



From mountain to sea

Meldrum Academy

Handbook 2019/20



Contents

Introduction to Meldrum Academy	4
Our Vision, Values and School Ethos	9
Curriculum	10
Assessment and Reporting	16
Transitions (Moving On)	18
1 Admissions	19
2 Placing requests & School Zones	19
3 Skills Development Scotland	19
Support for Children and Young People	20
4 Getting it Right for Every Child	20
5 Wellbeing	20
6 Children's Rights	21
7 The Named Person	22
8 Educational Psychology	22
9 Enhanced Provision & Community Resource Hubs	23
10 Support for Learning	23
11 The Child's Plan	24
12 Child Protection	25
13 Further Information on Support for Children and Young People	25
Parent & Carer Involvement and Engagement	27
14 Parental Engagement	27
15 Communication	27
16 Learning at Home	28
17 Parent Forum and Parent Council	28
18 Parents and School Improvement	28
19 Volunteering in school	28
20 Collaborating with the Community	29
21 Addressing Concerns & Complaints	29
School Policies and Useful Information	30
22 Attendance	30
23 Holidays during term time.	31
24 Dress Code	31

25	Clothing Grants	32
26	Transport	32
27	Privilege Transport	32
28	Early Learning & Childcare Transport	33
29	Special Schools and Enhanced Provision	33
30	School Closure & Other Emergencies	33
31	Storm Addresses	35
32	Change of address and Parental Contact Details	35
33	Anti-bullying Guidance	35
34	School Meals	36
35	Healthcare & Medical	37
36	Exclusion	38
37	Educational Visits	39
38	Instrumental Tuition	39
39	Education Maintenance Allowance	39
40	Public Liability Insurance	39
41	School Off Site Excursion Insurance	39
42	Data we hold and what we do with it.	40
43	The information we collect from you	40
44	Your Data, Your Rights	41
45	Parental Access to Records	41
46	Information Sharing	42
47	ScotXed	42
Further Information		43

All information in this handbook is correct as of October 2019

Introduction to Meldrum Academy

Meldrum Academy is an inspiring place to be; a place where young people are encouraged and equipped with the skills, abilities and attitudes to face the challenges ahead. Our pupils benefit from high quality teaching, an excellent level of accommodation, first-class resources and a wide range of opportunities within the classroom and beyond. Meldrum Academy aims to combine the finest traditions of a solid Scottish education with the very best of the new practice in teaching and learning.

Beyond the classroom, we encourage all our pupils to become involved in the life of the school and wider community. There is an array of extra-curricular activities on offer in music, drama, debating, sport, and a multitude of clubs that foster and rely on the enthusiasm of our young people. Our school also offers a wide range of expeditions, excursions and events that support learning of the very best kind. Staff, pupils and parents – all – are committed to the development of our learners as people; especially as people who recognise the importance of making a difference to their lives and the lives of others.

At Meldrum Academy, there is no such thing as a ‘typical’ pupil. We work together – staff, pupils, parents and partner agencies – to meet the needs of the individual, so that every pupil can develop his or her personal skills and talents. We recognise that life at school is not always free of difficulties, that each young person will encounter challenges within their school career. However, with an excellent level of pastoral care and pupil support, we work to instil the resilience that will allow each of our pupils to emerge from our school confident, with a strong sense of responsibility, and ready for the wider world.

Ian Jackson
Head Teacher

School Contact Details

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Telephone: 01651 267470

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Email address: meldrum.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Web: <http://meldrumacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

