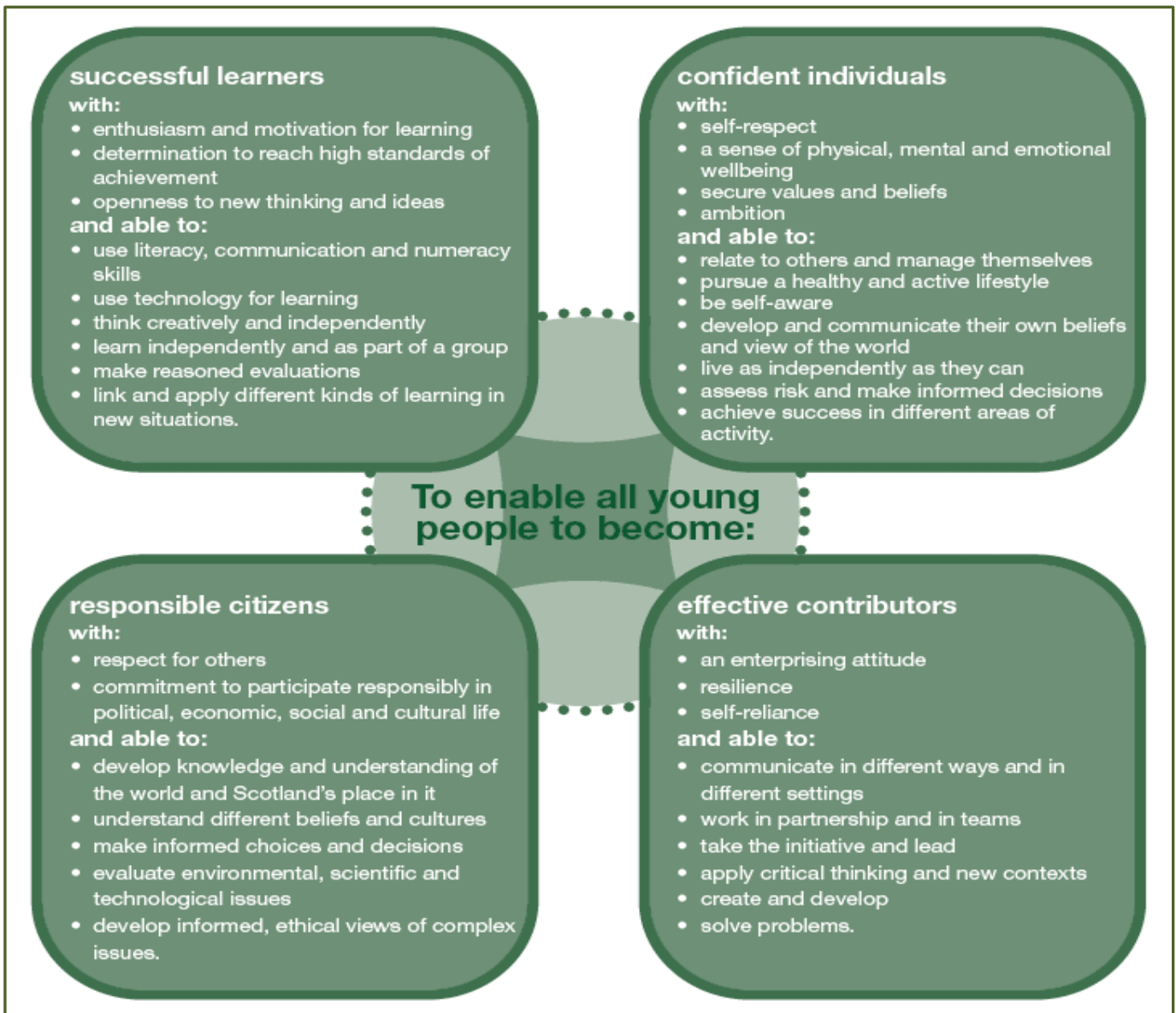
Curriculum for Excellence balances the importance of knowledge and skills. Every child is entitled to a broad and deep general education where every single teacher and practitioner will be responsible for literacy and numeracy – the language and number skills that unlock other subjects and are vital to everyday life. There is emphasis too on health and wellbeing – to ensure that the school is a place where children feel safe and secure.

