



From mountain to sea

Elrick School

Handbook 2020/21



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All information in this handbook is correct as of October 2020

Introduction to Elrick School

Welcome to Elrick School,

In our handbook you will be able to find out more about Elrick School and what it can offer for families across our community. This will hopefully give you a picture of what Elrick School is like and we would encourage you to have a look at both our website and Twitter feed, details of which are below. These are both updated regularly and capture recent events, class newsletters and information about our Parent Forum.

If you would like to find out more about the school, do not hesitate in contacting us.

Kind regards
Fiona Thomson
Head Teacher

School Contact Details

Mrs Fiona Thomson

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Elrick Primary School

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Westhill

AB32 6QB

Website:

www.elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Email:

elrick.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Twitter: @ElrickSchool

parentcouncil@elrick.info

Facebook: Elrick Primary School Parent Council

Adverse weather and emergency closure

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

Information Line 0370 054 4999 **[PIN 1670]** (Please do not use this line to leave messages for the school.)

Elrick School Background Information

All Aberdeenshire schools are co-educational, providing education for both boys and girls. Elrick Primary School is a non-denominational Primary School set within the town of Westhill, seven miles west of Aberdeen. It opened in August 1981. In the course of its growth Westhill has absorbed the former village of Elrick. The school roll in August 2019 was 408 pupils in P1-7 and a capacity of 48 pupils in Nursery. We provide education for children aged 3-12 i.e. from ante-pre school to Primary Seven.

The school's design is, for the most part, open plan. In August 2003, a twin relocatable classroom unit with a link to the main building was installed. A separate Nursery with an outdoor classroom opened in August 2008. The grounds provide ample space for pupils to play, exercise and explore nature.

The school is well supported by a range of support agencies, parents, the local community and local businesses. Pupils benefit from valuable support offered by BP and other local industries.

Elrick Primary is committed to working closely with the other primary schools within the Westhill network and also with the local secondary school, Westhill Academy. On leaving Elrick Primary, nearly all pupils proceed to Westhill Academy.

At Elrick there are 15 primary classes taught by class teachers, some of whom are part-time. In our nursery we have 2 part time Early Years Senior Practitioners, 1 full time Early Years Lead Practitioner, a team of Early Years Practitioner and a Modern Apprentice. The Head Teacher is non class committed. There is one full-time acting Depute Head, two part-time Depute Heads and a full-time acting Principal Teacher. Specialist teachers help with the delivery of Music (currently on maternity leave) and Modern Languages. We also have 1 full time Additional Support Needs teacher and another with us for 2 days per week. The school also works closely with a range of other support agencies and volunteers in order to provide the best possible experience for children with additional support needs.

Our Active Schools Coordinator, teachers and parents provide a range of additional active and sporting activities for the children.

The staff are supported by 2 part-time school administrators, 1 clerical assistant, 8 pupil support assistants, 4 kitchen staff, 4 cleaners and a janitor.

Community links are a valued part of school life. The school is used for a range of community activities, including after school sports and activity clubs. The school has a very supportive Parent Council which supports school improvement activities and raises additional funds to provide many extras for the pupils in the school.

Devolved budgets are managed in accordance with authority guidelines in order to support planned improvements in the school.

HMIe last inspected the school in January 2009. The report can be accessed online. The school was accredited with the ICT Learning Award at Scottish Schools Education Awards in 2009.

Staff list

Head Teacher	Mrs Fiona Thomson
Depute Head Teachers	Miss Jenny Anderson Mrs Leah Robinson (Th-Fr) Mrs Jill Stockdale (M-W)
Principal Teacher	Mrs Carly Neave (acting)
Class Teachers	Mrs Wendy Coney Mrs Lauren Carroll Mrs Margaret Young Mrs Alison Adams Miss Eilidh Alexander Mr Thomas MacKenzie Miss Elizabeth Pool Mrs Jenny Bruce Mrs Angela Skene Mrs Erica Edwards Miss Marianne Crockett Mrs Ginny Reid Miss Lauren Black Mrs Claire Birt Mrs Esther Lloyd Miss Rebecca Ford Miss Katie Montgomery Mrs Angela McLelland Miss Ana Baldo
Additional Support Needs Teachers	Mrs Michaela Reid Mrs Jill Stockdale
Early Years Senior Practitioners	Mrs Nicola Scott Mrs Nicola Mckinlay
Early Years Lead Practitioner	Mrs Julie Farquhar
Early Years Practitioners	Mrs Jamie McIntosh Mrs Claire Beltran Mrs Gillian Shimwell Miss Megan Gibbon
Early Years Modern Apprentice	Miss Hannah Moir

Pupil Support Worker	Mrs Marion Smillie
Intervention and Prevention Teachers	Mrs Elaine Northcroft Mrs Cat Johnstone
Educational Psychologist	Ms Michelle O'Grady
Pupil Support Assistants	Mrs Cathy Smith Mrs Jenny Rataj Mrs Nikki Duthie Mrs Jennifer Charles Mrs Collette Kelly Mrs Masuda Chowdhury Mrs Sue Thom Mrs Wendy Aitkenhead
School Administrators	Mrs Brenda Webster (W-F) Mrs Claire Singer (M-T)
Administrative Assistant	Mrs Angela Bowman
School Janitor	Mr Rob Bryant
Music Specialist Teacher	Mrs Amanda O'Gallagher (maternity leave)
Modern Languages Teacher	Mrs Sandra Coles
School Cook	Mrs Sam Milton
Catering Assistants	Ms Amanda Dowbekin Mrs Susan McLean Ms Tracy Anderson
Cleaners	Ms Wendy Sutherland Mrs Susan Gordon Mrs Maria Uriarte Mrs Christine Connor

1 Parent Council Office Bearers

Chair – Mrs Claire Taylor

Vive Chair – Lauren Wade

Treasurer – Nicola Johnston

Secretary – Monique Blair

Grant co-ordinator – Fiona Fitzgerald

Lead fundraising co-ordinator – Christina Daniel

Our Vision, Values and School Ethos

Elrick Primary School
A Place to Learn, Develop and Grow

well-being and happiness
independence and teamwork
respect and tolerance
honesty and integrity

Elrick Primary School School Aims

A place where
we are all encouraged to be the best we can

To acknowledge success and effort

To work with parents and the community

To encourage healthy choices

To explore new ideas and technologies

To provide opportunities for everyone to learn in a
stimulating
and motivating atmosphere

To promote a greater understanding of how we can
all
contribute to improving the world around us

To treat everyone as you would like to be treated
yourself

School Ethos

Positive Behaviour Management

Positive behaviour management is a vital component in helping us to achieve our vision, values and aims. It also provides our pupils with the boundaries and rules they need to fulfil their potential and contribute to the well-being of others. To read our school Positive Behaviour Policy go to the school website at www.elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk.

