

Isla Primary School



Handbook 2012-2022

This document is available in alternative formats, on request.
(Please contact the school office)

Welcome to Isla Primary School



Isla Primary School was formed from the amalgamation of Glen Isla, Kilry and Lintrathen Primary Schools. It welcomed its first pupils in 2010, and was formally opened by Princess Anne in 2011.

We have a beautiful catchment, taking in the edge of the Cairngorms National Park. The school was designed to reflect the shapes of farm buildings in the area, and the rolling hills nearby. We are very close to Lintrathen Loch, and red squirrels, ospreys and sometimes even sea eagles are seen in the area.

We are proud of our close ties with our community, and we do our best to link learning to the work and life of the Isla catchment, and to take learning outdoors as often as possible.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Isla Primary School

Address	Isla Primary School Lintrathen Kirriemuir DD8 5JJ
Telephone Number	01575 526046
Twitter	@IslaPrimarySch
Facebook	Isla Primary School Parent Council
Email Address	isla@angusschools.org.uk
Head Teacher's name	Miss Hazel Harrison (Acting)
Class Stages	Nursery to P7
Present Roll	38 Primary 6 Nursery

The school is non-denominational and Gaelic is not taught.

Our school day

9am	P1-7 day begins
9.10am	Nursery day begins
10:30 – 10:50am	Morning Break
12:30 – 1.30pm	Lunch Time and Lunch Break P1-3 pupils have lunch at 12.30, then break at 1pm. P4-7 pupils have break at 12.30, then lunch at 1pm.
3.10pm	Nursery children go home
3:20pm	End of school day

These times are subject to change depending on COVID guidance for schools.

Nursery Timings:

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers full day sessions 5 days a week, over 38 weeks of the year. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and child-minders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears

VISITS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Any parent who wishes to enrol their child at Isla Primary School is very welcome to visit us. Please make an appointment to see the Head Teacher.

Once your child has been allocated a place you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum, to ask any questions and to share information about your child.



Children, staff and parents are all part of Team Isla

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniforms with embroidered logos are available from Border Embroideries:

<https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/isla-primary-school.html>

Non-logo items from other suppliers, e.g. supermarkets, are equally acceptable.

Red school jumper/ cardigan
White shirt or polo neck top
Grey/black trousers or grey/black skirt or pinafore dress
Black shoes

PE KIT White T-Shirt (Plain or school logo please) and black shorts
Spare pair of socks (essential for girls wearing tights)
Well-fitting gym shoes, plimsolls or trainers
PE Bag with pupil's name

Outdoor shoes - Due to our rural environment, children are asked to change out of their outdoor shoes into gym or other indoor shoes when they come into the

building. All children have a locker space to keep their own indoor shoes. Many pupils also choose to keep a pair of wellington boots in school.

School Bags - A sturdy bag or rucksack is essential, large enough to hold their A4-sized reading folder which is issued by the school.

Please do not allow your child to bring jewellery or other valuable items to school. Pupils are not allowed to bring in mobile phones.

Dogs in School Grounds

Whilst we understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Therefore, please ensure dogs are not brought into school grounds, with the exception of service dogs.

In addition, should you choose to walk your dog to and from school, again in the interests of safety and understanding that some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs, please remain a reasonable distance outside of the school gate to enable children and adults to enter/exit safely.

We also ask our parents/carers to ensure all adults who bring and/or collect their child(ren) are aware.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