Curriculum for Excellence develops skills for learning, life and work to help young people go on to further study, secure work and navigate life. It brings real life into the classroom, making learning relevant and helps young people apply lessons to their life beyond the classroom. It links knowledge in one subject area to another helping children understand the world and make connections. It develops skills so that children can think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge, enquire and find solutions.

Children's progress is assessed using a broad range of approaches to ensure children achieve their potential. Ultimately, Curriculum for Excellence aims to improve our children's life chances, to nurture **successful** learners, **confident** individuals, **effective** contributors, and **responsible** citizens, building on Scotland's reputation for great education.



## Curriculum for Excellence: The Capacities



Further Information about Curriculum for Excellence and the Experiences and Outcomes can be found on the [Curriculum for Excellence](#) website.

## Extra-Curricular Activities at Largs Academy

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Readers Only!	Monday	Campus Library	Lunchtime
LGBTQIA+ Club	Monday	Ms Cozens Room Sc10	Lunchtime
Netball	Monday	Games Hall 1 &2	15:55 - 16:55
Table Tennis	Monday	Gym Hall	Lunchtime
We Love Reading!	Tuesday	Campus Library	Lunchtime
Homework Club	Tuesday	Pupil Support Class	Lunchtime
Junior Radio Club	Tuesday	Mr Smith's Class Mu1	Lunchtime
Knitting and Crochet Club	Tuesday	3NE5	Lunchtime
Veggie / Vegan Club	Tuesday	Brisbane Conference Room	Lunchtime
Football	Tuesday	3G Weir & Astro	15:55 - 16:55
Campus Library	Wednesday	Campus Library	Lunchtime
Gardening Club	Wednesday	School Garden	Lunchtime
Drama Club	Wednesday	Drama Studio	Lunchtime
Pokémon club	Wednesday	Mr McDaid's Room E2	Lunchtime
Badminton	Wednesday	Games Hall 1	Lunchtime
Scrabble Club	Thursday	Campus Library	Lunchtime
Board Games	Thursday	Pupil Support Class	Lunchtime
Eco Group	Thursday	Mrs McNicol's Room HE3	Lunchtime
History Club	Thursday	Miss Stewart's Room SS6	Lunchtime
Medic Mentor Club	Thursday	Brisbane Conference Room	Lunchtime
Volleyball	Thursday	Games Hall 1	Lunchtime
Basketball	Thursday	Games Hall 1 &2	15:05 - 16:05
Boxing	Thursday	Gym Hall	15:05 - 16:05
Golf	Thursday	Golf Range	15:05 - 16:05
Dance	Thursday	Dance Studio	15:05 - 16:05
Girls Football	Thursday	Astro	15:05 - 16:05
Bead Club	Friday	Campus Library	Lunchtime
Study Support	Friday	Pupil Support Class	Lunchtime
Creative Writing	Friday	3NE4	Lunchtime

## **Assessing Children's Progress in the Broad General Education (BGE) Early Years – end of S3**

Assessment is a central part of everyday learning and teaching for children and young people. Evidence of progress is gathered on an ongoing and informal basis through asking questions, observing children working together and making formative comments on their work. Children may also assess their own work or that of their classmates; this is called self and peer assessment. Some assessment is more formal such as projects, investigations and standardised assessments.

The assessment of children's progress throughout the BGE (Early Years – S3) is based on teachers' professional judgement. Teachers draw on their professional knowledge and understanding of the child; on the benchmarks for literacy and numeracy, which provide clear information about what children and young people should be able to do and demonstrate by the end of a Curriculum for Excellence Level; and on a wide range of assessment information.