Rights Respecting School

Elrick is a Rights Respecting School, promoting the principles of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each class draws up an annual charter, agreeing what needs to be in place for each child to enjoy a happy, safe and productive learning environment. These charters are shared with parents.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We look to our pupils to:

- work co-operatively with school staff and with each other
- be polite when working with adults and also with their peers
- show consideration and tolerance towards each other
- be kind, concerned and considerate towards younger children
- follow all requests and instructions
- be attentive when being offered advice and instruction
- observe the school rules and adhere to our vision, values and aims

Clan System

All pupils in Elrick are part of a Clan System. On enrolment, pupils are allocated to one of four clans – Bennachie, Eagle, Ness or Thistle. Pupils are awarded clan points for a variety of reasons linked to the four capacities – successful learner, confident individual, effective contributor, responsible citizen, e.g. special efforts in class, good manners, adhering consistently to one of our school social goals. These tokens are collected and counted weekly by P7 Clan Chiefs and shared at assemblies. At the end of each term the winning clan gets a special treat and the winning clan at the end of each school year is awarded a trophy.



Orderly movement

Children in school represent a large number of people in relatively small space. Orderly and disciplined movement is therefore essential in the interests of safety and harmony. We operate the following procedures:

- Pupils come into school in an orderly manner
- On entering school, pupils remove their jackets and, if necessary, change their shoes
- On entering their class area, pupils prepare for starting work
- When pupils move around the school, they do so in a quiet, orderly manner, with no running or shouting

Orderly behaviour

Our school is open plan. This arrangement has many advantages, but it does mean that large numbers of children are within earshot of each other. It is therefore essential to keep noise down to an acceptable level.

In order to keep down the level of noise, we expect children to

- speak quietly, and only at times when the teacher is encouraging talking
- be careful when moving around or when moving items such as chairs
- keep movement around class areas to a minimum
- be particularly considerate of others when working in shared areas

Keeping the school tidy

In order to keep the class areas neat and tidy, we expect children and staff to

- tidy up after themselves e.g. put away their belongings in class and cloakroom areas
- help with the collective effort to tidy up activity areas after use
- make sure that any potential litter is placed in bins or recycling boxes provided both in classes and in the playground

Volunteers

All P6 and P7 senior pupils are given the experience of being volunteers around the school.

Volunteers are required to keep a watchful eye on playground activities and they supervise an assigned class in indoor activities at lunchtime and intervals when bad weather forces pupils indoors. Being a volunteer allows the oldest children in school to take on an important role of responsibility within the school and it can help the older pupils build friendships with younger children.

Volunteers do not have any power to punish: their duty is to help and support, provide ideas for playing games and promote a friendly atmosphere.

Volunteers are made aware that they should refer any matter that they are unable or uncomfortable handling to a member of staff immediately.

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. 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 will not tolerate any form 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.

We believe that a strong, positive school ethos and constant work on building a caring school community, together with close contact with parents, offers 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 and 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.

A copy of the school's Anti-Bullying policy is available on the school website.

Curriculum

Within our school, we aim to provide a curriculum that is both inclusive and ambitious for all – a curriculum which is both academically challenging and also provides opportunities to develop skills for learning, life and work.

Our curriculum will be based around the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence – to ensure our pupils are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. Our curriculum will also reflect the principles of curriculum design to ensure breadth, depth, personalisation & choice, challenge & enjoyment, progression, coherence and relevance. We will, therefore have a curriculum which we will adapt continuously over time to meet the needs of our pupils.

Following the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, achievement of children and young people is celebrated in its broadest sense. This means looking beyond formally assessed learning, to recognise activities like volunteering and participation in arts, sports and community-based programmes. This approach complements the nurturing and aspirational outcomes of Getting It Right for Every Child, and our aim in Aberdeenshire to overcome inequality by Raising Attainment for All, promoting Equity and Excellence in schools, and Closing the Gap. Further information on the schools approach to Curriculum for Excellence including information for parents, can be found on the school website at: www.elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk.

Curricular Areas

- **Literacy and English Language:** Listening, Talking Reading and Writing.
- **Numeracy and Mathematics:** Number, Money and Measure, Information Handling, Shape, Position and Movement.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, Physical education, activity and sport, Food and health, Substance misuse, Relationships, sexual health and parenthood.
- **Social Studies:** People, past events and societies, People, place and environment, People, society, economy and business.
- **Sciences:** Planet Earth, Forces, electricity and waves, Biological Systems, Materials, Topical Sciences.
- **Technologies:** Technological developments in society, Business technology skills and knowledge, Computing science, Food and textiles, Craft, design, engineering and graphics.
- **Expressive Arts:** Music, Drama, Art and Design and Dance.
- **Religious and Moral Education:** Christianity, World Religions, Development of beliefs and values.
- **Modern Languages: French, Spanish**

Curriculum Design

Our curriculum is designed on the basis of the following 7 principles:

- Challenge and enjoyment
-

- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

Developing Young Workforce

As part of the curriculum, pupils will develop skills for learning, life and work. More detail about these key skills can be found using the link below:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/skills-in-a-nutshell/>

Throughout their time in school, from Early Years onwards, all pupils will have an opportunity to engage with employers, through experiences like workplace visits, career talks, employability events and courses, work experience and curriculum based activities. They will also have the opportunity to learn about further and higher education, and the work done by training providers, as well as different career pathways into employment.

In S4-6, pupils will be given the opportunity to study for vocational qualifications, including Foundation Apprenticeships, alongside the more traditional qualifications.

Further information for parents on Foundation Apprenticeships can be found at <https://www.apprenticeships.scot>

Further information for parents can be found on the Aberdeenshire DYW website:

<http://dywaberdeenshire.org/parents/>

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

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 everyone who is involved in the life of our school has the right to be respected as an individual and carries 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.

During assemblies we actively promote our vision, values and aims. 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.

The School Chaplain visits school on a fortnightly basis and twice a year 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.

Extra Curricular Activities

Pupil Council/Sport and Health

The Pupil Council and Health and Sport Groups were set up to provide opportunities for the children at Elrick to voice their opinions and make decisions on aspects of school life. Pupils who are interested can put themselves forward for the role.

Pupil Council members meet several times a term to discuss relevant issues. To date the children have selected and purchased equipment for the playground and have been involved in organising and running fund raising and charity events.

The Sport and Health group is responsible for promoting healthy lifestyle choices at Elrick.

We currently offer Football, Chess, Running, Netball and Play Leaders as extra-curricular activities, run either by a professional coach, teachers, parents or adult helpers. Children also have the opportunity to represent the school in Cross Country and Swimming, as well as at local Rotary-organised events.