Blog: www.meldrumacademy.org.uk

Parent Council: parentcouncilmeldrum@gmail.com

Community Learning & Development: Tel: 01651-871323

Children's Services Network Team: Tel: 01651-871314

Meldrum Library: Tel: 01651-871307

Adverse weather and emergency closure

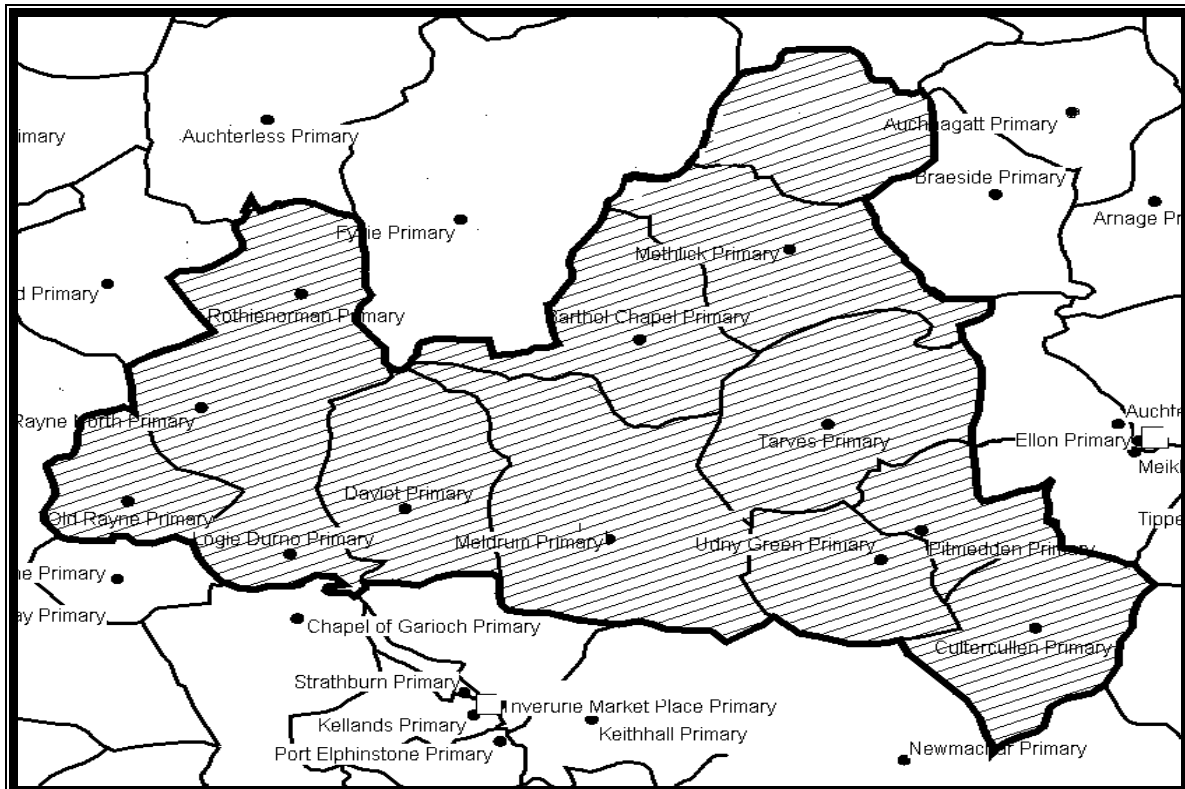
<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

Information Line 0370 054 4999 then 02 28 20 (This is Meldrum Academy's Pin number). If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Meldrum Academy is a six-year comprehensive Community School built to cater for the educational needs of Oldmeldrum and the surrounding community. The school is situated just outside Oldmeldrum, at the west end of the town. It boasts a marvellous panorama looking on to the local landmark of Bennachie.

Meldrum Academy's roll in 2019 is 985 pupils. Pupils attend the academy from one of our twelve associated primary schools of Barthol Chapel, Cultercullen, Daviot, Logie Durno, Meldrum, Methlick, Old Rayne, Pitmedden, Rayne North, Rothienorman, Tarves, Udny Green.



The facilities on offer at the academy are of the finest quality. For example, the school is equipped with an impressive games hall, gymnasium and a fully equipped multi fitness centre. Outside there are two full sized football pitches and a rugby pitch circumferenced by a 400-metre running track. There is also a floodlit astro turf pitch available for school and community use. Within the academy there is a large multi purpose assembly hall fully equipped with stage lights and sound for theatre performances and music concerts as well as regular assemblies. All teaching facilities are 'state of the art' and the school is completely networked with up to date ICT across all classrooms.

Meldrum Academy is open to pupils and the community from 8.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Friday. As a Community School there are a wide range of educational and vocational opportunities for learners across all groups in the community. There are also close links between the school and other agencies such as the Library Service, Community Learning & Development, Health, Recreation, Social Work and the Police.

