

Isla Primary School



Handbook 2024-2025

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

Welcome to Isla Primary School



Set in the beautiful landscape of West Angus, Isla Primary School was formed from the amalgamation of Glen Isla, Kilry and Lintrathen Primary Schools. It welcomed its first learners in 2010.

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 proud of our close ties with our community and maximise our local area. Our continued aspirations are to create a learning environment which builds on the foundations of learning to support learners in academic, social and digital skills for life.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Isla Primary School

Address	Isla Primary School Lintrathen Kirriemuir DD8 5JJ
Telephone Number	01575 526046
X (Twitter)	@IslaPrimarySch
Email Address	isla@angusschools.org.uk
Head Teacher's name	Mr Simon McKell
Class Stages	Nursery to P7
Present Roll	Primary 33 Nursery 5

The school is non-denominational and Gaelic is not taught. Children are taught French and Spanish along with a focus on Scots each January.

Parent Council Facebook page www.facebook.com/islapspc

Our school day

09:00	Nursery and P1-7 day begins
10:30 – 10:50	Morning Break
10:50- 12:30	Learning continues
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Time and Lunch Break P1-7
13:30	Learning continues
15:00	Nursery children go home
15:20	End of school day

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. Please make an appointment to meet with Mr McKell and a tour of the school can be facilitated.

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

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are very proud of our school uniform and our team identity.



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 are available.

Red Isla PS school jumper/ cardigan
White shirt or polo neck top
Grey trousers or grey 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)
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.

Please do not allow your child to bring jewellery, mobile devices, toys or other valuable items to school. Earrings require to be taped/covered for sport, or removed.

Water bottles are provided for each child when they start P1. These remain in school.

There is a school uniform recycle facility at reception, open to all families.

PARENTAL/CARER CONCERNS

At Isla Primary School we pride ourselves on our positive relationships with parents and carers; we ensure that you are updated regularly about your child's learning. This happens through conversations with the class teacher, updates on SeeSaw (a Digital learning platform), updates on X/ (Twitter), Newsletters, the school app, your child receiving "Golden letters", open mornings, open afternoons, parent/carer nights, learner led conferences and reports.

You can contact your child's class teacher via Seesaw or by phoning the school office. This should only be used in relation to learning and should not be used to report absence or any other matters.

Please note that we do not have full-time staffing five days a week in our office. Currently the office is staffed solely in the morning five days a week. The phone has an option to leave a message if required. Please email the school after 12:30

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE [Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Becoming Involved in School

We actively encourage all parents and carers in supporting learning at home. The school has an active Parent Council which is open to all adults in all families. The Parent Council meets around four times a year and supports school improvement and fundraising.

During the school day:

- Sharing expertise: leading art/craft activities, giving presentations on relevant topics to add breadth and depth to the curriculum
- Outdoor learning: leading small groups in gardening or Eco activities and committees
- Assisting with Bikeability training
- Assisting with after school clubs

- Assisting with transport to sporting events
- Supporting educational trips and school committees

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.



Partnerships

We currently use a digital app called Seesaw as a learning journal to record significant moments of each child's learning journey, to encourage learners to stop and reflect and to prompt learners to set themselves new targets. Learners carry this out by recording targets in their "My Learning" folios. The folio is a working record of target setting and progress.

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?
- What social skill did you use?

Open afternoons

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

"Move it Mondays"

Throughout the academic session children in Second Level lead fitness sessions on a Monday morning from 0910 until 0930 at various times throughout the year. These are open to all families to join.

Reading breakfasts

The school holds regular open morning reading breakfasts for families to come into school and read/write with children, this supports parental involvement and progression in literacy.

Parent Interviews

In November, the class teacher and parent/carer meet for a 10-minute discussion on the current progress and next steps and to share ideas on ways in which they might work together to help improve areas of academic and social education.

Learner Led Conferences

Children lead a conference of learning each March. This allows children to highlight and showcase their progress and discuss their key next steps. This is child led and not a one to one discussion with the class teacher.

The annual pupil report is issued in June.

SCHOOL ETHOS

Our aim is to create a welcoming and safe learning environment for all children, families and staff. For all to realise their full potential developing confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Our vision is of an inclusive and respectful school. Children have access to an inspiring and creative curriculum, developing skills and values for learning, life and work.

Our values are Awareness Integrity Respect

All children belong to one of the Isla PS Houses – Peel, Reekie Linn and Balintore. House Captains support younger learners 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 underpin our standards and expectations of behaviour, nurture and participation.

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.

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. Important to our curriculum delivery are:

- Our partnerships with a local care home
- Working with local businesses learning skills for life
- Working in partnership with the Angus Food Hub
- Participation in cultural events such as Rotary Club quizzes, the Burns Competition and Euroquiz events
- Participation in local sporting events such as football, cross country and basketball
- Singing at local events
- Partnership with Peel Farm regarding local produce and hospitality

Rev Stephen Blakey the local Minister, visits the school regularly.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is an imperative aspect of good learning. Staff and learners work to create learning environments which foster mutual support and trust, protecting the rights of all. Families are key in supporting this. Recently the school achieved “Silver” as a Rights Respecting School. The school is working towards being a “Gold” UNICEF Rights Respecting school. The rights of children are explicitly taught in class and these are discussed at every weekly assembly.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children are encouraged to reflect honestly, and to be proud of how far they have progressed against targets set with their class teacher. Class teachers emphasise that children take a great sense of pride in everything they do.