Cycle Training

Pupils in P6 are offered the opportunity to participate in cycling training, provided we have sufficient parent helpers. Only pupils who have completed the training should cycle to school on their own.

Sports teams

We have football for children in P3, P4, P5, P6, and P7. Parents and friends of the school run the teams, which train and play outwith school hours. We are very fortunate to have this level of support for activities from which our pupils gain so much pleasure and sense of achievement.

1+2 Language Learning

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.

In our school the first foreign language is French. This language will be learned from P1 (in Primary School) through to S3 (in secondary school).

If you would like your child to access Gaelic Medium Education and they have not yet started to attend a primary school you can make a request for an assessment of need for Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE). For more information, please go to:

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/gaelic-in-schools/>

The parent or carer of any child or young person can make a request for their child to attend to any school which offers GMPE. This will enable your child to be taught by specialist staff. As there are currently no schools in Aberdeenshire which have GME provision learners are transported to school in Aberdeen City.

Further Information

Further information on the schools approach to Curriculum for Excellence including information for parents, can be found on the school website.

More general information on Curriculum for Excellence and the new Qualifications can be found by clicking on the hyperlinks below.

Policy for Scottish Education:

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education>

Early Learning & Childcare:

<https://www.education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Early%20learning%20and%20childcare>

Broad General Education (Pre school – S3):

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Broad%20general%20education>

Senior Phase and beyond (S4 – 16+):

<https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/senior-phase-and-beyond>

National Qualifications:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.3806.html?pMenuID=5605>

Assessment and Reporting

Pupils move through the curriculum at their own pace. A wide range of assessment techniques are used in school depending on what is being assessed and the reason for the assessment e.g.

- Observation of what the pupils “say”, “write” and “do”.
- Homework
- Self and peer assessments
- Marking of class work and other individual/class assessments
- Ongoing tracking and monitoring procedures in school
- Scottish National Standardised Assessments (P1, P4, P7 and S3)

Progress will be evidenced using a variety of approaches that best reflect the learning that has taken place, and will track the skills that your child or young person is developing.

Assessment is ongoing throughout the Broad General phase and is a continuous process which influences the goals set for your child. As part of assessment, each year children and young people in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will participate in the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). These national assessments are completed online and provide teachers with immediate feedback on each child or young person’s progress in literacy and numeracy. Children and young people do not have to prepare or revise for the assessments, which take place as part of normal learning and teaching. The assessments do not have any pass/fail mark and the results are used to help teachers plan the next steps in learning for each child/young person. Further information on SNSA is available at

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/>

The results of children’s achievements are discussed with them regularly so that they are involved in taking responsibility for their own learning. This may take the form of oral discussion and/or written comment. In this way, it is hoped to assist the pupil identify what has been learned and the next steps to their learning. Children regularly set targets in their work.

Parents will be informed of progress:

- through pupil profiles/learning logs
- through parent consultation evenings and other meetings
- through curriculum/learning events/parent workshops
- by the annual school report
- Individual Education Plans and associated documents

Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at other times throughout the year to discuss their child’s progress.

Secondary schools: Assessment & Reporting in the Senior Phase (S4-S6)

In the Senior Phase pupils embark on the National Qualifications.

As pupils enter this phase they are set an aspirational target grade for each subject they are studying. This forms the basis for learning conversations between staff and pupils to discuss progress and identify next steps. This is shared with parents/carers through TRACKING Reports.

Further Information on Assessment, Reporting & Profiling can be found on Parentzone:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/assessment-and-achievement>

Transitions (Moving On)

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

Transfer to Ante-Pre School and Pre-School Nursery

In order to support and ease transition into early years setting, we arrange a series of induction events/meetings/Come and Play sessions for you and your child. These events are planned to allow you and your child to become familiar with the early years setting, to meet staff, to meet with the other children and to find out about life in early years and what you can do to support your child's transition into the early years setting. A major part of this process involves parents sharing information about their children's needs and you will be asked to complete a number of forms e.g. your child's specific needs. Any other early years setting which your child attends will forward transition information regarding your child's needs and learning journey.

Deferred entry to P1

Where parents have concerns regarding their child's entry to P1, they should discuss this with the nursery team in the first instance who will be able to offer support and guidance.

Transfer to Primary 1

Buddy system

When your child begins school with us at any stage our buddy programme will support those early days. For this your child will be given a nominated buddy to guide them through our school routines and building. All P1 pupils will be allocated a P7 buddy.



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 May/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 P1 pupils also have the opportunity to come into class for a series of induction sessions around May/June. 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.

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

Transfer to Secondary Education

Most children from Elrick Primary move on to attend Westhill Academy, Westhill. (Telephone Number 01224 740111).

Elrick Primary is part of the Westhill Community Schools Network.

An induction programme for P7 is in place to help ease the transition into S1. P7 pupils spend 3 days at Westhill 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 Westhill Academy, where information will be shared and questions can be asked.

Liaison between Elrick Primary and Westhill Academy is very good. During the P7 year, pupils have many opportunities to join with P7 pupils from the other Westhill Community Schools Network. Transition art projects, sports festivals, trips 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.

Westhill Academy staff also visit our pupils in Elrick 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) Elrick School supports any alternative transition arrangements wherever possible.

Placing request forms are available from the school – see p 30 for further information on placing requests.

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. Around June of each year “meet the teacher” time is also arranged where pupils can meet their next teacher and their classmates. Opportunities throughout the year for children to work on joint projects, e.g. enterprise challenges 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.

Visit Parentzone for more information about transitions:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-child/transitions>

2 Admissions

Nursery Admissions.

Early in each calendar year, all parents/carers should complete an application form and submit this to the nursery of their choice. This can be your local school nursery or any other early learning and childcare setting within Aberdeenshire. The application form can be found here:

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/>

Primary 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 August. Those that have their fifth birthday between the August start date each year and the end of February the following year, may also be admitted. Go to:

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

To view the school catchment area for your address, go to:

<https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/school-zones/>

3 Placing requests & School Zones

For all advice and information on placing requests and guidance on school catchment/zones go to:

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/choosing-a-school>

Your child would normally attend a school within the school catchment area (zone) close to where you live. However, you can request that your child attends a school in another zone (out of zone). Please follow the links for more info:

[Out Of Zone Placing Request Policy & Procedures](#)

Support for Children and Young People

4 Getting it Right for Every Child

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is the national policy approach in Scotland which aims to support the wellbeing of all children and young people, by offering the right help, at the right time, from the right people. Certain aspects of this policy have been placed in law by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Aberdeenshire's schools play a key part in delivery of Aberdeenshire's Children's Services Plan.



Its vision is that:

'Our commitment to Aberdeenshire's children and young people, is to provide them with the right support, in the right place, at the right time.'