SCHOOL DAY**Monday and Tuesday****0850 start****50 minute lunch****1550 close**

Period	Time
Period 1	0850-0940
Period 2	0940-1030
Period 3	1030-1120
<i>Interval</i>	1120-1140
Period 4	1140-1230
Period 5	1230-1320
<i>Lunch</i>	1320-1410
Period 6	1410-1500
Period 7	1500-1550

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**Start at 0853****50 minute lunch****1520 close**

Period	Time
Period 1	0853-0910
Period 2	0910-1000
Period 3	1000-1050
<i>Interval</i>	1050-1110
Period 4	1110-1200
Period 5	1200-1250
<i>Lunch</i>	1250-1340
Period 6	1340-1430
Period 7	1430-1520

STAFF LIST (Key Contacts)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM		
	Ian Jackson	Head Teacher
	Andy Carder	Depute Head Teacher
	Lorraine Finnie	Depute Head Teacher
	Craig Sim	Depute Head Teacher
	Sandy Smith	Depute Head Teacher
	Kenny Gunnyeon	CSN Support Services Coordinator
PASTORAL CARE		
	Jane Allan	Principal Teacher Bruce House
	Karen Macleod	Principal Teacher Glennie House
	Alison Fitzgerald	Principal Teacher Slessor House
	Vivienne Blevins	Principal Teacher Telford House
	Robyn Walker	Principal Teacher Wallace House
PRINCIPAL TEACHERS		
	Lindsay Threadgold	ASL
	Mary Benton	BEIT
	Liam Moffat	Design
	John Gerard	English
	Craig Robertson	Health
	Alan Reid	Maths
	Liegha Laing	Modern Languages
	Linda Moggach	Performing Arts
	Lindsey Martin	Science
	Lynn Cooper	Social Subjects
SUPPORT STAFF		
Administration	Sally Blair	Admin Support Officer
Technicians	Elaine Webster	Whole School Technician
	Moyra Singer	Science Technician
First Aid	Anne Grieve	Nursing Assistant
School Nurse	Leo Walker	School Nurse
Library	Kirsty Dickson	Librarian
CLD	Tracey Christie	CLD Worker
CSN TEAM	Julie Emslie	Pupil Support Worker
Robertson's Facilities Management	Kevin Napier	Lead Janitor

Our Vision, Values and School Ethos

We wish to be a school community working together for success: creating an enjoyable teaching and learning environment in which everyone is encouraged to do their best.

Our Values:

Our Expectations:

Honesty:

Be truthful and dependable.

Respect:

Have self-respect and be considerate of the needs, feelings and rights of everyone.

Responsibility:

Be accountable for your actions and make a positive contribution to our school community.

Ambition:

Try to achieve the best you can.

Resilience:

Be positive and show the determination to keep trying.

Curriculum

Within our 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. We will, therefore 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 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. Further information on the schools approach to Curriculum for Excellence including information for parents, can be found on the school website at: www.meldrumacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Curricular Areas

- **Literacy and English Language:** Listening, Talking Reading and Writing.
- **Numeracy and Mathematics:** Number, Money and Measure, Information Handling, Shape, Position and Movement.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, Physical education, activity and sport, Food and health, Substance misuse, Relationships, sexual health and parenthood.
- **Social Studies:** People, past events and societies, People, place and environment, People, society, economy and business.
- **Sciences:** Planet Earth, Forces, electricity and waves, Biological Systems, Materials, Topical Sciences.
- **Technologies:** Technological developments in society, Business technology skills and knowledge, Computing science, Food and textiles, Craft, design, engineering and graphics.
- **Expressive Arts:** Music, Drama, Art and Design and Dance.
- **Religious and Moral Education:** Christianity, World Religions, Development of beliefs and values.
- **Modern Languages:** French, German and Spanish

Curriculum Design

Our curriculum is designed on the basis of the following 7 principles:

- Challenge and enjoyment
 - Breadth
 - Progression
-

- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

Developing Young Workforce

As part of the curriculum, pupils will develop skills for learning, life and work. More detail about these key skills can be found using the link below:

<https://www.npfs.org.uk/skills-in-a-nutshell/>

Throughout their time in school, from Early Years onwards, all pupils will have an opportunity to engage with employers, through experiences like workplace visits, career talks, employability events and courses, work experience and curriculum based activities. They will also have the opportunity to learn about further and higher education, and the work done by training providers, as well as different career pathways into employment.

In S4-6, pupils will be given the opportunity to study for vocational qualifications, including Foundation Apprenticeships, alongside the more traditional qualifications.