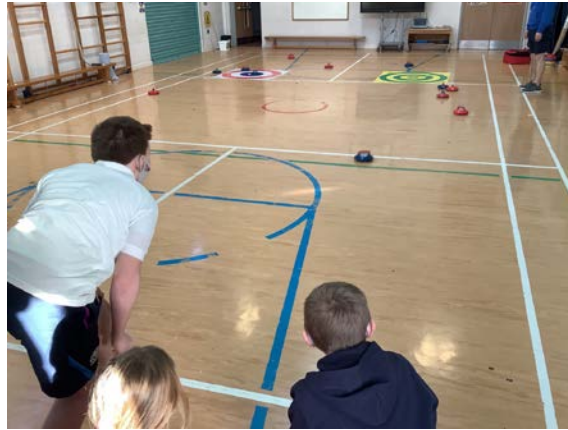
At Isla Primary School we pride ourselves on our positive relationships with parents; we work very hard to ensure that you are fully informed about your child's learning, and to resolve any queries or concerns related to any aspect of their school experience. It is our wish to deal with any issues as early as possible.

You can contact your child's class teacher via Seesaw or by phoning the school office. Please leave a message regarding the nature of your query and advising when is best to contact you. If you prefer to speak to the Head Teacher, either by phone or in person, please ask to speak to Miss Harrison.

All conversations are treated with the utmost confidence. We will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. We will follow-up our discussion afterwards to ensure all matters have been resolved satisfactorily, and to ensure that you feel you can continue to contact us with any concerns.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)



Indoor curling – preparing for the Kirrie cluster tournament.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Becoming Involved in School

An open, positive partnership with your child's school - through active participation in homework activities; through regular, ongoing parent-teacher-pupil dialogue around children's attainment and achievements; and through informal conversations at the school gate – helps embed the skills, knowledge and values taught at school, and encourages children to value learning for its own sake.

Isla parents have always offered valuable practical help in and around the school, and have supported and organised enrichment and extra-curricular activities :

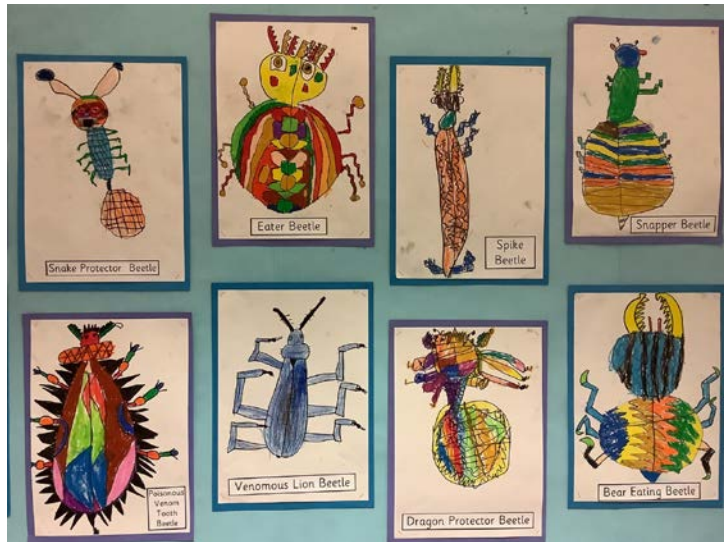
During the school day:

- Support with specific classroom activities, e.g. hearing reading groups, playing maths/language games
- Sharing expertise : leading art/craft activities, giving presentations on relevant topics to add breadth and depth to curriculum topics
- Outdoor learning : leading small groups in gardening or Eco activities
- Assisting with Bikeability training
- Tidying the school library, organising resources

Out-with the school day:

- Fundraising events
- After-school and extra-curricular activities, e.g. sports coaching
- Helping maintain raised beds and wildlife areas in the school grounds

NB If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please ask the Head Teacher for more information.



Artwork from Primary 1-3's Minibeast project.

The Parent – Pupil – Teacher Partnership

We use Seesaw as a learning journal to record significant moments of each child's learning journey, to encourage pupils to stop and reflect, and to prompt the pupil to set themselves new targets.

As well as giving praise, we encourage parents to use 'challenge' questions :

- What are you learning?
- How did you do that? Can you explain your steps?
- Where did you go wrong? How did you know when it was going wrong?
- How would you teach someone else to do that?
- Which learning power did you use?