In helping them reach their individual potential and goals, we will work together to make Aberdeenshire the best place in Scotland to grow up'

You can find out more about our Children's Services Plan at:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/who-we-are/our-childrens-services-plan/>

5 Wellbeing

Wellbeing of children and young people sits at the heart of the *Getting it Right for Every Child* approach. Eight Wellbeing Indicators shown below, outline the aspirations for all Scotland's children and young people.



The Getting It Right approach means services will work in partnership with children, young people and their parent/carer(s) and we want every child at our school to feel happy, safe and supported to fulfil their potential.

6 Children's Rights

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 included new law to help make sure children's rights are promoted across Scotland. Children and young people's rights and participation are promoted in lots of different ways by schools in Aberdeenshire.

This means we:

- Raise awareness of Children's Rights, and how rights can be accessed
- Provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved in decision-making
- Make sure children and young people's views influence how we develop services
- Support children and young people to express their views (where needed)
- Listen to children and young people's views on what we do well, and what we could do differently

Aberdeenshire Council has endorsed a Children and Young People's Charter. You can find out more about Children's Rights and opportunities for participation at:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/home/children-and-young-people/>

7 The Named Person

Prevention and early-intervention are seen as key to the Getting It Right approach in achieving positive outcomes for children and young people. By providing support at an early stage, most difficulties can be prevented from escalating.

One way the Scottish Government has decided this should be taken forward, is by making a Named Person available to every child and young person in Scotland. From birth to prior to starting school, the Named Person Service is provided by your

Health Visitor. The Education Service provides the Named Person Service for all children on entry to Primary One, until aged 18 (or beyond where a young person remains at secondary school). In Aberdeenshire the Named Person will be either the Primary Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher and in Secondary School, the Named Person will be that young person's allocated Principal Teacher of Guidance (with a few exceptional circumstances).

The purpose of the Named Person role is to make sure children, young people and parents have confidence that they can access help or support no matter where they live or what age the child is. Acting as a central point of contact, the Named Person can help children, young people or parents/carers get the support they need, if and when they need it.

The Named Person can help by:

- Providing advice, information or support
- Helping a child, young person, or to access a service or support
- Discussing or raising a wellbeing concern about a child or young person.

There is no obligation for children and young people or parents to accept any offer of advice or support from the Named Person. Non-engagement with a Named Person is not in itself a cause for concern. The Named Person Services is currently delivered on a national policy basis.

For more information you can contact your child or young person's Named person directly, or go to:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/named-person/>

Here at Elrick School the Named Person for your child is Mrs Fiona Thomson, Head Teacher.

8 Educational Psychology

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) provides a service across Aberdeenshire from pre-birth to 24 years old. We work with children, young people, families, educational staff, local authority colleagues and a wide range of other professionals including health professions, social work, early years partner providers and post school training and education providers.

When there are concerns about a child or young person's learning or wellbeing, an Educational Psychologist can support others to problem solve their way through potentially difficult and complex situations. Consultation with people who know the child best forms the basis of Educational Psychology assessment. Its purpose is to explore and understand the concern, and support people to come up with solutions that will work in that particular context.

The EPS also offers a range of services that help improve learning and wellbeing for all children and young people. We do this through action research, development work with schools, training, and contributing to strategic developments.

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

9 Enhanced Provision & Community Resource Hubs

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. By enhanced provision we mean that a local primary and secondary school has an enhanced level of resources, such as access to a sensory room and life skills area; and support for learning staff who have an enhanced level of expertise to meet a range of needs.

Further enhancement is available through the community resource hub, for a small minority of children with severe and complex needs, who regardless of chronological age are making very small steps in learning and are at the early levels of learning. The enhanced provision centres and community resource hubs can offer outreach support to mainstream schools, short term assessment placements, flexibility (e.g. blended places) and access to a variety of therapies.

For more information on all of our resources and policies go to:

<http://asn-aberdeenshire.org/>

10 Support for Learning

At times in their lives all children may require support for learning for a range of reasons. Some children may need a lot of support all the way through school. Others may need only a small amount for a short time.

A child is said to have additional support needs if they need more, or different, support to what is normally provided in schools or pre-schools to children of the same age. Reasons for requiring support might include:

- Missing school because of an illness or long-term condition
- Having a physical disability
- Being a young carer
- Communication difficulties
- Being particularly able
- Changing school a lot
- Being looked after or in care
- Difficulty in controlling behaviour
- Having a difficult family situation
- Suffering a bereavement
- Being bullied

Each school cluster has an allocation of Teachers of Additional Support for Learning (ASL) who are employed to support pupils with additional support needs. They work across each cluster in primary and secondary. In partnership with school staff, parents and other professionals (if appropriate), they identify barriers to learning, assess children's needs and support learning and teaching through a relevant curriculum.

Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) assist teachers in promoting achievement and raising the standards of pupil attainment. They provide general support in relation to the needs of the class and individuals' care, health and wellbeing and safety and to ensure a secure and safe environment.

11 The Child's Plan

The *Getting It Right* approach makes sure children and young people are provided with a range of support, which is proportionate and put in place to meet assessed need. This is reflected in Aberdeenshire's staged approach to assessment and planning for individual children and young people, shown below.



For a small minority of children or young people, there might be higher levels of wellbeing need or risk identified. These children may require a level of targeted support, which needs to be coordinated on a single or multi-agency basis through a Child's Plan.

Where a child or young person needs one or more targeted supports, the benefit of a Child's Plan will be discussed with them and their parents/carers. An assessment using the National Practice Model (*My World Triangle/Resilience Matrix*) would help to identify any wellbeing needs (*Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Resected, Responsible, Included*), and highlights strengths and pressures in the child's situation. Families are fully involved as key partners in these discussions.

The Child's Plan will outline what action will be taken by the child, their family and professionals, and detail how these supports aim to help improve the child or young person's Wellbeing and overcome any difficulties.

A Lead Professional will be identified to co-ordinate and manage any Child's Plan.

Information is available on the Aberdeenshire *Getting It Right for Every Child* Website:

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

12 Child Protection

Child protection is the responsibility of all who work with children and families regardless of whether or not they come into direct contact with children. All workers must be fully informed of their responsibilities in respect of keeping children safe. All services working with children, young people and families are expected to identify and consider the wellbeing of children and to share concerns appropriately.

Within our School we have a designated member of staff appointed to be responsible for Child Protection matters. If there is the possibility that a child could be at risk, the school is required to follow the Child Protection Procedures laid out for Education.

This may mean that the child is referred to Social Work, the Police or the Children's Reporter. In our school the designated officers are Mrs Fiona Thomson, Head Teacher or Miss Jenny Anderson, Depute Head Teacher.

Remember – if you suspect a child is at risk, do not rely on someone else to notice.