At Isla Primary, we celebrate children's attainment and achievements in and out of school.

At each Friday Assembly, learners are nominated for progress in social skills development or in championing the school values or rights of the child.

Academic progression is celebrated by teachers and children. Children can be nominated to see the Head Teacher to have their name entered into the “Golden Book”. Children discuss their learning with the Head Teacher and a personal letter is then posted home by the Head Teacher to the child.

Children who have shown consistent progress academically and socially are nominated to attend the Head Teacher tea party once a term.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR & ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

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 and after school. They are organised around children's interests and parent helpers' expertise and availability. In recent years volunteers have organised handball, basketball, running, cooking, origami, badminton, drama games, gardening and football.

Our older children, as part of their Active Schools Young Sports Leaders Award, run lunchtime clubs for younger learners.

Primary 7 children join other Kirriemuir cluster pupils for a residential trip to the Dalguise adventure centre in Perthshire each year. We also organise an annual ski trip for P2-7.

Committees

The voice of every child is important and every child in Nursery to P7 is part of a school committee looking at school improvement. Our school committees are:

Pupil Council

This committee has a remit for organising whole school events, supporting local and national charities, leading playground improvements, carrying out pupil surveys and raising funds.

Eco/LEAF Committee

This committee has a remit for promoting outdoor learning, forest schools, reducing waste and recycling.

Rights Respecting School Committee

This committee has a remit for promoting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This involves leading a fortnightly whole school focus on an article, leading specific international days in the promotion of rights. The committee ensures that all staff and children are fully aware of the rights of the child. The school was awarded Silver status in 2023.

Digital Schools

This committee has a remit to improve digital learning across the school. They highlight safety, promote digital technologies and learning opportunities. The schools received the Digital Schools Award in December 2023.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We use a variety of teaching methods, pedagogies and strategies to cater for a range of learning styles. Differentiation is in place for learners in all classes. Active learning opportunities are promoted at all stages, with opportunities for additional choice and challenge, thus encouraging children to be proactive in their learning, and to think creatively about the task at hand.

A wide range of teaching pedagogies are in place.

Personalisation and choice are two of the Curriculum for Excellence's key principles of curriculum design. Teachers and pupils agree to explore an area of learning 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.

Each child has a digital learning journal which 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 child 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, children can put forward their views through the committee they are part of and through regular surveys carried out by the school. The Head Teacher's door is always open to children. We also schedule a 'check-in' twice a year with each child using the SHANARRI Wellbeing Web, and follow up as needed.

Parents and carers are regularly consulted and surveyed in relation to school improvement.

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. Spanish is also taught in P5-7 along with Scots.



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

- A standardised approach to writing has been introduced to ensure a collective understanding of the important aspects of developing writing skills. This will be further enhanced through pedagogy and methodology.
- The school has consulted all stakeholders surrounding the vision and values of the school. These were revised in June 2023. The school is now undertaking a full review of the curriculum and how this is delivered.
- The ethos of the school has been enhanced with national recognition in several awards. The school received its "Digital Schools" award, LEAF Award, Silver Rights Respecting Award, "Fair Active" Fair Trade Award.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Over the next three years the school has plans to:

- Embed and evaluate the changes to the revised curriculum
- Begin a systematic approach to reading across the school. The school to become accredited with being a "Reading school". Embed approaches in writing.
- Embed digital learning approaches to raise attainment
- Ensure progression pathways are in place in each curricular area

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 attend 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.

You can contact your school health staff at:

School Nurse:

Anne McLachlan, Whitehills Health Centre, Station Road, Forfar. DD8 3DY.
Phone: 01382 660111 Ext 61274

Administration of Medicines

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

If this is not possible, parents/carers can come to school to administer the medicine during school hours. If this cannot be done, parents/carers 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. Children 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.

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child to and from school is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of children, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for service dogs) are not brought onto school grounds.

If you are walking your dog to 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 from school.

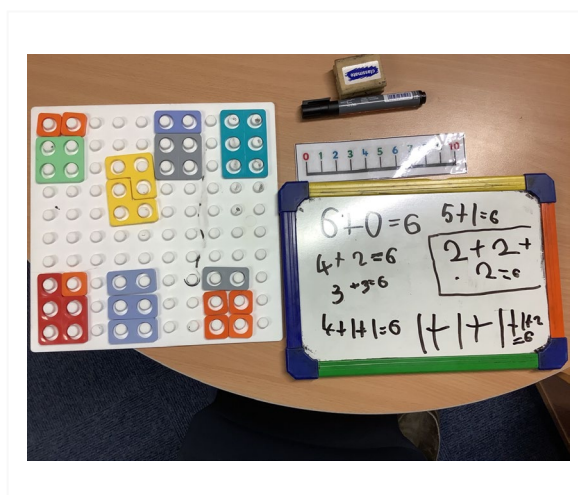
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

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