

From mountain to sea

Aboyne Primary School

Handbook

2017/18



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Introduction to Aboyne School

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Aboyne Primary School. As Head Teacher, I aim to build a strong partnership between home and school which will enable your child to thrive and achieve in all aspects.

We take pride in the fact that this is a happy and industrious school with a real sense of team spirit. The education of a child is in partnership with the family and the community as well as being supported, when necessary, by other agencies. The school handbook aims to explain how partnerships develop successfully through help, support and expectations. Early communication from parent or school will help to promote this partnership also.

This Aberdeenshire Council handbook is designed to inform parents of as many aspects of life at Aboyne Primary as possible and has been written in response to School Handbook Guidance (Scotland) Regulations 2012. Some sections in this handbook will be updated annually with current information.

We hope you find this handbook informative.

Mrs Amanda Whitfield

Head Teacher

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

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

School Contact Details

Mrs Amanda Whitfield	Tel No: 013398 86638
Aboyne Primary School	
Morven Place, Aboyne AB34 5JN	
e-mail:	aboyne.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Website:	www.aboyne-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk
Parent Council website	www.aboyneprimaryparentcouncil.co.uk
Parent Council Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/aboyneprimaryparentcouncil

Adverse weather and emergency closure

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

Information Line 0370 054 4999 **021170** (Please do not use this line to leave messages for the school.)

Denominational Status – Aboyne Primary is a non-denominational school. The school does not deliver the curriculum through the Medium of Gaelic. All Aberdeenshire Schools are co-educational, providing education for both boys and girls.

Aboyne Primary background information:

Aboyne is set in an attractive rural location approximately 30 miles west of Aberdeen. Within the village there are several shops including a hairdresser, florist, several restaurants, café, vet, beauty salon, travel agent, chemist, ironmonger's, hotel, small industrial units and a well-utilised village hall. There is also a bowling club, tennis club and golf course. In the centre of Aboyne is the Aboyne Green, which has a children's play area at one end. The Green is the focal point for a number of events throughout the year, the main one being the Highland Games in the summer.

The school is non-denominational and the catchment area is the village of Aboyne and the surrounding rural area. The catchment area for Aboyne Primary stretches from Coull to the north, Dinnet to the west, Birse to the east and Glen Tanar to the south.

Aboyne Primary provides education for children aged 3 – 12 i.e. from ante-pre school nursery to P7. At present the school accommodates 316 pupils from ages 5 to 12 and up to 80 Nursery children in their pre-school and ante pre-school years (for 5 sessions per week).

Aboyne Primary has 16.1FTE teaching staff, which includes Additional Support for Learning (ASL) staff. The Senior management team consists of 1 Head Teacher, who is non class committed, 2 Depute Head Teachers and a Principal Teacher, who have time out of class to fulfil their management role. Nursery staffing comprises of 2 Early Years Lead Practitioners, 2 full-time Early Years Practitioner and 3 part-time Early

Years Practitioners.

The school 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 provides a range of additional active and sporting activities for the children.

The staff are supported by 2 job-share school administrators, 1 receptionist/clerical assistant, 6 part time and 2 full time pupil Support Assistants, 4 kitchen staff, 3 cleaners and a janitorial team based at the Academy.

The School is part of the Aboyne Community Schools Network and on leaving Aboyne Primary School the children transfer to Aboyne Academy, which shares the same campus as the Primary School. The staff work closely with those of the other nine Primary Schools and Aboyne Academy, as well as other Education & Lifelong Learning Staff.

Community links are a valued part of school life. The school hosts the local Rotary School quiz on a rota basis and community volunteers run an after school chess club, a Tech Club, a lunchtime Jog Club and a newly formed after school Ski Club. Pupils also attend a number of after school sports activities held at the Academy. The Aboyne After School Club provides childcare for school age children out of school time, on in-service days and in the school holidays. Visits are also made to local old folks homes through the year. The school has a very supportive Parent Council and associated sub groups. These groups support school improvement activities and raise 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 2005. The school has 2 Eco flags, and is a Cycle Friendly school.