If you would like to speak to someone, seek help or pass on information or concerns:

You can speak to designated staff in our school

Social Work Monday to Friday during office hours contact your Children & Families local [Social Work Office](#)

Evenings & Weekends call the Out of Hours Service on 03456 08 12 06

Police Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 101

Signs of abuse can range from poor personal hygiene and hunger to unexplained injuries or self-harm.

If a young person tells you they are being abused:

- stay calm and listen to them
- never promise to keep it a secret – tell them you must let someone else know
- remind them that they are not to blame and are doing the right thing
- report it, but leave any investigation to child protection agencies

Protecting Aberdeenshire's children and young people is everyone's business, go to:

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

13 Further Information on Support for Children and Young People

The following websites may be useful:

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

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

Aberdeenshire Council

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/additional-support-needs/>

Support for All

<https://www.education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/Support%20for%20all>

Enquire – National Parent Information Service and Helpline

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

Parent & Carer Involvement and Engagement

The term “parents” refers to anyone with parental responsibilities and others who care for or look after children or young people.

Both globally and nationally it is recognised that parents are the single most important influence on their children’s development, learning and achievement. The involvement and engagement of parents in their children’s learning is recognised as a key element in raising attainment, through support, help and encouragement given at home and whilst at school.

Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy The Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy demonstrates the commitment by Aberdeenshire Council to improve the quality and the extent of all parents’ involvement in their child’s learning and the important role they play in their child’s education.

The plan sets out a vision for parental involvement and engagement for the next three years and covers a journey that a child takes from pre-birth to age 18. It highlights the leadership of those who make the difference day in and day out.

<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/parental-involvement-and-engagement-strategy-and-action-plan/resource/02c6596e-8cba-42c7-b28a-eed64086ea42>

14 Parental Engagement

Parental engagement is about parents’ and families’ interaction with their child’s learning. It can take place in the home, at school or in the community: where it takes place is not important. The important thing is the quality of the parent’s engagement with their child’s learning, the positive impact that it can have and the interaction and mutual development that can occur as a result of that interaction.

15 Communication

The school uses a range of approaches to share information about your child’s learning and progress. These include:

- Use of Groupcall to text and email
 - School Website: www.elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk
 - Social Media: Twitter @ElrickSchool
 - Newsletters are posted on Teams
 - Sharing the Learning Events throughout the year, for example, performances, open mornings/afternoons, enterprise events
 - Learning profiles – currently shared through Seesaw
 - Individual meetings with families
-

The school calendar highlights planned opportunities where we welcome you into school for events, and opportunities to talk about your child's progress, wellbeing and behaviour (see Further Information).

16 ParentsPortal.scot

parentsportal.scot

In support of Aberdeenshire Council's ambition to offer more digital services to its residents, Aberdeenshire primary and secondary schools are rolling out a new national online service called **parentsportal.scot**. This is designed to replace the paper 'schoolbag run', giving a child's registered contacts access to a range of school-related online services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At the heart of the system, is a secure account through **mygov.scot**, which is referred to as '**My Account**' or '**MyAberdeenshire**' account. 'MyAberdeenshire' is already used to allow parents/carers to make online payments or receive notifications if a school closes unexpectedly. **Parentsportal.scot** and '**MyAberdeenshire**/'**mygov.scot** will work together, making this a convenient one-stop-shop, to access all Aberdeenshire digital services.

Initially, **parentsportal.scot** will allow parents/carers to see basic information about your child(ren)'s school and twitter account as well as:-

- make a link to your child(ren)
- complete the annual data check process electronically (child's main contact only)
- update their own as well as your child(ren)'s details at any time
- to register and access for online school meal payments using one sign in (iPayImpact)

How do I sign up? - If you **already have a myAberdeenshire account** to pay for school meals through iPayImpact, you can sign up using the same sign in details at <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>. You **do not need** to register or set up a new **mygov.scot** account.

If you do not have a myAberdeenshire/mygov.scot account or are looking for more information and videos on how to access to **parentsportal.scot**, please go to <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

17 Learning at Home

Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. Your home is a great place to support learning. Your child can try out new activities or practice familiar learning, at home and in their wider community.

At our school we provide materials for you to work with your child to develop key skills at home. For explanation of this please go to our homework policy

www.elrick.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

18 Parent Forum and Parent Council

The Parent Forum is a collective name for all parents, carers or guardians in the school.

The **Elrick Parent Council** is a group of parents selected by the Parent Forum to represent the views of all parents, carers and guardians in the school. The Parent Council works with the school to support learning and teaching, school improvement and parental and community engagement.

Contact the Parent Council Chairperson **Claire Taylor** or Head teacher for more information about getting involved in the Parent Council or email: parentcouncil@elrick.info

19 Parents and School Improvement

Our school has a range of priorities that we work on each year which are explained in our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Parents often have helpful and creative ideas about how to improve their child's school and what can be done to improve the quality of children's learning. In our school we will consult with parents in a number of ways. These may include:

- working groups/focus groups which any interested parent is invited to be part of
- questionnaires and surveys
- consultation with the Parent Council

20 Volunteering in school

There are many opportunities for you to support learning in school. These may include:

- volunteering to share the skills and knowledge you have
- supporting children and young people in the classroom
- supporting or lead extra-curricular activities
- directly supporting with specific skills (paired reading for example)

More detail about this can be found using the link below:

<http://jobs.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/volunteer-with-us/> or contact your Head teacher.

21 Collaborating with the Community

We work with many local organisations, community groups and businesses to ensure our children and young people benefit from further resources, experiences and opportunities. If you are interested in working with the school, please contact the Headteacher

22 Addressing Concerns & Complaints

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their child's learning and is committed to fostering positive relationships with parents. No matter how strong partnerships are, or how good our policies are, sometimes things can still go wrong and there may be occasions where parents wish to express unhappiness or dissatisfaction with council services, policies or staff behaviour.

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/contact-us/have-your-say/have-your-say-guide/>

When a complaint is made it must be handled in accordance with the Complaints Handling Procedure which provides two opportunities to resolve issues internally. In order to maintain positive relationships, it is usually better for all if parental concerns or complaints can be resolved at school/ early years setting level as quickly as possible.

If a concern or complaint cannot be resolved at frontline resolution (Stage 1) then it will progress to Investigation (Stage 2) and a detailed investigation into the matter will be carried out. Complaints that are complex, serious or high risk and require detailed, lengthy investigation may be dealt with at the Investigation Stage from the outset.

Once the two internal stages of the Complaints Handling procedure have been exhausted, the complainant must be directed to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to carry out an independent external review of the process. The SPSO is the final stage of the complaint procedure.

Once the SPSO reaches a decision they may contact the council with recommendations for improvement and will provide dates by which the recommendations must be implemented. The council is required to report back to the SPSO and evidence that the required action has been taken.

