

Dounby Community School

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Headteacher's report to Parent Group September 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)	13	10	23	
Total P1 – P7	69	72	141	
Total all children	88	94	182	

Implications for school organisation from these pupil numbers

The school is looking at similar numbers over the next three years. I have not looked at class organisation for next year as yet. However, we look to be pretty secure to be running as a seven class school with nursery and pre-school for the foreseeable future. It is not yet clear how we will organise the classes that are currently composited in future years.

Pupil numbers (continued)

Support for learning pupils

Stage of intervention	Number of pupils	Reason for intervention	% of pupils
1	-	Autistic Spectrum Disorders	17.1
2	8	Behaviour	20.0
3	9	Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia)	25.7
4	18	General learning / non-specific concern	14.3
5	0	Speech and language	25.7
Total	35	Complex needs	8.6
		Other (Medical and other less common reasons for intervention.)	5.7

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 20.5%. The UK national statistic is approximately 20%.

Staffing

Murray Gallacher left to work in a school in Glasgow at the end of June. Karin Flett came to the end of her probationary year at the end of June. Charlene Leask joined the staff on a permanent contract in August; she is teaching Flotta Class (P7). Lauren Copland began her probationary year with us as teacher for Graemsey Class (P3) in August. Juliane Stokes has joined as on a temporary contract of one year as teacher for the additional class, Westray Class (P6). Nicola Moar has begun maternity leave, as of 6th September and Helga Moss and Helen Johnstone are covering her absence. Helga has been into school on three occasions as part of an induction process.

Charis Hourston left her post in Nursery and Pre-School with us at the end of June but was successful in interview and has joined us as part-time learning support assistant in the Primary 1/2 composite classes. This post was created by the local authority in response to our identification of need in the school.

School's chaplain

Andrea Price, who has been our school chaplain for a number of years, is leaving. The school chaplain is an unpaid voluntary role which Andrea has taken on as part of her ministry. Andrea has contributed to school in a number of ways over the years, most recently with her regular weekly assemblies. At the moment The Church

of Scotland has not recruited a new minister for Harray, Sandwick and Birsay. As headteacher I have been alternating with Andrea, leading assembly. Recently other teaching staff have been taking on some of this role as well. We will need to take care to comply with the religious observance regulations for schools in the future.

Headteacher activity

Currently I am working on:

- Standards and Quality Report
- Internet and IT issues including internet bullying
- Reading policy and procedures
- Staff continuing professional development
- Use of technology in school and the technology curriculum
- Children's play

I am currently developing my teaching timetable but I will be teaching Primary 1 for one session a week to enable the staff in the composite classes to meet. I will also teach in nursery regularly in order to enable staff meeting time. I have taught demonstration lessons for reading for new staff and will do more of these. I will be teaching demonstration lessons for maths. I will be taking two school council sessions weekly. I lead assemblies once a week and, after the October break, when Andrea Price leaves as our minister, I will be leading two assemblies most weeks.

Roots & Shoots and World Wide Fund for Nature

The school is planning to have an environmental theme running through its work in the next two years. This will encourage teachers to ensure that children understand the environmental issues that affect them, for example, global warming and pollution.

School Council

There will be two school council committees this year – a Primary 3 to Primary 7 School Council and an infant council (Pre-School to Primary 2).

School Improvement Plan

The new plan takes in the following areas:

- Talking and listening.
- Maths – especially the teaching of maths in the early years and First Level.
- Science – developing teachers' knowledge of scientific method and how that is taught.
- Health and well-being – including children's play.
- ICT – pupil safety and learning about how to use ICT safely and appropriately.

The School Improvement Plan is presented to Parent Group for approval at this meeting.

Feedback from reports to parents 2013

156 reports were sent out, one to each child from Pre-School to Primary 7. Seventy-two response forms to the report were received back to school (46.2%). Of these response forms received, 11 (15.3%) contained no comment; 1 contained predominantly negative comments (1.4%) and 60 (83.3%) contained either predominantly or entirely positive comments.

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.
Remove rocks from playground	Not OIC	Completed 03-05-13	Concreted August 2013.
Play park development	November 2012		Play Dounby continues to meet. Plans close to ready for submission to OIC. Beginning to obtain costs and seek the means of funding and installation.
Alterations to nursery	April 2013		Alastair Forsyth met with the specialist officer for access arrangements in June 2013. No immediate modifications are proposed.

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.

I would additionally propose that the main school staff toilets are refurbished in this academic year. This work can be funded from our existing maintenance budget.

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.