Our **learning powers** buzzwords – championed by Ozzy the Osprey – are **independent, collaborate, resilient, reflective, creative** and **challenge**.



Open Jotter Days

At these informal events, usually held once per term, parents are invited to come in at the end of the school day to visit their child's classroom, review recent written work and see their beautiful artwork and displays.

Parent Interviews

Twice a year, in November and May, the class teacher and parents meet for a 10 minute discussion on the pupil's current progress and next steps, and to share ideas on ways in which they might work together to help the pupil attain and achieve.

The annual pupil report is issued in June.

SCHOOL ETHOS

- Our aim is** to work in partnership with, and be respected in, our school's community; to create a happy, welcoming and safe learning environment for all children, families and staff; to promote high expectations of attainment and achievement; and to develop confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Our vision is** of a caring, inclusive learning community which fosters skills for life-long learning and respect for our world.
- Our values are** honesty, respect, responsibility, kindness, perseverance and teamwork.

All pupils belong to one of the Isla PS Houses – Peel, Reekie Linn and Balintore. House Captains and Vice Captains support younger pupils in the playground, and organise inter-house events.

'Team Isla' measures its success on how well all children at the school are included and supported. Our school values - "our own SHANARRI", as one pupil described them – underpin our standards and expectations of behaviour, nurture and participation. House Points are awarded by adults to recognise moments when children have particularly demonstrated our school values.

The pupils understand that our Values and our Learning Powers complement each other. Together they help us cultivate the attitudes and behaviours to realise the fundamental goals of Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence – to become responsible citizens, effective contributors, confident individuals and successful, lifelong learners.

Equity and Equality

We implement Angus Council's policy for Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality and are firmly committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or ability.

We are committed to sustainability in its widest sense, embedding the concepts of a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society through coherent, rewarding and transforming interdisciplinary experiences, and contextualising learning in our community and our developing knowledge of the wider world.

We actively seek opportunities to reinforce this ethos through our curriculum. For example, as part of a whole-school COP26 project, parents helped pupils to learn more about local farming practices and how these protect and develop habitats. Our older pupils investigated sustainable energy technologies, and then made their own environmental pledges, which were filmed and became part of 'Angus Climate Voice'.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Isla Primary School sits in an exceptional setting, and Team Isla – pupils, staff and parents - value the wide range of opportunities we have to support, and be an integral part of, our community. Recently we have

- helped Scottish Water plant native species of trees to regenerate habitats
- worked with the Scottish Wildlife Trust to improve and extend the habitat for migrant species around the Loch of Lintrathen, to include the school grounds
- collected food donations and money for the Angus Food Bank
- raised money for our local mountain rescue team
- sent teams to Rotary Club quizzes, the Burns Competition, Euroquiz and Scottish Country Dancing events

The children write articles for the Kilry News, our community newsletter. Our parish minister regularly visits.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. Staff and pupils work together to prioritise and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Disputes are resolved by adult-led reflective discussions and restorative strategies, emphasising empathy and understanding.

Our **Golden Rules** are founded on respect for ourselves and others.

We are gentle
We are kind and helpful
We listen
We are honest
We work hard
We look after property

We don't hurt others
We don't hurt anybody's feelings
We don't interrupt
We don't cover up the truth
We don't waste others' time
We don't waste or damage things



Teaching our community about and raising money for our local mountain rescue team.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children work hardest when they know their efforts to achieve will be appreciated and praised. Children are encouraged to reflect honestly, and to be proud of how far they have come.

At Isla we celebrate children's attainment and achievements in and out of school. The capacities for learning – including curiosity, creativity, resilience – are intrinsic to all forms of play and adventure.

At each Friday Assembly, one or two pupils from each class are given a Star of the Week award for academic progress, or for demonstrating our school values or our learning powers. Photos and evidence are displayed on our Team Isla noticeboard.