School Policies and Useful Information

School Policies such as the Homework Policy; Promoting Positive Relationships; our Mobile Phone etc. are published on the school website and can be found by clicking the parents tab at the top. Please go to: [<insert school website>](#).

All Aberdeenshire Council Education policies can be found here:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-us/service-structure/education-and-childrens-services-policy-framework/>

23 Attendance

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 actions of adults.

It is important that staff and parents continue to work together to develop and improve 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 would wish to work with parents to ensure that children can achieve fully. 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 for the safety of the individual child. This will involve a phone call to the parent soon after 9.30am. Repeated calls will be made until the child's whereabouts have been confirmed. If contact cannot be made the

situation will be assessed and it may be thought necessary to inform the local social work department. 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 the school between 8:30am and 9:30 am on the first day of his/her absence or send a signed note via a brother or sister where applicable.
- 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 note should be provided explaining the reason for absence and confirming the periods of absence from the school. The note should be signed and dated.

If your child feels ill, they should tell the class teacher. If appropriate, office staff will arrange for them to be collected from school.

The school follows the Aberdeenshire Attendance Policy:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/19805/attendance-policy_april-2015.pdf

Procedures for following up on pupil absence are based on the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 which requires by law that parents/carers ensure that children attend school regularly. The Home/School Liaison Officer has a key role to play, providing a vital link.

24 Holidays during term time.

The Scottish Government has deemed that holidays taken during term time for primary and secondary children 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 inform the Head Teacher. This will be recorded as unauthorised absence though there may at times be exceptional family circumstances previously discussed with the Head Teacher. Parents are advised to limit the number of holidays taken during term time, to minimise disruption to a 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/>

25 Dress Code

We actively encourage all children to wear school uniform. This helps instill a sense of pride and team spirit within our school. This policy is supported by the Parent Council and all staff.

The official school uniform is:

Uniform Item

Colour

Trousers, shorts, pinafore, skirt	black or grey
blouse, polo shirt – school* or plain	white/blue
school tie* (optional)	maroon/blue stripes
sweatshirt*, jumper, cardigan*	maroon maroon or grey
summer checked dress	maroon/blue

*Polo shirts, sweatshirts, and ties in official school designs are available to order from the following link, which is also available on the drop down menu on our school website:

<http://elrickps.imagescotland.com>

We also sell school fleeces which are maroon and have the Elrick school badge on them. The fleece is not part of the official school uniform but is an optional purchase. It has proved to be popular with pupils and parents.

At Elrick we believe that designer sweatshirts, football shirts, training tops, jogging bottoms, jeans etc are best kept for activities outside school and should not be worn at school.



P.E kit

The recommended PE kit is: shorts/joggers, white or blue polo shirt/T-shirt, gym shoes or indoor trainers. We recommend that children have a sweatshirt or hoodie for outdoor PE.

We take pupils' safety seriously. Baggy shorts, loose-fitting clothing and bulky trainers have been found to be hazardous in PE lessons and should not be worn.

Where possible, pupils should remove jewellery and earrings. If removal is not possible, the items must be taped. We expect pupils to provide their own tape.



Footwear

We work hard to keep the school looking clean and tidy. During the winter months and inclement weather we ask children to change their footwear when they arrive at school. In school, the children may wear indoor shoes, gym shoes or indoor trainers. We also ask all pupils to use a drawstring shoe bag to hold their change of footwear. These bags can be ordered from the School Office.

Parents should note their responsibility to ensure all clothing and belongings brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from that of others.

26 Clothing Grants

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £100 per eligible child per financial year. More information about this can be found at:

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

27 Transport

In order to qualify for free Home-to-School Transport, Primary school pupils must reside more than 2 miles from and attend their zoned school whilst Secondary school pupils must reside more than 3 miles from and attend their zoned school.

These distances are the shortest available route from the pupil's house to the school gate and can take into account main roads (including dual carriageways), tracks and paths. Pupils will be assigned a collection point, in villages and towns and where safe to do so, pupils may have to walk up to 1 mile to the nearest collection point. Pupils who reside in rural locations are usually collected at the nearest adopted road to them (track end or roadside). School transport vehicles will not use private unadopted roads or tracks. It is the parent's responsibility to escort the pupil to and from their collection point. Application forms for free transport, Form PTU100 can be obtained from the school office.

28 Privilege Transport

Transport provision is also made available for pupils who are not ordinarily entitled to transport. Privilege transport is provided on school transport services subject to spare seating capacity. There are 3 types of privileged transport available.

In-zone Privileged transport

Pupils who attend their zoned school but are under the qualifying mileage can apply for In-zone privilege transport. If there is suitable seating capacity available and an existing route then the application should be approved, if there is not and there is a safe walking route available to the pupil, then it may be rejected. Please also note that if seating capacity is needed for a pupil who is entitled to school transport, In-zone Privilege pupils may be give written notice and removed from transport.

In-Zone Privilege Transport – Safety

Pupils who attend their zoned school but do not qualify due to their residence being under the qualifying mileage can apply for In-zone privilege transport. If there is no safe walking route available to the pupil, they are guaranteed a seat on transport by applying for an In-zone Privilege pass. A pupil who is guaranteed in-zone privilege transport would not be removed to make room for a pupil who is entitled to school transport.

Out of Zone Privilege Transport

There is no transport entitlement to pupils who attend a school which they are not zoned for. Pupils may apply for Out of Zone Privilege transport; pupils are required to meet the nearest available school transport vehicle to them, and it is the parent's responsibility to bring the pupil to the nearest collection point. Out of Zone Privilege transport pupils may be removed, with written notice, at any time for In-Zone Privilege and Entitled transport pupils.

Application forms can be obtained directly from your child's school. For further information, see the Council website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/school-transport/school-transport/> or contact: school.transport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Local Bus/Registered School Bus Services

Some services operate as registered bus services. These operate on a fare paying basis and pupils will be required to pay fare to the driver or purchase a season ticket for travel.

29 Early Learning & Childcare Transport

Transport to early learning and childcare settings will not be provided by Aberdeenshire Council, unless there are relevant exceptional circumstances. Where there are significant additional support needs, transport may be provided. In such instances this requirement should be discussed with the Head Teacher in conjunction with the Early Years Quality Improvement Manager.

30 Special Schools and Enhanced Provision

Aberdeenshire Council may provide free transport where necessary for pupils who attend a school with enhanced provision proposed by the Authority. In certain cases, pupils may be encouraged to make their own way to school by public transport, and where this is authorised, bus passes are issued. Where a pupil's address falls in the

delineated area of a resourced school, and is within reasonable walking distance, the Authority will take advice from the Community Child Health Service before deciding if free transport should be provided

31 School Closure & Other Emergencies

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. These guidelines outline the procedures for dealing with school closures during bad weather or other emergencies.