Teachers of P1, P4, P7 and S3 are asked at the end of every school year whether children have achieved the relevant Curriculum for Excellence level for their stage in reading, writing, talking and listening (literacy), and their ability to understand and work with numbers (numeracy). Most children are expected to have achieved the early level by the end of P1, first level by the end of P4, second level by the end of P7 and third or fourth level by the end of S3.

The government has also introduced new national standardised assessments (SNSA) which cover some aspects of reading, writing and working with numbers. These assessments are completed online and are automatically marked by the online system giving teachers immediate feedback to help plan next steps and support children's progress.

Teachers remain best placed to know how the children in their class are progressing. Their professional judgement will continue to be the most important way of assessing your child's progress at school.

Parents, families and carers have a key role in helping children to learn. Your child's teachers will keep you informed about their progress. Please contact us if you have any concerns about their learning, assessment or for more information on how you can support your child's learning at home.

### **Homework**

Parents, carers and families have a very important role in helping children get the best out of school and it is important to take an active interest in your child's progress at school. This can be done by:

- encouraging hard work and high standards at all times
- stressing the importance and relevance of what is learned at school
- supporting the school's policy on homework and discipline

At Largs Academy, we use Microsoft Teams to set homework and keep pupils and parents updated with the work of the class. Pupils will be shown how to use Microsoft Teams as part of their S1 Induction Programme.

## Section 6: School Improvement

### S&Q Report/Improvement Plan

Schools in North Ayrshire follow a Quality Improvement process designed to highlight strengths and identify areas for improvement. The process is based on the school's self-evaluation process with Heads of Service and Senior Managers involved in at least three formal validation visits each session.

This validation process involves talking to pupils, staff and parents about learning and improvements made by the school. This results in actions for improvement for the school to take forward in their planning process.

In addition, themed reviews are undertaken from time to time e.g. to look and report on the quality of the Broad General Education (3-18) and Senior Phase. This process is based upon standards and expectations contained within the following National Standards documentation:

- National Improvement Framework
- How Good is Our School? 4
- How Good is OUR School?

A Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan are produced on an annual basis by every school and centre. Staff, Parents/ Carers, Young People and School Partners will play an active role in the development of these key school documents.

Our most recent Standards and Quality Report, which summarises the work of session 2021/22 and our plans for session 2022/23 can be accessed here: <http://largacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SQ-Report-2022-23.pdf> . This document will next be updated in October 2023.

Our School Improvement Plan, giving an overview of our priorities for session 2023/24 can be accessed here: <http://largacademy.com/school-improvement-plan>

## Section 7: Support for your Child

### Equalities

In line with North Ayrshire Council policy, educational provision is open to all pupils, regardless of sex, age, religion, race, disability or any other potential barrier and all reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that the curriculum is available to every child. Schools also have a duty to promote equality and to eliminate racist and other discriminatory behaviours.

### Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 has been drawn up to tackle inequality and prevent discrimination against people on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. It brings together several existing laws and aims to make understanding the law simpler and also introduces a new single public sector equality duty, which requires public bodies to actively advance equality.

The duties set out in Chapter 1 of Part 6 of the Equality Act apply to all schools. These provisions protect pupils at the school and in the case of admissions, those applying or wishing to apply for admission. Former pupils are also protected from discrimination or harassment.

Guidance on the Act and its requirements for schools in relation to the provision of education can be accessed via the Scottish Government website via here:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/equality-act-2010/>

### Child Protection

Education Services has a fundamental duty to contribute to the care and safety of all children and young people in North Ayrshire. In fulfilling this duty, the service must engage in close partnership with parents/carers and relevant agencies, primarily the Health and Social Care Partnership and where appropriate the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration. The Service will work in partnership with a number of levels within the establishment or school within the cluster or local area and through Integrated Children's Services and Community Health Partnership.