Further information for parents on Foundation Apprenticeships can be found at <https://www.apprenticeships.scot>

Further information for parents can be found on the Aberdeenshire DYW website:

<http://dywaberdeenshire.org/parents/>

Curricular Levels

Early	The pre-school years and P1, or later for some.
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some.
Third and Fourth	S1 to S3, but earlier for some. The fourth level broadly equates to Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework level 4. The fourth level experiences and outcomes are intended to provide possibilities for choice and young people's programmes will not include all of the fourth level outcomes.

Within Meldrum Academy, 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.

Broad General Education (S1-S3)

Learning will take place across all eight curriculum areas from S1-S3. In S1 and S2 all pupils will follow a common course. In S3 there will be the opportunity for some personalisation when pupils make a choice to specialise within the curricular areas. This choice will be made around March in S2.

S1	Languages & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	Expressive Arts	RMPS & Social Studies
	English Modern Language	Maths	Art & Design Drama Music	Social Subjects
S1	Technologies	Science	Health and Well Being (HWB)	Inter Disciplinary Course
	Business Education & ICT Design & Tech	Science	PE PSE	Capacity Building Course

S2	Languages & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	Expressive Arts	RMPS & Social Studies
	English Modern Language	Maths	Art & Design Drama Music	Social Subjects

S2	Technologies	Science	Health and Well Being (HWB)	Inter Disciplinary Course
	Business Education & ICT Design & Tech	Science	PE HE PSE	Capacity Building Course

S3	Languages & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	Expressive Arts	Social Studies
	English Modern Language	Maths	Choice	Choice
S3	Technologies	Science	Additional Choice	Core/HWB
	Choice	Choice	Choice (1) Choice (2)	RMPS PE/PSE

Senior Phase (S4-S6)

Pupils study the courses in which they want to gain National Qualifications in the Senior Phase.

In S4 most pupils will follow six SQA courses. All pupils will study English and Maths and most will choose any four other courses. There is also a core of PE, RMPS and PSE.

In S5 and S6 pupils could follow up to five SQA courses. In S5 & S6 there is a core of PSE and PE.

In the Senior Phase we also work closely with North East Scotland College to provide pupils with the opportunity of studying courses at college as well as school. These can include such courses as Foundation Apprenticeships.

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

There are a vast range of Extra-Curricular activities run throughout the whole school both during lunchtime and after school. The following is a taster of the range of activities that are on offer.

Chess Club	Science/ STEM Club (All Years)
Bronze Duke of Edinburgh	String Ensemble
Library Games & Reading	Fitness Class
<i>Debating Club (S1-S6)</i>	Art Club
<i>Senior Badminton</i>	Pipes and Drums
<i>Football</i>	Junior Enterprise Club
<i>Rights Respecting / Diversity Group</i>	Netball
<i>Woodwind Ensemble</i>	Interact (Rotary)
<i>Fiddlestix (Ceilidh Band)</i>	Dodgeball
Senior Drama Group	Girls Football
Geology Club	Hockey
	Crafting Bee

1+2 Language Learning

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 Meldrum Academy the first foreign language will be French. This language will be learned from P1 with the option to carry it through to through to S3. Pupils will get an opportunity to experience Spanish and German in S1 with the possibility of choosing these from S3 onwards.

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.

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.meldrumacademy.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://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58062.3806.html?pMenuID=5605>

Assessment and Reporting

Pupils move through the curriculum at their own pace. A wide range of assessment techniques are used in school depending on what is being assessed and the reason for the assessment e.g.

- Observation of what the pupils “say”, “write” and “do”.
- Homework
- Self and peer assessments
- Marking of class work and other individual/class assessments
- Ongoing tracking and monitoring procedures in school
- Scottish National Standardised Assessments (P1, P4, P7 and S3)

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.

Assessment is ongoing throughout the Broad General phase and is a continuous process which influences the goals set for your child. As part of assessment, each year children and young people in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will participate in the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). These national assessments are completed online and provide teachers with immediate feedback on each child or young person’s progress in literacy and numeracy. Children and young people do not have to prepare or revise for the assessments, which take place as part of normal learning and teaching. The assessments do not have any pass/fail mark and the results are used to help teachers plan the next steps in learning for each child/young person. Further information on SNSA is available at

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/>

The results of children’s achievements are discussed with them regularly so that they are involved in taking responsibility for their own learning. This may take the form of oral discussion and/or written comment. In this way, it is hoped to assist the pupil identify what has been learned and the next steps to their learning. Children regularly set targets in their work.