Organisation of the school day

School commences:	9.00 am
Morning interval	P1-7 10.30 - 10.50 am
Lunchtime	P4-7 12.20 - 1.15 pm
	P1-3 12.30 - 1.25 pm
School dismissed	P1 -7 3.15 pm

Nursery times:

Morning session	8.50am – 12.00am
Afternoon session	12.15 – 3.25pm

Staff list and class allocation

Mrs Amanda Whitfield	Head Teacher
Mrs Valerie Stoddart	Depute Head Teacher
Ms Cheryl Sharp	Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Dawn Lobban	Principal Teacher
Miss Charlotte Davies	Class Teacher P1A
Mr Chris Redmond	Class Teacher P1B
Mrs Carry Taylor	Class Teacher P2 - Job Share
Mrs Fiona Walmsley	Class Teacher P2 - Job Share
Miss Grace Berry	Class Teacher P2/3
Mrs Claire Stutter	Class Teacher P3 - Probationer
Mrs Morag Yule	Class Teacher P3 - Job Share
Mrs Esther Gooch	Class Teacher P3/4 - Job Share
Mrs Claire Wallace	Class Teacher P3/4 - Job Share
Vacancy	Class Teacher P4
Miss Michelle Wattie	Class Teacher P4/5 - Probationer
Mrs Cheryl Macduff	Class Teacher P5/6
Ms Beverley Sharp	Class Teacher P6
Mr Jamie Strachan	Class Teacher P7A - Probationer
Mrs Morag Yule	Class Teacher P7A - Job Share
Mrs Dawn Lobban	Class Teacher P7B
Mr Adam Liversedge	Teacher ASN
Miss Aoife McArdle	Teacher ASN
Mr Jonathan Turley	Teacher ASN
Ms Vikki Davenport	Early Years Lead Practitioner
Ms Abigail Finney	Early Years Lead Practitioner
Mrs Heather Ellington	Early Years Practitioner
Mrs Lucy Robb	Early Years Practitioner
Mrs Christine Nicol	Early Years Practitioner – Job share
Mrs Cheryl Robertson	Early Years Practitioner – Job Share
Miss Tracey Walker	Early Years Practitioner – Lunch Cover

Ms Sharon Hassan	Violin Teacher
Mr Jamie Barclay	Cello Teacher
Mrs Margaret Dornan	School Administrator - Job share
Mrs Pauline Smith	School Administrator - Job share
Mrs Lynn Mackie	Receptionist/Clerical Assistant
Mrs Sara Hunter	PSA – Full time
Mrs Elaine Cranna	PSA – Full time
Mrs Jill Beattie	PSA – Part time
Mrs Abi Turley	PSA – Part time
Mrs Jude Morrow	PSA – Part time
Mrs Catherine Cormack	PSA – Part time
Mrs Jan Dawkins	PSA – Part time
Mrs Karen Kellas	PSA – Part time
Mr Billy Algeo	Janitor
Mr Kenny Mullen	Senior Janitor
Mr Sandy Cowie	Janitor Relief Janitor
Mrs Susan Cameron	Dining Hall
Mrs Jackie Barron	Dining Hall
Mrs Sheila Mitchell	Dining Hall
Mrs Lynn Mackie	Dining Hall
Mrs Anne Murray	Cleaner
Mrs Sandra Munro	Cleaner
Theresa Fitzsimmons	Cleaner

Our Vision, Values and School Ethos

Our School Ethos:

Aboyne Primary's School Aims and Statement of Values communicate our philosophy and beliefs for the Aboyne Primary School Community.

Our Vision: Academic excellence, wider achievement and personal development for all, within the heart of the community.

Our Values: Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Honesty, Achievement, Happiness

Pupil's Aim

All pupils should follow our School Values and pay attention to our School Belief and Vision. This will encourage all pupils to become:

Successful Learners

Confident Individuals

Responsible Citizens

Effective Contributors

Curriculum

Within Aboyne 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. Therefore we will 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 also 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.

Primary Early to Second Level Plans

All classes share a yearly planning overview with parents and carers at the start of the new session and thereafter a more detailed overview letter at the beginning of each term. Please contact the school for further details as the plans are working documents.

Development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural 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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

After school, community and parental volunteers run a Primary Chess Club, a Tech Club, and a Ski Club and a lunchtime Jog Club. Pupils also attend a number of after school sports activities held at the Academy.

1 1+2 Approach to Language Learning in Aberdeenshire

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

In Aboyne Primary School the first foreign language will be French. This language will be learned from P1 through to S3.

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.

2 Further Information

Further information on the schools approach to Curriculum for Excellence including information for parents, can be found on the school website at: www.aboyne-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

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://education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications/>

Assessment and Reporting

Pupils move through the curriculum at their own pace. Assessment will focus on **how well** and **how much** pupils are learning and not just how quickly they move through all the experiences and outcomes.