Each week a year group is invited to share their out-of-school achievements. Children might talk about their contributions to a family business or to their community, or a new skill they are developing, or a recognition they have received. Taking an holistic view of their own learning enables children to understand that they are becoming successful lifelong learners, taking on new responsibilities, contributing positively to their community, and growing in confidence – the core principles of A Curriculum for Excellence.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Please note : [these events are subject to current COVID guidance for schools.](#)

We are always grateful to those who volunteer to help out with enrichment and after-school activities. All ideas and offers of help are gratefully received.

Clubs tend to take place during school hours, to ensure all pupils can attend. They are organised around children's interests and parent helpers' expertise and availability. In recent years volunteers have organised cooking, origami, badminton, drama games, gardening, coding and sports taster sessions.

Our older pupils, as part of their Active Schools Young Sports Leaders Award, run lunchtime clubs for younger pupils in dodgeball, dance, crafts, football and rugby skills.

Primary 7 pupils joined other Kirrie cluster pupils for a residential trip to the Dalguise adventure centre in Perthshire, in September. Our Parent Council organises an annual ski trip to Glenshee in February/March for all P1-7 pupils.

PUPIL COUNCIL

Pupil Council members are elected by their class at the beginning of the academic year. They meet regularly with the Head Teacher and will be involved in taking forward school improvement priorities, gathering pupils' ideas and feedback, representing the school and organising events.

ECO COMMITTEE

Three pupils from each class attend Eco Committee meetings. 'Eco' events feature regularly in class teaching and additional activities and visits. This year we have signed up for the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award. Our Nursery pupils have also won RHS Awards for vegetables they have grown. We work with parents and volunteers to improve our playground habitats, and each year we take part in BBC Birdwatch.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Our multi-composite classes are busy places, with a wide range of tasks and/or levels of expectation. We use a variety of teaching methods and strategies to cater for a range of learning styles. Active learning for all pupils at all stages, with opportunities for additional choice and challenge, encourage children to be proactive in their learning, and to think creatively about the task at hand.

Personalisation and choice are two of the Curriculum for Excellence's key principles of curriculum design. Teachers and pupils agree to explore a topic either from our rolling programme of inter-disciplinary learning, or to take on something entirely new. This ensures all children have a say in planning class, group and their own individual learning pathways, pursuing their own interests and sharing these with the class.

At the beginning of the term, a Learning Plan is sent home outlining in general terms what we will cover in each curricular area. However these plans will of course evolve around the children's own evolving interests.

Each pupil's Seesaw learning journal offers a medium in which to comment on and contribute to topics and discussions, and to add breadth and depth to learning by sharing stories, artefacts and new knowledge from home.

Additional Support

Additional support is given to any pupil who requires help to consolidate or to access parts of the curriculum, whether short- or long-term. In class, support may take the form of extra differentiation or extra 'thinking time'; visual timetables or prompts; help breaking down tasks into stages; or working on key tasks with an adult in a small group or 1:1. We work closely with parents, our locality ASN staff and other agencies to identify areas where we can better help all our children attain and achieve, and to ensure everyone feels that they belong to 'Team Isla'.



THE PUPILS' AND PARENTS' VOICE

At Isla, pupils can put forward their views through the Pupil Council, the Eco Committee or directly at Assembly. The Head Teacher's door is always open to pupils. We also schedule a 'check-in' twice a year with each pupil using the SHANARRI Wellbeing Web, and follow up as needed.

All parents belong to the Parent Forum. The Head Teacher, both formally and informally, consults with and actively seeks feedback from parents on key aspects of school improvement. All views are valuable.