Parents will be informed of progress:

- through pupil profiles/learning logs
- through parent consultation evenings and other meetings
- through curriculum/learning events/parent workshops
- by the annual school report
- Individual Education Plans and associated documents

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

Secondary schools: Assessment & Reporting in the Senior Phase (S4-S6)

In the Senior Phase pupils embark on the National Qualifications.

As pupils enter this phase they are set an aspirational target grade for each subject they are studying. This forms the basis for learning conversations between staff and pupils to discuss progress and identify next steps. This is shared with parents/carers through TRACKING Reports.

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)

Children coming to the Academy bring seven years of school based learning with them. In their first year at Meldrum Academy we build upon this prior experience. The academy and its associated primaries have a close relationship through the School's Cluster Group and there is joint development in a number of curriculum areas. The Academy and Associated Primaries are working closely to promote the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). We aim to build on this good practice to ensure that all children experience continuity and progression through the entire curriculum. There is joint sharing of good practice between teachers of both sectors to help ensure all our pupils are successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals.

To help ensure we achieve these aims we gather all the appropriate information about the individual strengths and development needs of all prospective pupils. During third term, members of the Pastoral Care and Senior Management Teams visit all of our associated primary schools to gain as much information as possible about each child coming to Meldrum Academy. A detailed picture of each child is built up and this helps to ensure that when classes are formed and children arrive in S1 we are in a position to meet their needs.

An information evening takes place in January of P7 at the Academy to explain to parents how the transition process is structured. A tour of the school also takes place on this evening. In June of every year there is also a three-day induction programme for all pupils coming to Meldrum Academy. Pupils have an opportunity to tour the school, meet teachers, take part in lessons and become involved in team building and social events with their peers. On the evening of the second of these Induction Days there is also an information evening for prospective parents where they can ask questions and meet senior staff and members of the support for learners and Pastoral Care teams and be updated with relevant information.

Parents of pupils joining S1 will receive information about S1 admissions. This information is circulated to primary schools in the Meldrum Academy catchment area and then issued to parents. Parents of children joining the school in classes other than S1, or in the middle of a school session, should contact the school who will arrange for an admission pack to be posted out and an arrangement will also be made for the parents and child to visit the school.

Pupils Transitioning out of school to work or further learning will be supported in the choices they make by Pastoral Care Staff and the Careers advisor. Parent information evenings will be held during the spring term to advise parents on the variety of routes available to pupils into the world of work or further learning.

Visit Parentzone for more information about transitions:

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

1 Admissions

Nursery Admissions.

Early in each calendar year, all parents/carers should complete an application form and submit this to the nursery of their choice. This can be your local school nursery or any other early learning and childcare setting within Aberdeenshire. 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/>

To view the school catchment area for your address, go to:

<https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/school-zones/>

2 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>

Your child would normally attend a school within the school catchment area (zone) close to where you live. However, you can request that your child attends a school in another zone (out of zone). Please follow the links for more info:

[Out Of Zone Placing Request Policy & Procedures](#)

3 Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is Scotland's careers service.

Qualified SDS Careers Advisers work in schools and careers centres across the whole of Scotland. The SDS Careers Adviser in our school is Alison Muir. Contact with the Careers Adviser should be done through the school.

Careers Advisers will meet with young people to help them make decisions about their future career pathway. Alongside other school staff, Careers Advisers are involved in supporting young people through subject choice at relevant stages in their education. This may involve working with individuals one to one, or with groups or classes. Young people can continue to access support from advisers when they leave school, through the Career Centres in Peterhead, Inverurie and Aberdeen.

Support for Children and Young People

4 Getting it Right for Every Child

Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) 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.

Aberdeenshire's schools play a key part in delivery of Aberdeenshire's Children's Services Plan.



Its vision is that:

'Our commitment to Aberdeenshire's children and young people, is to provide them with the right support, in the right place, at the right time.'

In helping them reach their individual potential and goals, we will work together to make Aberdeenshire the best place in Scotland to grow up'

You can find out more about our Children's Services Plan at:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/who-we-are/our-childrens-services-plan/>

5 Wellbeing

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 Meldrum Academy to feel happy, safe and supported to fulfil their potential.