If children are at school...

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.

If your child attends a Nursery, Primary or Special School, which is to close early, the school will contact you by telephone. If this is not possible 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.

If your child attends a Secondary School, because of the large number of pupils in Secondary Schools, parents will be contacted via text/email to inform them of closure.

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.

Before the start of the school day...

During bad weather some staff may not be able to get to school or bus routes may not be safe to travel on – so the school may have to close. Headteachers will advise parents and carers using the following communication tools:

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 30 mins from our website:

- **Northsound 1**
FM 96.9
 - **Northsound 2**
MW 1035 kHz
 - **BBC Radio Scotland**
FM 92.4 - 94.7MW 810 kHz
 - **Moray Firth Radio**
FM 97.4 MW 1107 kHz
 - **Waves Radio**
FM 101.2
-

- **Original 106 FM**

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(s) updates their closure status:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>

School Information Line

Tel: 0370 054 4999 then **02 + your school's 4 Digit Pin**. If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

32 Storm Addresses

When there has been severe snow storm during the day it may be prudent for pupils who live some distance from the normal bus routes not to attempt to reach their homes but to spend the night in alternative accommodation nearer school. It is the parents responsibility to inform school about any pupils who may be at risk in such situations and to provide the name and address of a relative or friend who is willing to provide overnight accommodation.

33 Change of address and Parental Contact Details

To enable us to make easy contact with parents, the school would appreciate if any changes of address, telephone number of circumstances is notified in writing to the School Office. It is also important that the school has details of an Emergency Contact should it prove impossible to get in touch with parents in the event of an emergency.

34 Anti-bullying Guidance

What is Bullying?

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services define bullying as the following:

Bullying takes place when the actions of an individual or group of people cause harm to someone by taking advantage of an imbalance of power within a relationship (whether perceived or real). Bullying behaviour can be persistent and/or intentional, but often it is neither.

Bullying can be verbal, physical, mental/emotional or cyber and is behaviour and impact. It can be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, persistent, or a one off incident. The impact is on a person's ability to feel in control of themselves.

Bullying can be verbal, physical, emotional or cyber. It can be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, persistent, or a one off incident. People who experience bullying behaviour feel vulnerable and/or socially isolated.

What will the school do about it?

Schools should promote consistency of response to instances of bullying behaviour using a 6 step approach. They will:

1. Record the Incident
2. Speak to the individuals involved having frank and honest dialogue
3. Speak to parents
4. Utilise Restorative approaches
5. Monitor the situation
6. Review and increase response accordingly

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services Anti-bullying Policy is due to be reviewed and updated in 2019/20.

More information can be found in our School's anti-bullying guidance at

<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/b9bb8c35-50b7-401e-a7e3-30833f69cc73/resource/8d5ff96d-775f-4516-9f6b-c15ce425f407/download/ecs-002-edu---anti-bullying-policy.pdf>

Copies of this school guidance can also be accessed via the School Office.

35 School Meals

Primary School Lunches

Lunch time is an important aspect of the school day. Not only does it provide children with a nutritionally balanced meal, it enhances their social and personal development.

How does my child choose their lunch?

In class first thing in the morning children select their meal using the Smart Board. Meal options are displayed and a choice is made by touching the chosen option shown on the Smart board. The teacher will explain to children the menu options available on the day, but it is helpful for parents of the younger children to discuss this with them before they arrive in school.

The School Catering Service provides good value meals at our schools using carefully sourced quality ingredients. There is always a wide selection of options

available from the menu. The menu and helpful information can be found via this link <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/primary-school-meals/>

Children with medically prescribed dietary requirements

Parents should be aware that they can access special dietary support information by viewing <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/primary-school-meals/> to access OurShireMenus content portal.

Children who require medically prescribed dietary support, with parental/guardian assistance, should be identified during the admission process. Procedures are set in motion to offer support for these children by completing Admission Form D available from the school administration office. The School Management Team and the Catering staff will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Special Events and Celebrations

The children enjoy eating together and we encourage learning and wellbeing during lunchtime. Occasionally we celebrate special dates and encourage all children to participate.

If your child is going along on a school trip the school catering service can provide a nutritious packed lunch for the occasion and this includes children who qualify for free school meals.

How Much does a Primary School Meal Cost?

The current price of a Primary school meal can be found via the following link - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/primary-school-meals/>

How do I pay for School lunches?

Lunches are provided free of charge for pupils from P1 to P3. Paying for School lunches is very easy to do online.

It is very important to keep this account in credit as failure to do so triggers a time-consuming debt recovery process for the School and Catering service. We aim to support the wider Authority to be debt free and require your support in this by ensuring you top-up your account before sending a child for school meals.

Online payments system

We are encouraging parents/carers to register for online school payments due to COVID-19 to eliminate handling of cash. Parentsportal.scot is the recommended way to register to access all school payments including school meals.

Parentsportal.scot is securely linked to a myAberdeenshire account and to register follow this link <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

Please ensure there are always sufficient funds on your child's account prior to sending them for school meals. There is a formal debt recovery process for accounts that fall into debt.

If you are having difficulty making payments please contact the school office as we are here to support families and will do whatever we can to assist you.

Free School Meals Information

Am I entitled to free school meals?

Click on the link to find information that explains the free school entitlement and how to go about it. [Free School Meals](#)

If you have difficulties obtaining access to free school meals please speak with your school and we will work together to provide assistance.

If you require any further information regarding School Catering send a message to this email address - schoolmeals@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

36 Healthcare & Medical

Every child's health and welfare is very important to the school. Parents who have any concerns should let school know by telephoning or writing in. Alternatively parents can inform the Health Visitor or their own GP. Parents are requested to let the school know of any hospital appointments.

Parents/carers are requested to keep children at home for 24-48 hours if the child has diarrhoea, flu-like symptoms or is clearly unwell.

Always seeks a GP's advice before sending a child back to school. Please remember that other children can be vulnerable to infection.

The school is fortunate to have a nurse in attendance to undertake Health Interviews and provide advice on health matters for pupils. The school doctor will play a vital role in monitoring a child's health and well-being.

Although our medical staff provide help and advice as appropriate, all pupils must be registered with a doctor in general practice who should be consulted about health matters as they arise. Parents should provide us with the name and telephone number of their child's doctor and an up-to-date emergency contact for themselves in case it becomes necessary for a child to be sent home during school hours because of illness.

Aberdeenshire Community Dental Service inspect 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.

Most pupils will at some time have a medical condition that may affect their participation in school activities. For many this will be short term; perhaps finishing a course of medication to combat an infection.

Other pupils have medical conditions that, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. Such pupils are regarded as having health care needs. Most children with health care needs are able to attend school regularly and, with some support from the school can access most school activities. However, school staff may need to take extra care in supervising some activities to ensure that pupils are not put at risk.