The Standard Circular entitled, "Protecting and Safeguarding North Ayrshire's Children" provides guidance for policy and practice within all educational establishments. The Council is one of the key partners in the North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee, a multi-agency group which takes the lead role in ensuring that our children and young people are cared for, protected from harm and grow up in a safe environment.

Each school has a named Child Protection Co-ordinator who is the main point of contact for school staff and for external agencies seeking contact with the school on child protection matters. There is an extensive staff-training programme available to staff and, in addition, at the beginning of each school session all staff receive an update on child protection policies, safeguarding and procedures.

### Inclusion

North Ayrshire Council is committed to supporting the well-being and educational progress of *all* learners including those with additional support needs. Including learners requires all staff to demonstrate commitment, innovation and flexibility in order to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and experiences. Our Inclusion Strategy states that:

- An inclusive approach to education supports an ethos of achievement and high expectation, recognises difference, respects these differences and sees differences between learners as opportunities for learning.

- An inclusive approach to education promotes tolerance and a positive understanding of diversity.
- An inclusive approach to education alleviates the barriers to learning, supports the achievement of all and has positive relationships at its heart.

The presumption of mainstream as outlined in the Standards in Scotland's Schools (2000) sets out that children will be educated in a mainstream setting unless exceptional circumstances apply. North Ayrshire therefore has a duty to ensure that clear assessment outlines the additional support needs of a child or young person which may require support in an alternative provision.

Where this is the case, North Ayrshire has a clear process that supports the Team around the Child to make a recommendation for consideration of alternative provision. This is outlined in the Standard Circular E19 and requires establishment staff to work with parents/carers to ensure all supports have been put in place to support a child or young person in their mainstream context before submitting clear evidence of what has been implemented and going on to request alternative provision. North Ayrshire Council staff will then make a recommendation based on the evaluation of this evidence and a review of the needs of the young person and the current peer group in each setting.

The Education (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Educational Records) (Scotland) Act, October 2002, requires local education authorities to prepare and implement accessibility strategies to improve, over time, access to education for young people with disabilities. Access covers:

- The physical building and grounds
- The curriculum (both formal and informal)
- Information on any educational planning that might affect the child's/young person's education

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) (2009) Act sets out certain duties on local education authorities and confers certain rights on children and their parents. These duties include the need to:

- Identify, assess and address the need for additional support for any child or young person failing to benefit from school education, for whatever reason
- Seek and take account of the views of the child or young person on issues relating to their education
- Engage in helpful partnership working with parents/carers and staff from other agencies

These are the various pieces of legislation that support the right to inclusion and that define the main features of that right.

### **Additional Support for Learning**

Any child who needs more or different support to what is normally provided in schools or pre-schools is said to have 'additional support needs'. This includes children who may need extra help with their education as a result of issues arising from social and emotional difficulties, bullying, physical disability, having English as an additional language, a sensory impairment or communication difficulty.

### **The Additional Support for Learning Act**

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 came into force in November 2005. In June 2009, the Act was amended. These amendments form the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 and came into force in November 2010.

## **Main provisions of the Act**

- The Act provides the legal framework underpinning the system for supporting children and young people in their school education, and their families.
- This framework is based on the idea of additional support needs. This broad and inclusive term applies to children or young people who, for whatever reason, require additional support, long or short term, in order to help them make the most of their school education and to be included fully in their learning.
- The 2009 Act automatically deems that all looked after children and young people have additional support needs unless the education authority determine that they do not require additional support in order to benefit from school education.
- In addition, education authorities must consider whether each looked after child or young person for whose school education they are responsible requires a co-ordinated support plan.

## **Duties under the 'Additional Support for Learning' legislation**

North Ayrshire Council must assess any pupil with additional support needs and provide any support necessary for them to benefit fully from their education. All the evidence says that it is best to intervene early to prevent any difficulties developing and taking root. For example, by making sure reading is very well taught and that all pupil gets encouragement and support at home we can hopefully reduce later difficulties.