Isla Primary School has a busy and active Parent Council which takes on specific projects and issues to support the school. The Parent Council meets once a term; minutes and dates of forthcoming meetings are displayed on the school notice board. The school office can also put you in touch with Parent Council members.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Three core themes pervade all learning in A Curriculum for Excellence : Language, Mathematics and Health & Wellbeing. All Angus schools follow clear progression pathways in these subjects, with careful standardised assessment and tracking to monitor progress for individuals and the school as a whole. For more information see:

https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/parent_and_pupil_guidance/links_for_parents

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Equipping children and young people with the skills for life beyond school is the responsibility of all teaching practitioners. These skills include literacy, numeracy and problem-solving; managing health and wellbeing well; self-motivation and planning for the future; respect for the environment; leadership; and working with others.

We do our best to embed all learning in the children's local and wider community, and classroom and homework tasks frequently incorporate themes and strategies from Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), the Scottish Government's Youth Employment strategy to better prepare young people for the world of work.

Modern Languages : the 1+2 Approach

Our children are growing up in an increasingly multilingual world. The goal of the Scottish government's 1+2 project is to give primary pupils experience of learning two languages at school in addition to their mother tongue. This is to prepare children for an increasingly multilingual world : as well as having some practical ability, they will also gain confidence to engage with other cultures, and to communicate in new ways.

At Isla Primary School we learn French from Primary 1 onwards, and use it throughout the day for core routines. This year the older class has also begun to learn Spanish.



LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

At the end of Primary 7, pupils in the Isla PS catchment go on to Webster's High School in Kirriemuir. Families will be contacted by letter by their catchment high school offering them a place.

A number of reciprocal pre-visits for teachers and pupils are arranged during Primary 7, culminating at the end of the year when pupils spend 2-3 full days at Webster's.

Contact Details: Webster's High School, Prosen Road, Kirriemuir, DD8 5AT
Phone: 01575 526000
Website: <http://www.webstershigh.angus.sch.uk/>
Email: WebstersHigh@angusschools.org.uk

Secondary schools have their own arrangements for meetings with prospective parents. You will be contacted directly by the school.

Isla PS maintains close links with Webster's High School and with the other feeder primary schools. Given our rural catchments, it is especially useful for teachers and pupils to visit each other, and to start to build relationships by participating in cluster sports and social events. This process is also necessary for the professional development of staff, and for good communication and curricular consistency between schools.

Enhanced Transition

For some pupils, the Head Teacher or Class Teacher might suggest that the transition process begins before Primary 7. This may be for a range of reasons, and it allows children, families and school staff to get to know each other all the sooner, and to make any useful preparations in good time.

Placing Requests

Parents who wish their child to go to a school outside their catchment must make a Placing Request online via the Council website :

<http://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2018-11/Placing%20request%20application%20form.pdf>

The form may be submitted to the Pupil Enrolment Team, School and Learning, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar, DD8 1AN, LP8 Forfar, or emailed to ACCESSSchoolsLearnEnrolment@angus.gov.uk, or handed into the school.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Each year the school publishes a school improvement plan (SIP) which sets out its main development priorities for the session. These are also on display in the school foyer.

At the end of the year, progress is summarised in a standards & quality report (SQR). A summary is available from the Head Teacher.

Main Achievements

Almost all children have attained the standards in Literacy and Numeracy that were expected of them pre-pandemic. Additional support is carefully targeted and regularly revised for the benefit of all learners. Inter-disciplinary learning reflects the children's awareness of issues that affect them, locally and globally. We are proud that our children remain highly engaged with learning and with the work and life of the school. Team Isla continues to present a strong, inclusive and supportive identity and environment for our children.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

- Responding to a need highlighted by lockdown learning, Isla Primary School has developed and is now 'road-testing' a progression of skills, knowledge and experience for ICT from Nursery to Primary 7, which includes greater technical challenge, respect for others and personal safety.
- The return to full-time school has enabled us to embed our revised (2019) Vision, Values and Aims in the work and life of the school. Our Learning Powers and our School Values are constantly referenced by pupils and staff in class, in pupil-parent-teacher dialogue (Seesaw) and in our awards system.
- "Big Writing" has continued to be embedded and is now building effective portfolios of evidence of the development of children's writing.
- The school works proactively with the locality ASN team and other agencies to provide a structured and continually reviewed programme of additional support across the school, ensuring we make best use of available staff and resources.
- Nursery and Early Years staff are working together to consolidate the transition programme from N5 to P1. This includes using the shared outdoor area for play-based learning. As it evolves, it will provide a model for play-based learning in other areas of the school.
- The Nursery has a robust tracking and monitoring system which will provide evidence for transition, and will feed into the tracking system that monitors children's progress across their whole school career.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Rationale for our SIP 2021 - 2022