As they enrol into Meldrum Academy each child will be placed under the direct care of a PT Pastoral Care. This

teacher will carefully monitor the progress and welfare of each pupil as he/she moves through the school. The PT Pastoral Care will work closely with pupils and their families to help them settle into school and cope with all of the demands of school life. Siblings are always placed in the same House group to enhance the knowledge and forging of relationships with families.

PT's Pastoral Care also work closely with Tutors to record attendance, receive absence notes, check punctuality and behaviour and assist with the issue of relevant reports and letters.

Each child will have an individual interview with her/his PT Pastoral Care at least once a year to assist in monitoring her/his progress. If you have any concerns regarding your child then PT Pastoral Care will be your first point of contact.

6 Children's Rights

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 included new law to help make sure children's rights are promoted across Scotland. Children and young people's rights and participation are promoted in lots of different ways by schools in Aberdeenshire.

This means we:

- Raise awareness of Children's Rights, and how rights can be accessed
 - Provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved in decision-making
 - Make sure children and young people's views influence how we develop services
 - Support children and young people to express their views (where needed)
 - Listen to children and young people's views on what we do well, and what we could do differently
-

Aberdeenshire Council has endorsed a Children and Young People's Charter. You can find out more about Children's Rights and opportunities for participation at:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/home/children-and-young-people/>

7 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. From birth to prior to starting school, the Named Person Service is provided by your Health Visitor. 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 and in Secondary School, the Named Person will be that young person's allocated Principal Teacher of Guidance (with a few exceptional circumstances).

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 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. The Named Person Services is currently delivered on a national policy basis.

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

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/named-person/>

The Named Person for your child/young person is their PT Pastoral Care

8 Educational Psychology

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) provides a service across Aberdeenshire from pre-birth to 24 years old. We work with children, young people, families, educational staff, local authority colleagues and a wide range of other professionals

including health professions, social work, early years partner providers and post school training and education providers.

When there are concerns about a child or young person's learning or wellbeing, an Educational Psychologist can support others to problem solve their way through potentially difficult and complex situations. Consultation with people who know the child best forms the basis of Educational Psychology assessment. Its purpose is to explore and understand the concern, and support people to come up with solutions that will work in that particular context.

The EPS also offers a range of services that help improve learning and wellbeing for all children and young people. We do this through action research, development work with schools, training, and contributing to strategic developments.

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

9 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/>

10 Support for Learning

At times in their lives all children may require support for learning for a range of reasons. Some children may need a lot of support all the way through school. Others may need only a small amount for a short time.

A child is said to have additional support needs if they need more, or different, support to what is normally provided in schools or pre-schools to children of the same age. Reasons for requiring support might include:

- Missing school because of an illness or long-term condition
 - Having a physical disability
 - Being a young carer
 - Communication difficulties
 - Being particularly able
 - Changing school a lot
 - Being looked after or in care
 - Difficulty in controlling behaviour
 - Having a difficult family situation
-

- Suffering a bereavement
- Being bullied

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. In partnership with school staff, parents and other professionals (if appropriate), they identify barriers to learning, assess children's needs and support learning and teaching through a relevant curriculum.

Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) assist teachers in promoting achievement and raising the standards of pupil attainment. They provide general 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.

11 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 wellbeing need or risk identified. These children may require a level of targeted support, which needs to be coordinated on a single or multi-agency basis through a Child's Plan.

Where a child or young person needs one or more targeted supports, the benefit of a Child's Plan will be discussed with them and their parents/carers. An assessment using the National Practice Model (*My World Triangle/Resilience Matrix*) would help to identify any wellbeing needs (*Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Resected, Responsible, Included*), and highlights strengths and pressures in the child's situation. Families are fully involved as key partners in these 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 be identified to co-ordinate and manage any Child's Plan.

Information is available on the Aberdeenshire *Getting It Right for Every Child* Website:

<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/>

12 Child Protection

Child protection is the responsibility of all who work with children and families regardless of whether or not they come into direct contact with children. All workers must be fully informed of their responsibilities in respect of keeping children safe. All services working with children, young people and families are expected to identify and consider the wellbeing of children and to share concerns appropriately.

Within our 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 follow the Child Protection Procedures laid out for Education.

This may mean that the child is referred to Social Work, the Police or the Children's Reporter. **In Meldrum Academy the designated staff are: Mr Sim – Child Protection Co-ordinator and Mr Carder – Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator.**

Remember – if you suspect a child is at risk, do not rely on someone else to notice.