Whatever the type of challenge that arises, it is important to detect it early, develop a shared understanding of what is needed (the school may request extra specialised help to do this) and take action to help to pupil achieve. Whenever we start this process for any child or young person, we will always explain to them and to their parents/carers what our concerns are and what we will do to help.

The school can get support from a range of visiting professionals including Educational Psychologists. These professionals are regularly in all schools and teachers and others will ask for informal advice on supporting pupils (for example on the best way to support a pupil who is having difficulties with reading). If the school wants more detailed individual help, then they would talk to you about formally involving the Educational Psychologist. The Educational Psychologist can only be involved in consultation, collaborative assessment and planning interventions for your child after you agree to this.

For a few children and young people, their needs are so complex that professionals from two or more agencies need to work together over a significant length of time to enable the child to benefit from school education.

The authority approach to staged intervention has been updated to take ensure it is line with the CYP (2014) and ASL (2004) (amended 2009) Acts. The aim is to ensure children and young people get the right support at the right time.

Where a child or young person has additional support needs, extra planning is required every time there is a move to a new class, new school or college. How far ahead this transition planning needs to start depends on the particular type of needs, but for most children and young people with additional support needs, transition planning should start at least one year before the date of the planned move.

Detailed advice on transition planning is provided in the Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice, which can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.dsscotland.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Consultation-Doc-June-2017-1.pdf>

### **Dispute Resolution Procedures**

If you feel that things are not being done properly to support your child then the Council has a range of ways to work with you to resolve any issues. You can ask at any time for a copy of the booklet called 'Resolving Disagreements'. This booklet will give you ways to make sure your concerns are listened to and addressed.

### **Further Support**

The following organisations are able to provide advice, further information and support to parents of children and young people with ASN.

#### **1. Enquire: Scottish Advice and Information Service for Additional Support for Learning**

Website: <http://enquire.org.uk>

Helpline: **0345 123 2303**

Email: [info@enquire.org.uk](mailto:info@enquire.org.uk)

#### **2. Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance**

Website: <http://www.siaa.org.uk/>

Telephone: **0131 260 5380**

Email: [enquiry@siaa.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@siaa.org.uk)

#### **3. Scottish Child Law Centre**

Website: <http://www.sclc.org.uk/>

Telephone: **0131 667 6333**

Email: [enquiries@sclc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sclc.org.uk)



## Getting It Right for Every Child – Ensuring their Wellbeing

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 puts children and young people at the heart of planning and services, and ensures their rights are respected across the public sector. It seeks to improve the way services work to support children, young people and families.

- The act ensures that all children and young people from birth to 18 years old have access to a Named Person.
- The act puts in place a single planning process to support those children who require it.
- The act places a definition of wellbeing in legislation.
- The act places duties on public bodies to coordinate the planning, design and delivery of services for children and young people with a focus on improving wellbeing outcomes, and report collectively on how they are improving those outcomes.

Taking a ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ approach to supporting every child is a priority within our school and we aim to assist every child in our school to reach their potential. The wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of *Getting it Right for Every Child*. The approach uses eight areas to describe wellbeing in which children and young people need to progress in order to do well now, and in the future.

### The eight indicators of wellbeing (SHANARRI)

<b>Safe</b>	<b>Healthy</b>	<b>Achieving</b>	<b>Nurtured</b>
<b>Active</b>	<b>Respected</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Included</b>

### Why we have to get it right for every child

Education Services must safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of all children and young people and address need at the earliest opportunity. These functions are the responsibility of schools and establishments and those who work in them and with them. All who work in Education Services and in partnership with Education Services have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of North Ayrshire’s children and young people.

