

Dounby Community School

Orkney KW17 2JA

☎ 01856 771234

☎ 01856 771701

✉ admin.dounby@orkneyschools.org.uk

Headteacher's report to Parent Group November 2013

Pupil numbers

Class	Girls	Boys	Total	Notes on deferrals etc
Nursery year	5	5	10	This is the initial entry into a cohort that is expected to be 23 by the end of the school year.
Pre-school year	14	17	31	Children are split between two classes with the older children in North Ronaldsay Class (20) and the younger children in Sanday Class (22) with the nursery cohort. A maximum of 20 children may attend a session due to our current staffing ratio (2 staff per session).
Total nursery/pre-school	19	22	41	
				Notes
Shapinsay Class (P1/2)	9	10	19	The two classes are composites. There are 25 children in Primary 1 and 15 in Primary 2. Left in their age cohorts the school would be vulnerable to reorganisation if a further P1 child moved into the catchment area. The classes are being taught by a team of staff and the teaching organisation is flexible with some sessions taught in age cohorts.
Rousay Class (P1/2)	9	12	21	
Graemsay Class (P3)	12	9	21	
Hoy Class (P4)	9	9	18	
Stronsay Class (P5)	10	15	25	
Westray Class (P6)	7	7	14	
Flotta Class (P7)	12	6	18	*Please note there was an error in the previous headteacher's report for the number of children in this class.
Total P1 – P7	68	68	136	*Numbers corrected from the previous headteacher's report.
Total all children	87	90	177	*Numbers corrected from the previous headteacher's report.

Implications for school organisation

Next school year we are expecting that 27 children will join the Primary 1 year. The school is only allowed to place 25 of these children in a Primary 1 class. The current Primary 1 cohort, who will become Primary 2 next year, are 25 in number. There will be 15 children in Primary 3 next school year.

The school will have to composite the Primary 1, 2 and 3 cohorts for the next school year. Because there will be 25 children in Primary 2 but only 15 in Primary 3. the composites might work as follows, although exact numbers and placement of children will be decided towards the end of this school year.

Class name	Cohort	Number of children	Cohort	Number of children	Total children	Notes
Shapinsay Class	Primary 1	22			22	22 of the 27 Primary 1 children placed in this class.
Rousay Class	Primary 1	5	Primary 2	18	23	A composite class.
Graemsay Class	Primary 2	7	Primary 3	15	22	A composite class.

The remainder of the school would be organised into single cohort classes, as at present.

Support for learning pupils

Stage of intervention	Number of pupils	Reason for intervention	% of pupils with identified learning need*
1	-	Autistic Spectrum Disorders	13.0
2	9	Behaviour	20.0
3	19	Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia)	28.3
4	18	General learning / non-specific concern	8.7
5	0	Speech and language	26.1
Total	46	Complex needs	10.9
		Other (Medical and other less common reasons for intervention.)	8.7

* totals are greater than 100% because some children are identified with more than one condition or need.

Stage 1 is the lowest stage of intervention and Stage 5 the highest. Stage 3 means that outside agencies are involved in supporting the child. Data has not been compiled for children on Stage 1 as these are children who are subject to low level monitoring by their classteacher. There are some marked trends within the data. Children with speech and language difficulties are most frequent with the younger age groups as these issues are quite frequently resolved by the time children reach Primary 3 or 4. Specific learning difficulties are not usually identified before children are in Primary 4 and are sometimes identified later than that, so the frequency of occurrence increases as the children become older. A high proportion of children with identified needs are identified with more than one of the listed needs, for example children diagnosed with autistic

spectrum disorders very frequently present with behaviours that are a challenge to manage in school, thus the percentage figure exceeds 100%.

The percentage of children Pre-School to Primary 7 with identified needs at Stage 2 or above is currently 26%. The UK national statistic is approximately 20%.

Staffing

Helga Moss has taken up her post in Nursery as Nicola Moar is now on maternity leave.

Eilidh Russell has been appointed to a part-time post providing cover for teaching when Lesley Marcus is engaged in work supporting our probationer teacher.

School's chaplaincy

Andrea Price has now left Orkney. Parent Group may like to consider the role of the school's chaplaincy and how it might be re-established.

Headteacher activity

Currently I am working on:

- Monitoring of staff
- Staff reviews and continuing professional development
- Reading policy and procedures
- Use of technology in school and the technology curriculum
- Children's play

My teaching timetable includes:

- Teaching in Primary 1 once a week to release staff for a planning meeting.
- Teaching PE in Primary 1 once a week to provide McCrone time for our specialist P.E. teacher whilst our block of swimming tuition is taking place.
- Teaching in Primary 4 twice a week, short sessions to support use of IT for specific children.
- Teaching in Pre-School every other week to release staff for a planning meeting.
- Supervising children to and from Stromness swimming pool, approximately weekly.
- Providing occasional demonstration lessons.
- Providing occasional cover for teacher absence.

School Council

Two committees are now established, Peedie Council includes myself and eight children from Pre-School, Primary 1 and Primary 2. This committee has discussed replenishing sand supplies for play, broken lights and doors in nursery and litter around the school grounds.

Children's Council includes two representatives from Primary 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The committee has elected a chairperson. The committee has discussed Children in Need, litter around school and Worldwide Fund for Nature sponsorship.

Standards and Quality Report

This report is presented to the Parent Group for approval. The report summarises the school's performance over the year. The Standards and Quality Report is an annual report required of schools by legislation.

IT development

The school has purchased five new laptop computers for curriculum use, and is about to purchase one tablet computer for research purposes.

Staff are collectively working on the IT curriculum and that will include internet safety.

Health and well-being

Staff are collectively working on updating the health and well-being curriculum.

Building and grounds

The school has informed Orkney Islands Council about the following items that require repair or replacement.

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Fence to the front of school and enclosing the playground	Approx Apr 2011		Four post tops still require pieces.
Mend or replace automatic doors to front of school and the nursery	Nov 2011	7 Feb 2013 school front doors. Broke again within a week or so.	Further discussions with the technical services officer revealed that the work has been hampered by the contract that was in place. A new approach has been agreed and it is likely that both the school front electric doors and the nursery electric doors will be mended soon.

Item	Date OIC informed	Date work completed	Notes
Play park development	November 2012		Play Dounby continues to meet. A questionnaire to the community has been returned and is now being analysed.
Roof gullies cleaning, blocked down pipes.	Not OIC	October 2013	Used a local contractor, work carried out and completed within the week.
Staff toilets upgrading	October 2013		
Bike shelter	October 2013	October 2013	However, the next gale damaged another part of the shelter.
Community sports hall roof	November 2013		Initial safety work was carried out immediately to the gale damage but further work needs to take place.
Insulation issues	November 2013		

The head of schools will request headteachers to consider capital projects that are likely to be required for their school buildings, my view would be that Dounby Community School requires:

- A pitched roof to replace all areas of flat roof.
- Redesigned and rebuilt front entrance.
- Replacement of the heating system.
- Further improvements to insulation and energy consumption.

Work on the bowling green, on the site of the old tennis court on the Dounby village side of our grounds, is about to commence.

Headteacher comment

This Headteacher Report is part of an initiative to help Parent Group meetings to be more focused. I would welcome comments in relation to this report. In particular, would parents and carers like me to report on any other areas of interest other than those included this time? If you would like to comment please email me: alastair.forsyth@glow.orkneyschools.org.uk or ring: 771234. Thank you.