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. There are four main ways in which pupils will be assessed in the **Broad General phase (pre-school – S3)**:

‘**SAY**’ where a pupil may have presented to the class or teacher.

‘**WRITE**’ where a pupil may have some written evidence e.g. end of unit/topic.

‘**MAKE**’ where a pupil may have created a model or poster.

‘**DO**’ where pupils may act out a scenario or conduct a class vote.

Assessment is ongoing throughout the Broad General phase and is a continuous process which influences the goals set for your child. Assessment can take many forms including observation, sampling of work, presentations, portfolios, performance, self & peer assessment as well as tests.

From August 2017, new national standardised assessments are being introduced as part of the National Improvement Framework, where every child in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will undertake assessments covering aspects of reading, writing and working with numbers over the course of the school year.

Assessments will be completed online and will be automatically marked by the online system, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress. to help teachers judge how well children are doing and plan next steps in their learning. For more information please go to:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00510590.pdf>

Throughout this time, parents will receive regular updates through **TRACKING Reports** along with an **ANNUAL Report** and the opportunity to **meet informally and formally with** teachers and support staff (see school calendar in APPENDIX)

Pupils have responsibility for maintaining their **pupil profile** which involves them pulling together their strengths, achievements both inside and outside of school to help them understand what they are learning and support planning for future learning.

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

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 Aboyne Primary, we have arrangements in place to support transitions and these are outlined below. This is also an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher/Head Teacher and to ask any questions or share any information about your child's needs which will help support them through any transition.

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 / "Stay 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 regarding 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

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 P1s 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 Aberdeenshire School attend Aboyne Academy in Bridgeview Road, Aboyne, Tel. No. 013398 87722.

Aboyne Primary School is part of the Aboyne Community Schools Network.

An induction programme for P7 is in place to help ease the transition into S1. P7 pupils spend 5 days at Aboyne 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 Aboyne Academy where information will be shared and questions can be asked.

Liaison between Aboyne Primary and Aboyne Academy is very good. During the P7 year, pupils have opportunities to join with P7 pupils from the other Aboyne Community Schools Network.

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.

Aboyne Academy staff also visit our pupils in Aboyne 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) Aboyne Primary supports any alternative transition arrangements wherever possible. Placing request forms are available from the school.

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

Placing request forms are available from the school.

Visit Parentzone for more information about transitions:

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

3 Admissions

Nursery Admissions.

All parents should submit an application form for their child, to the nursery of their choice during the admissions period. 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/>

4 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>

If you live Out of Zone, parents have the right to request that their child attends a school in another 'zone' if they wish (without giving any particular reason) and Aberdeenshire Council will, where possible, agree to this request. Please follow the link for more info:

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/14818/out-of-zone-placing-request-policy-final-updated.pdf>

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/14819/electronic-placing-request-application-form-aug16.pdf>

Support for Children and Young People

5 Getting it Right for Every Child

Getting It Right FEC 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.

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 Aboyne Primary School to feel happy, safe and supported to fulfil their potential.

6 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. 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.

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 parent/carer 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.

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

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/for-parents-carers/what-is-the-named-person/>

Here at Aboyne Primary School the Named Person for your child/young person is: Mrs Amanda Whitfield.

7 Educational Psychology

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

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

8 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/>

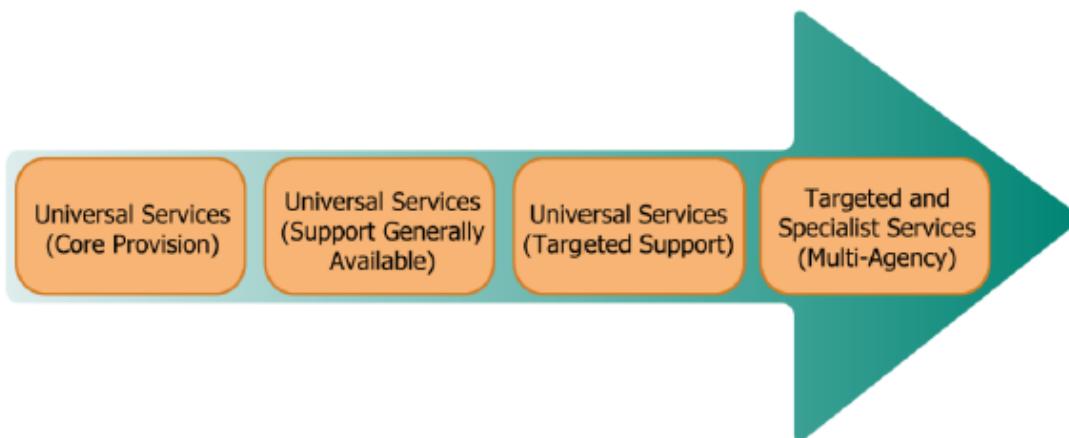
9 Support for Learning

There are times when pupils may experience challenges with their schoolwork. This can be for a variety of reasons including specific learning difficulties, challenges with specific subjects, general learning difficulties or a period of absence.