For more information on *Getting it Right for Every Child* in North Ayrshire go to [www.girfecna.co.uk](http://www.girfecna.co.uk)

### Psychological Services

The Educational Psychology Service in North Ayrshire is part of and contributes to the aims of Education Services, by improving outcomes for children and young people. Educational Psychologists work together with teachers, parents and other professionals to help children and young people achieve their full potential within educational settings and the wider community. Educational Psychologists are involved in working with individuals, but also have a significant role in offering training, support and consultation to increase capacity in education establishments on a wide range of issues. They are also involved in supporting research to evaluate how effective approaches to support children and young people are.

Your child’s school already has a system of staged intervention for identifying, assessing, monitoring and reviewing the ongoing progress of all children and young people. As part of this wider system of support, each school has a link Educational Psychologist.

When concerns arise about a particular child or young person the establishment will take action to address these concerns. If the concerns continue, school may have an informal discussion with the Educational Psychologist and ask for general advice.

If needed, a formal consultation meeting with parents/carers involving the Educational Psychologist can then be arranged. This will be discussed with you beforehand. This may be a one off or may lead to longer term involvement. Through this process the Educational Psychologist can, if required, contribute to the ongoing assessment and support for your child including providing support to the family. The Educational Psychologist will be involved while there is a specific role for them and will use a strengths based, solution oriented approach which takes into account the wider context of the child, family and community.

Find out more at:

<http://www.northayr-edpsychs.co.uk/>

### **Data Protection**

Personal data is required to be collected by North Ayrshire Council in order to deliver education services. It is necessary to collect personal data regarding pupils, parents, carers and other individuals to enable us to carry out our duties under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

The Data Protection Act 2018 sets out the legal basis for processing data. You can refer to our privacy notice for details of the different basis under which we may process individuals' data.

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/EducationalServices/eye-privacy-policy.pdf>

We may also share or receive an individual's personal data with the following:

- Scottish Government & Education Scotland
- Private Nurseries
- Strathclyde Passenger Transport
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Social Work Services
- Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

Where we are required we will also make disclosures required by law and may also share information with other bodies responsible for detecting/preventing fraud or auditing/administering public funds. Individuals have legal rights under the data protection legislation including the right of access. Further details can be found in the Council's Privacy Policy at:

<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/privacy-policy.aspx>

### **Medical and Health Care**

All vaccinations are carried out in school by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board staff.

If a pupil takes ill or has an accident at school which requires that the child be sent home or for treatment, first aid will be provided and parents or carers contacted immediately. (In the event of a serious illness or accident, a member of staff will accompany the child to a doctor or hospital and parents/carers will be notified immediately.)

For this reason it is important that the school has up to date contact details for parents/carers and an additional contact person in case parents/carers cannot be reached. It is also important that the school is kept fully informed and updated with regards to any medical condition.

It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school and keep medical information updated as required.

Unwell pupils will not normally be sent home until a parent/carer has been notified.

## Section 8: Parental Involvement

### Parental Engagement and Involvement

#### [NAC Parental Involvement Strategy](#)

All schools have clear systems in place for communicating with everyone in the parent forum. Communications with parents are clear, jargon-free, specific and easily accessible. A variety of methods and approaches are used by schools to communicate with the parent forum including face to face, traditional communication methods and digital media e.g. Twitter, Facebook. Considerations will always be given when communicating with parents who have literacy, language and communication challenges.

Schools ensure that parents know who to contact when they wish to discuss their child's learning or wellbeing and will seek to provide a private space for such discussions and make sure parents are given adequate time and support. Consideration will be given to family circumstances.

Parents are welcome to contact the school at any time to request an appointment to discuss any matter with the your child's Guidance Teacher or Year Head. New families are welcome to contact the school and request a suitable visiting time at any point throughout the session

Parents are given opportunities to understand the way learning and teaching takes place in the classroom. This may be in the form of class visits to take part in the learning experience alongside their child or attending events which share the learning. Frequent invitations are issued to parents to participate in school activities such as open days, class assemblies, workshops and to assist with outings and visits, sports and concerts. Parents are kept informed of events with a range of newsletters, website updates, emails, invitations and social media sites.