- to develop resilience in the capacity of our learners to cope with change and challenge so that they meet their future with confidence
- to continue to build our learners' skills and capacities for independent lifelong learning by
 1. effective target-setting and constructive self-evaluation so that each child, their parents and their teacher share an holistic sense of the child's progress
 2. identifying areas for additional support through careful data analysis and collegiate dialogue, and by ensuring the pupil's voice is heard
 3. learning for sustainability in its broadest sense, by embedding the concepts of a socially-just, sustainable and equitable society through coherent, rewarding and transforming interdisciplinary experiences, and contextualising learning in our community and our environment
 4. a progression in media and digital skills, including safe, informed use of ICT

For more information about the SIP 2021-2022, please contact the Head Teacher.



Our Nursery pupils, taking learning outdoors.

HEALTH CARE

It is your responsibility to inform the school of your child's medical needs, or any significant health issues. The information will be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis, in the best interests of the child.

For their own wellbeing, and to reduce the risk of transmission of infection, any child not feeling well should not be sent to school.

If you are concerned about your child's health & wellbeing :

Please let the school know. It may be that we can share observations, offer advice and/or put you in touch with someone who can help.

The school works in partnership with the school health team which includes the school doctor, school nurse, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and education psychologists. Appointments with health professionals may be at school or at a clinic.

The school also works closely with the social services and other relevant organisations such as Young Carers, Place2Be and Parent To Parent.

School Nurse:

Sheena Downie, Whitehills Health Centre, Station Road, Forfar. DD8 3DY.
Phone: 01382 660111 Ext 61422

Administration of Medicines

Wherever possible, parents are requested to ask for GP prescriptions which can be administered out with the school day.

If this is not possible, parents can come to school to administer the medicine during school hours. If this cannot be done, parents must complete and sign an Authorisation to Administer Medication form, so that school staff can administer medications on parents' behalf.

NB All medicines must be handed in to the school office. Pupils must never be given medicines in their school bag.

If your child has a long term medical condition such as asthma or diabetes, please alert the school as soon as possible. This is to ensure all staff are fully informed in advance and trained on how to care for your child. In certain cases specific training, including emergency interventions, may need to take place before the child comes to school.

Emergency Contacts

If your child becomes ill at school, we will use the emergency contacts in the order you have given. It is vitally important that you let us know if any contact details, such as phone numbers, change during the year.

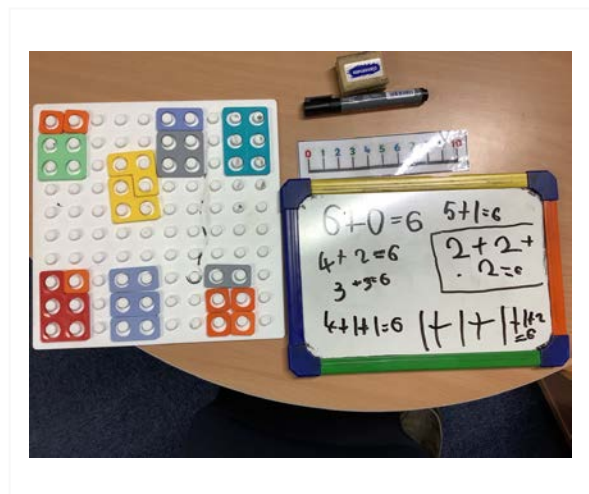
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more



OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents