

Arbroath Academy

"Together – With Pride!"

School Handbook 2024

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



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CONTACT DETAILS

School Name	Arbroath Academy
Address	Glenisla Drive, Arbroath, DD11 5JD
Telephone Number	01241 465200
Website	www.arbroathacademy.angus.sch.uk
Email Address	arbroathacademy@angusschools.org.uk
Head Teacher's name	Judith Mohamed
Class Stages	S1 – S6
Present Roll	687

Organisation of the school day

The organisation of the school day is currently as follows:

Monday to Thursday		
Period	Start	End
Period 1	08:55	09:45
Period 2	09:45	10:35
Interval	10:35	10:50
Period 3	10:50	11:40
Period 4	11:40	12:30
Period 5	12:30	13:20
Lunch	13:20	14:10
Period 6	14:10	15:00
Period 7	15:00	15:50

Friday		
Period	Start	End
Period 1	08:55	09:45
Period 2	09:45	10:35
Interval	10:35	10:50
Period 3	10:50	11:40
Period 4	11:40	12:30
Period 5	12:30	13:20

Head Teachers Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the Arbroath Academy School Handbook and hope that you find it helpful and informative. The aim of this handbook is to give you as much information about the school as possible. As a school our core aim is to foster an ethos based on our school values of Respect, Trust, Equality, Kindness, Achievement and Determination, and to develop a community that is welcoming, caring, and inclusive.

I am proud to say that we have a fantastic group of pupils, parents, and staff. Our mission is to raise aspiration and expectation to ensure that all our young people have the best chance of success in their future. For this to happen, we must aim high and to work exceptionally hard. This journey is a partnership, and we all need to work together to ensure this goal becomes our reality.

It is a pleasure to be part of such a vibrant school and I look forward to working with you to drive Arbroath Academy forward to even greater success.

If there are questions on any aspect of life in Arbroath Academy, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

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

Once your child has been allocated a place we will invite you to meet the staff and children, find out more about the curriculum and share information about your child.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils show their pride in the school by wearing school uniform. School uniform is simple and practical. It is no more expensive than other kinds of clothing. Items may be bought from any clothes shop - price depends on size and quality. All pupils are expected to wear school uniform in school and on educational visits. We appreciate that the cost of living has risen, so we have a uniform shop with new and free items for pupils if required.

All clothes and equipment should be marked with the pupil's name. Every year, clothing, school bags and PE kit which have been lost in the school cannot be returned because there is no way of identifying the owner!

Arbroath Academy's colours are **BLACK** and **GOLD**. Wearing the school colours shows our pride in the Academy!

- Black shoes - plain in style, and suitable for the season – preferably not trainers.
- Black trousers or skirt.
- White shirt or blouse.
- Black cardigan, v-neck sweater, or plain black sweatshirt.
- School tie - black, with diagonal gold stripes (Senior tie plain black with logo) - available from the school office at a cost of £4.00.
- Blazer (Compulsory for S5-S6) - Black with integral Arbroath Academy badge on the pocket. Styles for boys and girls vary.
- Dark coloured jacket.

We appreciate the support that we receive from parents over school uniform.

Pupils in S5 and S6 can rent blazers through the school. Pupils in S1 to S4 also have the opportunity of purchasing a school blazer which can be ordered through the school.

Pupils regularly appear in photographs in the local press or other media. Where possible all the pupils in these photographs should be wearing school dress or school sports strips.

What Pupils Should NOT Wear in School:

- Pupils are **NOT** permitted to wear blue denim jeans.
- Denim jackets should be removed within the school building.
- Pupils are **NOT** permitted to wear football tops or tracksuit tops or bottoms, or clothes which identify them with a particular type of fashion or any football team.

For Physical Education you will need:

- Shorts/leggings/tracksuit trousers (preferably black).
- T-shirt (no crop tops or vests).
- Appropriate footwear.
- Sweatshirt or hoodie – only for outdoor PE.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents should contact the school immediately if they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact your child's Pupil Care and Support Teacher in the first instance or if you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team please contact the Head Teacher.

Pupil Care and Support Teachers	House
Mr C. Black	Lomond
Mr R. Hay	Morlich
Mrs S. Scaife	Morlich
Mrs D. Coull	Tay
Mr A. McArtney	Tay

Senior Management	
Mrs J. Mohamed	Head Teacher
Mrs G. Alcorn	Depute Head Teacher
Miss K. Duncan	Depute Head Teacher
Ms L. Sturrock	Act. Depute Head Teacher

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up the initial conversation with a telephone call approximately one week later to ensure all matters have been resolved satisfactorily.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We aim to resolve all concerns at school level. However, if you feel your concern/complaint has not been satisfactorily dealt with, please see the Angus Council complaints procedure below:

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

The school values the important part that parents play in their children's education and sees partnership with parents as an effective way of enhancing children's achievements and promoting better school ethos and communication. This can be in the form of:

During the school day:

- Running or assisting a lunch club.
- Supporting educational visits/trips.
- School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children.

Out with the school day:

- Fundraising events.
- Assisting with sporting events, concerts.
- Extra-curricular activities e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/dancing clubs.

The Parent Forum is a good example of one way to which parents can become involved. The Parent Forum's main function is reviewing policies, getting an update about what is going on in the school, hearing from guest speakers/pupils and fundraising. There are also

consultations and information events planned to help this partnership in learning. Parents may also be invited to join some of the school focus groups.

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

All parents are invited to attend one Parents' Evening throughout the year. These evenings usually run from 4:30pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's class teachers to hear about their child's progress with 5 minutes allocated to each interview. This is also an opportunity for parents to hear how they can best support their child's learning. Out with scheduled Parent Contact Evenings, parents can of course contact the school at any time during the session to arrange an appointment with relevant staff to discuss pupil progress. In the first instance this should be arranged through your child's Pupil Care and Support teacher.

SCHOOL ETHOS, VISION AND VALUES

In Arbroath Academy we are committed to providing a safe and inclusive community where everyone is known and valued. Our young people are supported and challenged to be ambitious and successful.

UPDATING THE SCHOOL VALUES

The school values were created in 2012-13 and then updated in 2019-20. While the four values of Respect, Equality, Trust and Kindness capture much of the ethos of Arbroath Academy it was clear that the ambitions we have for our school community were not apparent in our values. One of our School Improvement Groups this session is to create the Arbroath Academy Promise and updating the school values sat well with the purpose of the group.

The group discussed various options which would encapsulate the drive we want for our learners and consulted with all parts of the school community to agree a further two values:

Achievement and Determination.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

The Angus Vision is that children and young people in Angus are valued members of our community. They are unique individuals who make important contributions to family and community life. As citizens of tomorrow, they should enjoy growing up in Angus and be assisted to reach their full potential. All Angus children and young people are entitled to feel that they are safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected, responsible and included.

We benefit from working throughout the session with a range of partners, including D&A College, Angus Alive, Active Schools, our school chaplains, Arbroath Rotary and Hospitalfield House. Our local and national business partners currently include M&S, ITV, SSE, Morrison Construction, GSK, MVV, Arbroath FC Community Trust, Clashfash, Interplex, Murray Taylor, and Seaton Grove care home. We also have the support of a number of other local businesses and agencies in offering work experience and curricular support.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. The aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in producing and sustaining this positive ethos. Our school standards address the need to respect others, to maintain a safe environment, and to be ready to learn. We expect pupils to behave in such a way that they are a credit not only to their parents but also to the school and the community.

Arbroath Academy aims to develop Restorative Approaches as a key strategy in improving relationships and behaviour. Respectful and constructive relationships are the starting point for successful learning. Arbroath Academy is committed to getting the balance right between warmth, participation and the setting of clear boundaries and expectations - where the ethos is positive and the focus is on good rather than bad behaviour. Our Positive Behaviour Programme focuses on the following three principles: Relationships, Respect and Responsibilities.

The vast majority of our pupils are keen to learn, and conduct themselves well, in Arbroath Academy.

If serious problems do arise, parents will be informed and will be invited to the school to discuss how we can help to improve behaviour in future. Where standards of conduct are not met pupils will be dealt with firmly but fairly. Time is spent at the beginning of each term explaining the school standards and routines.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any time if they are worried about behaviour in school. We will be pleased to make an appointment to discuss any concerns.

We have three basic rules for the whole school:

1. Follow directions of staff at all times.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
3. No swearing, put downs or verbal abuse.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

The school celebrates achievements of individuals and groups of pupils of all years through assemblies which are used to showcase their many successes. Achievements are also recognised at the annual Celebration of Achievement Evening.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have a thriving Inter House Competition, mostly through sports activities, but pupils can earn House points for a variety of other activities or special achievements and by supporting other pupils or assisting with visitors to the school.

A range of extra-curricular activities are on offer each year. These include Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Pupil Parliament, Art club, Film club, music groups and Library club and there is a wide range of sporting activities such as football (boys and girls), netball, basketball, gymnastics, cross country, fitness room and dance. An up-to-date timetable of lunchtime and after school clubs is available on the P.E. noticeboard or via the school website: www.arbroathacademy.angus.sch.uk

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

There is a Pupil Parliament at Arbroath Academy. The Pupil Parliament members meet regularly. They will be involved in taking forward school improvement priorities and addressing emerging issues as they occur.