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 with the main aims of identifying and assessing (with others) barriers to learning, and in partnership with appropriate practitioners and parents, address these needs through a relevant curriculum. **Pupil Support Assistants (PSA)** assist teachers in promoting achievement and raising the standards of pupil attainment and provide general 'hands-on' 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.

10 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 need or risk identified. These children may require a level of targeted support, coordinated on a single or multi-agency basis through a Child's Plan.

Where a child or young person needs one or more targeted interventions, the benefit of a Child's Plan will be discussed with them and their parents/carers. An assessment would identify any affected wellbeing indicators (Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included), looking at both strengths and pressures in the child's situation, and fully involving the family in 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 help to co-ordinate and manage any Child's Plan.

Information is available on the Aberdeenshire Getting It Right Website:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/for-parents-carers/>

11 Child Protection

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility. Protecting children and young people is the responsibility of every member of the community.

Within Aboyne Primary 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 refer the child to Social Work, the Police or the Children's Reporter. Here at Aboyne Primary School the designated officer is Mrs Amanda Whitfield.

Remember – if you suspect abuse, do not rely on someone else to notice.

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

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/>

12 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

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

Parent & Carer Involvement

Here at Aboyne Primary School, we recognise that parents are the main educators and most influential people in a child's life and as such, we strive to work with you as partners to support your child's learning. To do this we aim to work with you in a number of ways.

Parental engagement and feedback from children and young people who use services is seen as key to their development and creating relationships of trust, based on transparency, inclusion and respect, is the basis of positive working relationships with children, young people and their families. This includes recognition and awareness of differing cultures and backgrounds, which may have an impact on, or be important to a child or young person's situation.

Aberdeenshire Parents Charter. (See Appendix) These are a series of expectations that state our commitment to a way of working with you that places the following as priorities: welcome & care; value and include; communication and working in partnership.

Assessment and Planning

The Getting It Right approach and Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014 means the views of children, young people and their families, are seen as central to any assessment of wellbeing, and when drawing up a Child's Plan.

13 Our Parent Forum & Working with you as partners

The Parent Forum is a collective name for every parent, carer or guardian at the school. As part of our forum we want to work together to give children and young people every opportunity to be successful and increase attainment. For that to work well, we have summarised how we aim to do this:

14 Communication.

The school uses a range of approaches to share information and enable insight into what your child is learning and how they are progressing. These include:

- Use of Groupcall to text and email
- School Website
- Social Media
- School Calendar
- Newsletters
- Events
- Golden Book praise system
- Class dojo
- Open mornings/afternoons

The school calendar highlights planned opportunities where we welcome parents & carers into school for events and opportunities to talk about their child's progress, wellbeing and behaviour.

15 Parenting

Working with you we aim to make advice and information available which helps create home environments to support children and young people's learning by providing guidance along with support programmes or events where you have the opportunity to learn together with your child.

16 Volunteering

There are many opportunities for parents to support learning in school by giving up some time to maybe share the skills and knowledge they have; support children and young people in the classroom; support or lead extra-curricular activities or indeed more direct support with specific skills (paired reading as an example). To do this please go to:

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

17 Learning at Home

At Aboyne Primary, pupils from P4-7 use a Learning Log to record their homework each week. Tasks vary depending on age and stage and the pupils have the choice as to how they complete the finished task, allowing them to be creative with the end product. P1 – 3 complete tasks in Homework jotters relating to Numeracy, Literacy, H&WB and class topic.

18 Decision-making and Developing Services

Reflecting our vision, values and aims, the school has a range of priorities that we work to improve on each year which are explained in our School Improvement Plan (SIP). To take forward some of those priorities we need parents views, ideas, opinions along with creating the opportunity to draw upon parents skills and strengths. To enable this we have a series of working groups/focus groups which any interested parent is invited to be part of. We also regularly consult on key issues using a range of tools such as questionnaires.