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

You can speak to designated staff in our school

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/>

13 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 – National Parent Information Service and Helpline

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

Parent & Carer Involvement and Engagement

The term “parents” refers to anyone with parental responsibilities and others who care for or look after children or young people.

Both globally and nationally it is recognised that parents are the single most important influence on their children’s development, learning and achievement. The involvement and engagement of parents in their children’s learning is recognised as a key element in raising attainment, through support, help and encouragement given at home and whilst at school.

Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy The Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy demonstrates the commitment by Aberdeenshire Council to improve the quality and the extent of all parents’ involvement in their child’s learning and the important role they play in their child’s education.

The plan sets out a vision for parental involvement and engagement for the next three years and covers a journey that a child takes from pre-birth to age 18. It highlights the leadership of those who make the difference day in and day out.

<http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/parental-involvement-and-engagement-strategy-and-action-plan/resource/02c6596e-8cba-42c7-b28a-eed64086ea42>

14 Parental Engagement

Parental engagement is about parents’ and families’ interaction with their child’s learning. It can take place in the home, at school or in the community: where it takes place is not important. The important thing is the quality of the parent’s engagement with their child’s learning, the positive impact that it can have and the interaction and mutual development that can occur as a result of that interaction.

15 Communication

The school uses a range of approaches to share information about your child’s learning and progress. These include:

Use of Groupcall to text and email

School Website:

Social Media:

Newsletters:

Events

Open afternoons

Headteacher surgery

School reports

The school calendar highlights planned opportunities where we welcome you into school for events, and opportunities to talk about your child's progress, wellbeing and behaviour (see Further Information).

16 Learning at Home

Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. Your home is a great place to support learning. Your child can try out new activities or practice familiar learning, at home and in their wider community.

At our school we provide materials for you to work with your child to develop key skills at home. For explanation of this please go to our homework policy

meldrum.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

17 Parent Forum and Parent Council

The Parent Forum is a collective name for all parents, carers or guardians in the school.

The Meldrum Academy Parent Council is a group of parents selected by the Parent Forum to represent the views of all parents, carers and guardians in the school. The Parent Council works with the school to support learning and teaching, school improvement and parental and community engagement.

Contact the Parent Council Chairperson Simon Wain or Head teacher Ian Jackson for more information about getting involved in the Parent Council or email: parentcouncilmeldrum@gmail.com

18 Parents and School Improvement

Our school has a range of priorities that we work on each year which are explained in our Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Parents often have helpful and creative ideas about how to improve their child's school and what can be done to improve the quality of children's learning. In our school we will consult with parents in a number of ways. These may include:

- working groups/focus groups which any interested parent is invited to be part of
- questionnaires and surveys
- consultation with the Parent Council

19 Volunteering in school

There are many opportunities for you to support learning in school. These may include:

- volunteering to share the skills and knowledge you have
 - supporting children and young people in the classroom
 - supporting or lead extra-curricular activities
-

- directly supporting with specific skills (paired reading for example)

More detail about this can be found using the link below:

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

20 Collaborating with the Community

We work with 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

21 Addressing Concerns & Complaints

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the vital role that parents play in supporting their child's learning and is committed to fostering positive relationships with parents. No matter how strong partnerships are, or how good our policies are, sometimes things can still go wrong and there may be occasions where parents wish to express unhappiness or dissatisfaction with council services, policies or staff behaviour.

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

When a complaint is made it must be handled in accordance with the Complaints Handling Procedure which provides two opportunities to resolve issues internally. In order to maintain positive relationships, it is usually better for all if parental concerns or complaints can be resolved at school/ early years setting level as quickly as possible.

If a concern or complaint cannot be resolved at frontline resolution (Stage 1) then it will progress to Investigation (Stage 2) and a detailed investigation into the matter will be carried out. Complaints that are complex, serious or high risk and require detailed, lengthy investigation may be dealt with at the Investigation Stage from the outset.

Once the two internal stages of the Complaints Handling procedure have been exhausted, the complainant must be directed to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to carry out an independent external review of the process. The SPSO is the final stage of the complaint procedure.

Once the SPSO reaches a decision they may contact the council with recommendations for improvement and will provide dates by which the recommendations must be implemented. The council is required to report back to the SPSO and evidence that the required action has been taken.