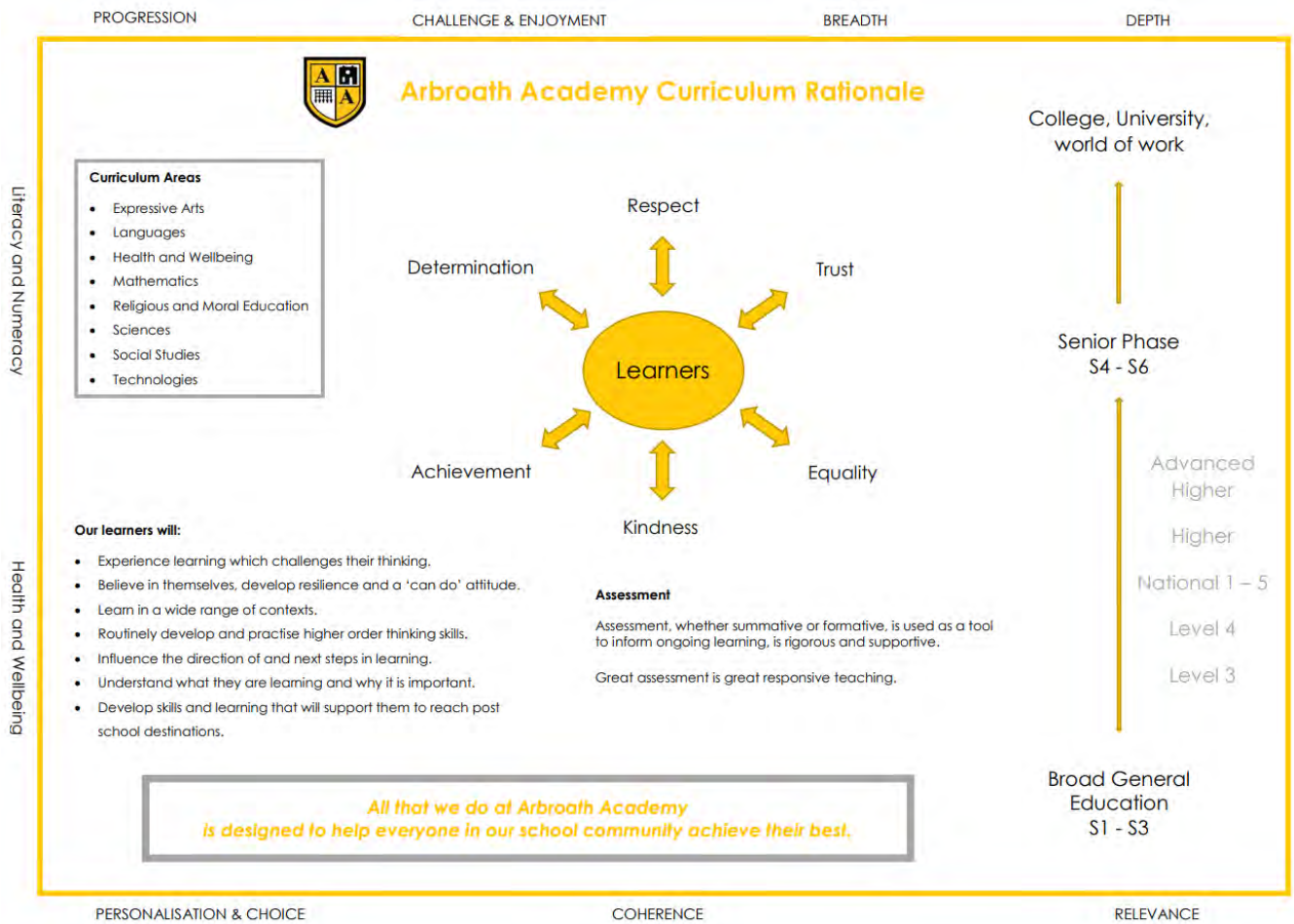
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups following a Broad General Education in S1-S3 narrowing to specific choices in S4-S6. Pupils receive Social Education (PSHE) as part of their timetabled curriculum. Pupils will have regular discussions about their progress and achievements to set appropriate targets for next steps in their learning and monitor their progress during the session.

THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of specific focus. Parents are encouraged to contact the school regarding any issues through a link on our weekly parent/carer Sway updates.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL



Further information about the curriculum in Arbroath Academy can be found on the school website:

www.arbroathacademy.angus.sch.uk

National information can be found from the numerous sources listed at the back of the handbook.