Planning formats may include either:

- Individual Pupil Protocol (IPP) (Med form 7).
- Health Care Plan written by Health professionals for very specific medical needs.

A risk assessment should also be completed.

The above can help schools to identify the necessary safety measures to support pupils with medical needs and ensure that they and others are not put at risk.

Please find the link below to our policy and guidance: Supporting Children and Young People with Healthcare needs and managing medicines in Educational Establishments

<http://asn-aberdeenshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Supporting-Children-Managing-Medicines-Educational-Establishments.pdf>

Sunscreen - As children are outdoors 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.

If your child has long term medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes, which may require on-going support, this should be fully discussed with the school. In certain cases specific training of staff about a child's treatment may need to be given. In addition, some children have conditions which may require occasional staff intervention e.g. severe allergic conditions such as anaphylaxis.

37 Schools and Childcare – Coronavirus

Information for parents, carers and young people on return to school arrangements in Aberdeenshire schools and early learning facilities.

- [New term arrangements](#)
- [Contingency planning](#)
- [School meals](#)
- [School transport](#)
- [Family Information Service](#)
- [Shine a Light on Lockdown](#)

If you are a British Sign Language (BSL) user, please watch our video explaining out schools and childcare arrangements. You can also contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#), an online British Sign Language interpreting service.

38 Exclusion

The foundation for schools, learning establishments and education authorities is a whole school ethos of prevention, early intervention and support against a background which promotes positive relationships, learning and behaviour. Where pupils who display behaviour, whereby attendance at the school would be likely to be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school or the educational well-being of the pupils there, and where other forms of support have proved unsuccessful, the Authority exclusion policy may apply. For further information on exclusions contact the school or go to:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/3901/policy_disc_exclusion.pdf

39 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 & Children's Services. We give parents as much notification as possible with regard to visits their children will participate in.

40 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 go to:

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

41 Public Liability Insurance

Aberdeenshire Council holds 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 Claims Handling Agents and compensation is dealt with on a strict legal liability basis. This means that there is no automatic compensation, the Council has to be found negligent in order for any compensation to be offered by our Insurers and / or Claims Handling Agents.

Whilst the school will exercise reasonable care for pupils' property, it is inevitable that property will be lost or damaged from time to time. Pupils' property which is worn or brought to school or left in bags/cloakrooms is at their own risk. This includes but is not restricted to personal items such as jewellery, phones/tablets watches and bicycles. Aberdeenshire Council cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage unless caused by negligence of the school or staff.

42 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 (as specified in the policy) , curtailment and change of itinerary (along with other sundry benefits) etc. for worldwide trips and adventurous activities (including winter sports), subject to policy terms and conditions being met.

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.

Personal / individual cover is seen as a parental responsibility and it is your decision as to whether you feel it is appropriate to obtain this.

Please be advised, however, that the Duty of Care aspect below is not insurance related:

Duty of Care

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. 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.

43 Data we hold and what we do with it.

As you are aware the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR (EU) 2016/769 came into force on Friday 25th May, 2018. This change to the law gives parents/carers and young people greater control regarding how their personal data is used.

Digital technology has advanced greatly over the years and the Data Protection Act was also updated last year to take this into account and make it fit for purpose (Data Protection Action 2018).

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to full compliance with these regulations. When you are asked for information by Education & Children's Services, we will tell you why we are collecting the information, how long we will hold it and the legal basis for gathering this information. A Privacy Notice has been issued to all schools relating to the information we hold on yourself and your child/ward.

44 The information we collect from you

Aberdeenshire Council collects personal data and information about your child in order to provide your child with a school education.

We will normally only share information (other than in child protection situations) in order to provide services for your child as part of his/her school education. We collect

special category data about your child and process this because it is in the substantial public interest.

The information held by Aberdeenshire Council is used to assess, plan, coordinate, deliver and quality assure the education services to your child. The Council does not use an automated process for making decisions about your child or the services required; decisions are made with you. We will keep this information for a period of 5 years from the maximum school leaving age of your child, as required to by The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003, unless we have a legal responsibility to keep the information for a longer period of time.

45 Your Data, Your Rights

You have legal rights about the way the Council handles and uses your data. More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online/legal-notices/data-protection/>. Alternatively you can contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by emailing DataProtection@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or in writing at: The Data Protection Officer, Town House, 34 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AY.

You also have the right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, (www.ico.org.uk). They are the body responsible for making sure organisations like the Council handle your data lawfully.

The Council is required where it is data controller under the GDPR to act in a transparent manner by providing information to individuals about how it will collect and use their personal data. Privacy Notices are an essential part of complying with this requirement. The Privacy Notice must provide information to individuals in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible way and must be written in clear and plain language. There are a number of examples available on <http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/education-privacy-notices>.

46 Parental Access to Records

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 2018. An Access Request 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/your-data-matters/>

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:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-school/general-school-information/My%20child's%20record>

47 Information Sharing

In terms of effective communication, including sharing relevant and proportionate information, where appropriate, Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998 adheres to this as part of our current routine practice.

48 ScotXed

ScotXed is a term used to represent the Scottish Government's Education Analytical Services, which is part of the Scottish Government's Learning Directorate.

ScotXed have legal powers to request data with regards all children and young people being educated in Scotland's schools, with the information collected about pupils and staff in schools used to help to improve education across Scotland. They do not collect the names of your child/children and they do not receive any contact details the school may have for you (e.g. telephone number, email address), and no information is published or made publicly available that would allow your child/children to be identified. More information on what and why they need data about your child/children, along with how they collect and store it is available in their Education Statistics Privacy Notices for parents and carers:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/SchoolEducation/ESPrivacyNotices>

If you have any concerns around the national ScotXed data collections, you can:

- Contact the Data Protection & Information Assets team at the Scottish Government on dpa@gov.scot, or
 - The Head of Education Analytical Services, Mick Wilson, on at mick.wilson@gov.scot,
 - You can write to them at Education Analytical Services, Area 2A-North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ.
 - Alternatively, complaints may be raised with the Information Commissioners Office at casework@ico.org.uk.
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Further Information

The links below take you to the most up to date information on these topics.

Elrick School Website

elrick.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Stats for Attainment

The Scottish Government have developed a “School information dashboard” that provides a range of statistical information about each publicly funded school in Scotland. This includes school attainment information about Curriculum for Excellence Levels Achieved (for primary and secondary schools) and attainment in National Qualifications (for secondary schools).

The dashboards can be consulted [here](#)

Aberdeenshire Council School Holiday Calendar

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/school-term-dates/>

Map of catchment area

<https://gis.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/maps/map.aspx?geolocate=true&resolution=2&initialDialog=localKnowledgeDialog>