A variety of methods will be used to ensure information about your child's progress is shared. Schools are encouraged to provide parents/carers with information on their children's progress at regular intervals throughout the year through a range of activities. There is an expectation that part of this will be in a written format.

Reporting Examples:

<b>Individual Learners</b>	<b>Groups of learners</b>
Written reports/ tracking reports	Assemblies
Learning conversations with pupil/ teacher/ parent/ carer	Open day events
Pupil reflections on their learning in logs	School concerts/shows
Parent/ carer consultation/ Parents' Meetings involving parent/ teacher/ pupil, as appropriate	Social media
Home/ school diaries	Curriculum workshops led by children and young people and staff
Profiling activities	Parent Council meetings
Learning walls and displays	School / class newsletters

### Parent Council

Our Parent Council is open to all parents and carers. Contact details and minutes of previous meetings can be accessed here: <http://largsacademy.com/parental-council>



Parentzone Scotland is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science.

Information is also available on Parentzone Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education. Furthermore, the website has details about schools including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6; and links to the national, and local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels.

Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.

## Section 9: Pupil Data Collection and Protection Policies

The Scottish Government and its partners collect and use information about pupils through the *Pupil Census* to help to improve education across Scotland. This note explains why we need this information, how we use it and what we do to protect the information supplied to us.

### Why do we need your data?

In order to make the best decisions about how to improve our education service, Scottish Government, education authorities and other partners such as the SQA and Skills Development Scotland need accurate, up-to-date data about our pupils. We are keen to help all our pupils do well in all aspects of school life and achieve better examination results. Accurate and up-to-date data allows us to:

- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of all pupils
- plan and deliver better policies for the benefit of specific groups of pupils
- better understand some of the factors which influence pupil attainment and achievement
- plan and implement targeted approaches to reducing the poverty-related attainment gap
- share good practice
- conduct teacher workforce planning
- target resources better
- enhance the quality of research to improve the lives of young people in Scotland
- provide a window on society, the economy and on the work and performance of government by:
  - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/>

### Data policy

Information about pupils' education is collected through our statistical surveys in partnership between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities through the ScotXed Programme which aims to help schools and Local Authorities by supporting efficient collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information. The Scottish Government then provides analysis of the data to support research, planning, management and monitoring of education services as well as to produce National Statistics publications.

Education data within Scottish Government is managed effectively by secure systems on secure servers and is exploited as a valuable corporate resource, subject to confidentiality restraints. As part of its data policy, Scottish Government will not publish or make publicly available any information that allows individual pupils to be identified, nor will data be used by Scottish Government to take any actions in respect of individuals. Data is held securely and no information on individual pupils can or would be made publicly available by Scottish Government.

The individual data collected by Scottish Government through the Pupil Census is used for statistical and research purposes only.

### Your data protection rights

Any sharing or linkage of data will be done under the strict control of Scottish Government, and will be consistent with their data policy and the [National Data Linkage Guiding Principles](#). Decisions on the sharing or linkage of data will be taken in consultation with relevant colleagues and individuals within and outwith Scottish Government as part of a Data Access Panel. At all times the rights of the individual (children or adults) under the GDPR and other relevant legislation will be ensured. Further information can be found on:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-exchange-of-data-scotxed/>

**Concerns**

If you have any concerns about the ScotXed data collections you can email the Data Protection & Information Assets Team on [dpa@gov.scot](mailto:dpa@gov.scot) or the Head of Education Analytical Services, Mick Wilson, at [mick.wilson@gov.scot](mailto:mick.wilson@gov.scot) or by writing to Education Analytical Services, Area 2A-North, 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.

Alternatively complaints may be raised with the Information Commissioners Office at [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

## Important Contacts

### **Executive Director (Communities and Education)**

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