Our Parent Council, which is a nominated group of parents that represent the views of the parent forum, works with us to ensure we understand how to most effectively involve parents in their children's learning and to support the school with our improvements. Contact the Parent Council Chairperson (Mrs Jenny Blair) or Headteacher for more information about getting involved in the Parent Council or email: www.aboyneprimaryparentcouncil.co.uk

19 Collaborating with the Community

Aboyne Primary School and our staff strive to work with the 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.

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 Information for Parents tab at the top. Please go to:

www.aboyne-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

All Aberdeenshire Council Education policies can be found here:

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

20 Attendance

Lateness: If pupils are late into school this will be marked as “Late” on the register. We keep a note of lateness and, should we note a pattern, a reminder letter will be sent out to parents. Should lateness continue to occur then we will invite both the parents and the pupil into school to discuss how we can best support both to ensure the pupil arrives at school on time.

Permission for absence from school: We would ask that parent/carers put in writing to the class teacher or school office a request for absence. Depending on the nature of the request, it will either be recorded as authorised or unauthorised.

Pupil absence: You must let the school know by 9.30am daily either by email or by phone call if your child will be absent from school, otherwise the Admin team will contact you to ask the reason for the absence. Absences are also recorded and, should we have a concern regarding the number of absences then we will arrange a meeting with you to discuss this.

If your child feels ill: They must tell their class teacher and ask permission to report to the school office. If appropriate, office staff will contact you to arrange for you to collect your child 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.

21 Holidays during term time.

The Scottish Government has deemed that holidays taken during term time should be recorded as unauthorised absence unless there are special, exceptional circumstances. Should you wish to remove your child from school to attend a family holiday you must 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/>

22 Aboyne Primary School Dress Code

We encourage all pupils to wear school uniform at Aboyne Primary School. This helps to instil a sense of pride and team spirit within our school. Sweat shirt orders are processed in the autumn and spring terms. A limited stock of sweatshirts is also kept in school. We can also provide 'nearly new/recycled' sweatshirts for parents who would wish to make use of these.

School uniform consists of: royal blue school sweatshirt with school logo, white or light blue polo shirt, grey school skirt, pinafores or trousers, dark school shoes (children should not wear high heeled shoes as these cause safety concerns). Red senior sweatshirts for P7 pupils only are available to order. **All items should be clearly named.** We appreciate your cooperation in support of this.

Please consider the changeable nature of weather conditions and provide your child with appropriate outerwear and footwear to suit. Children may wear their gym shoes in class when the weather is wet or snowy and requires a change of footwear.

PE Kit is required at all times and consists of: a T-shirt which tucks into shorts, standard length shorts, socks, gym shoes (preferably with Velcro or elastic fastening for younger pupils). It should be clearly named and kept in a gym bag.

With regard to safety, the wearing of jewellery (which we actively discourage) is not permitted during PE lessons. If your child (boy or girl) has pierced ears, please ensure they can remove and replace earrings by themselves. Any child wearing earrings that cannot do this will be asked to put surgical tape over them for PE lessons. (Parents should provide a named roll of surgical tape for this purpose.) Shoe string strap tops are also discouraged for safety reasons as they can catch on gym apparatus. Long hair should be tied back for PE.

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

All clothing 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.

For information about nursery sweatshirts and clothing suggestions see separate nursery handbook.

Please also consider the changeable nature of weather conditions and provide your child with appropriate outerwear and footwear to suit.

23 Clothing Grants

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £50 per year. More information about this can be found at:

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

24 Transport

The Council provides free transport to all children who live over two miles walking distance from school, in the case of primary school children, and three miles for secondary school pupils. School transport routes are determined by the pick-up locations required for pupils who are entitled to free school transport. Contact your school for more details.

25 Early Years Transport

Transport to early year's 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.

26 Privilege Transport

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

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

27 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

28 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 Aboyne Nursery or Primary and it has 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 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

North East Community Radio

FM 97.1 - 106.4

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 **021170**. If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

29 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.

30 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.

31 School Meals

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

- Primary 1-3 pupils are provided with school meals free of charge.
- Primary 4- S6 pupils are currently charged £2.20 for a school meal unless they qualify for Free School Meals.

For more information and how to apply for **Free School Meals**, go to:

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

For information about **school meals and menus** go to:

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

Aberdeenshire Council provides an **online payment service to pay for school meals**.