STAFF

Senior Leadership Team	
Mrs J. Mohamed	Head Teacher
Mrs G. Alcorn	Depute Head Teacher
Miss K. Duncan	Depute Head Teacher
Ms L. Sturrock	Act. Depute Head Teacher
Mr I. Cornthwaite	School Business Manager

Pupil Care and Support Teachers	House
Mr C. Black	Lomond
Mr R. Hay	Morlich
Mrs S. Scaife	Morlich
Mrs D. Coull	Tay
Mr A. McArtney	Tay

Faculty	Principal Teacher	Subject Areas
Additional Support Needs	Ms L. Gray	
BCT	Mr Y. Ghafoor	Administration & IT Business Management Computing Technical
Expressive & Performing Arts	Mrs B. Brown	Art & Design Fashion & Textiles Music Photography
Health Improvement	Mr K. Hare	PE HE Childcare Practical Cookery
Language & Communication	Mrs M. Boyd (Acting PT (C))	English Literacy French Spanish ESOL
Mathematics	Mrs F. Ryan	Maths Numeracy
Social Subjects & RME	Mrs D. Smith	Geography History Modern Studies Scottish Studies RMPS
Sciences	Mr N. Bennett	Biology Chemistry Physics Science

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

As a school we are committed to raising standards for our young people. Whether that be using data in an informed way to target and bring about improvement or ensuring all our students have a breadth of experience to develop as well rounded individuals, we have high aspirations for all of our students in terms of attainment and achievement. The sensitive and sensible use of data is a significant aspect of our drive towards continuous improvement.

Each year the school publishes its Standards and Quality Report which outlines the main achievements of the school during the school session, how the school has been working to improve standards and sets out improvement planning priorities for the next session.

The school is very proud of the success of its students in a wide range of local, national and international competitions and events as well as the breadth of opportunities we offer students as part of their curriculum. Many of these successes are captured in the weekly parent/carer Sway update and through the school twitter account.

The school website is regularly updated to showcase the wide range of learning our pupils are involved in.

You can find the Standards & Quality Reports, the latest parent/carer Sway update and much more at the school website:

www.arbrothacademy.angus.sch.uk

School Performance in National Examinations (last 3 years)

The following tables show trends and information on how the school is performing at different levels within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework:

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Levels	
Level 7	Advanced Higher at grades A-C
Level 6	Higher at grades A-C
Level 5	National 5 Skills for Work
Level 4	National 4 passes
Level 3	National 3 passes
Level 2	National 2
Level 1	National 1

Breadth & Depth – all candidates

S4

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 5	50.35	39.84	42.54
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 4	82.27	68.75	72.39
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 3	85.11	71.09	73.13

S5

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 6	16.09	12.26	23.33
% of pupils gaining 3 awards or more at level 6	37.93	40.57	44.44
% of pupils gaining 1 award or more at level 6	62.07	64.15	62.22
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 5	62.07	68.87	71.11

S6

Measure	2021	2022	2023
% of pupils gaining 1 award or more at level 7	14.93	17.02	18.64
% of pupils gaining 5 awards or more at level 6	59.70	51.06	54.24
% of pupils gaining 3 awards or more at level 6	74.63	65.96	81.36
% of pupils gaining 1 award or more at level 6	92.54	87.23	94.92

Percentage of Leavers (S4/5/6) in positive destinations:

2020/21	2021/22	2022/2023
91.43	93.94	92.00

Further Information on School Improvement:

Much more information on the progress the school is making including the Standards and Quality Report, School Improvement priorities and the latest parent/carer Sway update can be found at www.arbroathacademy.angus.sch.uk

Inspection reports: <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-and-review>

Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: <https://scqf.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) – information for teachers, pupils, parents and employers on qualifications: www.sqa.org.uk

Amazing Things – information about youth awards in Scotland:
www.awardsnetwork.org/index.php

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at:

Abbey Health Centre
East Abbey Street
Arbroath
DD11 1EN
Tel: 01241 430303

The Public Health Nurse for the school is Kristy Frith who can be contacted on the above number.

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs. So, please ensure dogs (except for assistance dogs) are not brought into school grounds.

And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Coordinator

If we think a child has come to harm as a consequence of possible abuse, we need to report it.

At least one member of staff in each school is responsible for child protection matters. They will have had special training in this area.

In our school the Child Protection Coordinator(s) are:

Miss Duncan	Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Coull	PT Pupil Care and Support
Mr Hay	PT Pupil Care and Support

If you want to know more about child protection and the safety of children, contact the school. There is also information about child protection on the Angus Council website.

As a school we have good contacts with health professionals, social workers and the police. Any or all of them may offer support, or become involved, if concerns of abuse arise.

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