To register for online payments you will be provided with a reference number by your school for each child. Parents and carers of pupils who qualify for Free School Meals are encouraged to create an account to see meal selection histories and to pay for non-food items such as school trips and activities when that option becomes available.

The first step in accessing the online payment service is to visit Pay facility located on the Aberdeenshire Council web site home page. Alternatively you can register by following the link:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/online-payment-for-school-meals-and-other-school-payments/>

Parents should be aware that they can request a special diet for their children if there are medical or religious reasons for doing so. Children who require medically prescribed or modified diets should be identified during the admission process. Parents and Carers are advised to complete Admission Form D which is available from the school administration office.

32 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 our Medication Policy here:

<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.

33 Exclusion

Where pupils who repeatedly display behaviours which compromise the good order of the school i.e. disruption of learning and teaching, unsafe practices, bullying and other forms of abuse and where other forms of support and sanctions have proved unsuccessful, the Authority exclusion policy will apply. For further information on exclusions contact the school or go to:

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

34 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.

35 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. In Aboyne Primary some pupils currently receive tuition in violin and cello.

For further information go to:

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

36 Comments, Compliment & Complaints

To reflect our commitment to working with you, it is imperative that if you have any concerns these are shared and discussed with us as a school. We work hard to make sure you feel listened to as parents or carers, and find many difficulties can be

easily resolved through the opportunity for direct discussion. However if you are dissatisfied about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us, you can submit a complaint.

To explain our complaints service and how the process works please go to:

<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/072f6c0d-955a-4f4c-a228-568e30884391/resource/52439609-98b5-45eb-b1e6-0d418371ba27/download/full-complaints-procedure-customerv6.pdf>

Where complainants continue to be dissatisfied with a stage 2 response, complaints can be referred to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. Further information and guidance can be found at:

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

37 Support for parents/carers

For more information on Support and Advocacy contact:

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

For local advocacy contact:

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

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance can be reached at:

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

Independent Mediation Services

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

Children 1st
Fraserburgh Business Centre
South Harbour Road
Fraserburgh
Aberdeenshire, AB43 8TN
Tel no 01346 585341
Fax no 01346 512810
Email aberdeenshire@children1st.org.uk

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

www.sclc.org.uk

38 Insurance

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

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

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

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

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

39 School Off Site Excursion Insurance

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

If personal items such as jewellery, phones/tablets, watches etc. are taken on a school trip then these are taken at an individual's own risk and are not covered under the policy, unless damage or loss is caused by an Aberdeenshire Council employee. Should a parent or carer want such items to be covered then this would need to be arranged by parents/carers independently of the school. In addition to this policy, Aberdeenshire Council also holds Public Liability insurance cover for any injury or loss incurred by individuals due to the negligence of the Council or its employees (including volunteers).

40 Data we hold and what we do with it.

Education authorities and the Scottish Government collected data about pupils on paper forms for many years. We now work together with schools to transfer data

electronically through the ScotXed programme. This has two functions: acting as a 'hub' for supporting data exchange within the education system in Scotland and the analysis of data for statistical purposes within the Scottish Government itself.

41 How Does Aberdeenshire Council Hold and Store Pupil Data

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

42 Parental Access to Records

SAR - Subject Access Request information

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

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/personal-information/>

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

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

43 ScotXed

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

44 Information Sharing

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

45 Freedom of Information

The law gives everybody a right to access all recorded information held by the council. This is called Freedom of Information or FOI. Anyone can use this right, and information can only be withheld where Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) expressly permits it.

Appendix

School Improvement Plan

As this is a working document, please contact the school for further information.

Members of Parental Groups

Parent Council chairperson:	Jenny Blair
Secretary:	Angela Fletcher
Treasurer:	Julie Reid
Class Rep Co-Ordinator:	Lucy Wisely
Teacher Representative:	Fiona Walmsley
Fundraising:	Becki Redmond
Social Co-Ordinators:	Corri O'Shea / Nicola Ewen
Ordinary members:	Clare Wallace, Abigail Turley, Shaeron Smith, Jemma Moig

Stats for attainment etc

Please follow the link below for stats.

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/sg.eas.learninganalysis#/vizhome/AchievementofCurriculumforExcellenceCfELevels201516/Dashboard1>

School Events Calendar & holidays

Please find the link below to the Aberdeenshire school holiday calendar.

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-term-dates-and-in-service-days/>

Assessment Calendar

Please contact the school for further information.

Year/termly plan of learning

Learning plans are issued by class teachers at the start of every term/session.
Please contact the school for further information.

Map of catchment area