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 parents tab at the top. Please go to: meldrum.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

All Aberdeenshire Council Education policies can be found here:

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

22 Attendance

Research indicates that attendance at school and achievement in examinations are closely linked in that pupils with poor attendance records fail to do well in National Exams. At Meldrum Academy, we will work closely with parents to encourage full attendance where possible.

Pupils should arrive at school with enough time to allow them to arrive at their 1st period class on time. An attendance register is taken at the start of every lesson during the school day.

Should we have any concerns about a pupil's pattern of attendance the pupil's Pastoral Care teacher will contact parents in writing, by telephone or email to discuss further.

Lateness:

Any pupil arriving to school late should sign into school at the school office before making their way to class. If pupils are late to school 5 times their parents/carers will be informed in writing.

Permission for absence from school:

If you are absent from school due to illness your parent/carer should inform the school office first thing in the morning by telephone and follow up with a written explanation on your return to school.

If you feel ill during the day, tell your class teacher and ask permission to go to first aid. You will then be seen by the school first aider who will arrange for you to be collected from school if necessary.

If your child is to be absent from school please contact the school to explain the absence. The school office is open from 8am - 4pm each day. Any pupil who is marked absent first thing in the morning, and where no explanation has been given, the school will text parents to alert them to the absence.

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.

23 Holidays during term time.

The Scottish Government has deemed that holidays taken during term time for primary and secondary children 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/>

24 Dress Code

'Successful schools have a strong identity and are proud of their school uniform'

Meldrum Academy is a school of which we are all very proud. A pride in wearing the school colours is one of the cornerstones of identity for a successful school. We hope that all parents and carers will work with us to encourage all our pupils to wear smart uniform with an identifiable school crest. We expect all pupils to wear the Meldrum Academy uniform in school and when representing the school across Scotland.

All pupils

Trousers / skirts & footwear should be **black**.

Leggings are not considered appropriate school uniform.

S1-S3 pupils

White / navy polo shirt with school crest or white shirt and junior tie

Navy sweatshirt / hoodie or navy v-neck cardigan with school crest

S4-S6

White shirt with senior tie and black v-neck sweater/cardigan with school crest

White polo shirt with Meldrum Academy crest

Black sweatshirt with Meldrum Academy crest

Pupils, parents and staff were involved in choosing the current dress code and the items have been selected so that pupils clearly identify with the school.

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

Our school uniform is supplied by School Wear Made Easy who operate an online ordering system. Full details and a link can be found on our website Meldrum.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

PE Kit:

For indoor activities pupils should wear shorts or tracksuit bottoms, a plain t shirt and clean trainers. For outdoor activities pupils should also bring a change of sweatshirt,

extra socks and outdoor trainers. Rain jacket, hats and gloves may be worn when appropriate.

Please note football strips and strappy vest tops are not considered appropriate PE Kit.

Parents should note their responsibility to ensure all clothing and belongings 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.

25 Clothing Grants

Some families may be entitled to a school clothing grant of £100 per eligible child per financial year. More information about this can be found at:

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

26 Transport

In order to qualify for free Home-to-School Transport, Primary school pupils must reside more than 2 miles from and attend their zoned school whilst Secondary school pupils must reside more than 3 miles from and attend their zoned school.

These distances are the shortest available route from the pupil's house to the school gate and can take into account main roads (including dual carriageways), tracks and paths. Pupils will be assigned a collection point, in villages and towns and where safe to do so, pupils may have to walk up to 1 mile to the nearest collection point. Pupils who reside in rural locations are usually collected at the nearest adopted road to them (track end or roadside). School transport vehicles will not use private unadopted roads or tracks. It is the parent's responsibility to escort the pupil to and from their collection point. Application forms for free transport, Form PTU100 can be obtained from the school office.

27 Privilege Transport

Transport provision is also made available for pupils who are not entitled to free transport. Privilege transport is provided on school transport services subject to spare seating capacity, at a fixed annual charge. Discounts are available for pupils in receipt of the clothing grant, and to families with 3 or more children travelling to the same school. There are 3 types of privileged transport available.

In-zone Privileged transport

Pupils who attend their zoned school but do not qualify for free school transport due to their residence being under the qualifying mileage can apply for In-zone privilege transport. If there is suitable seating capacity available and an existing route then the application should be approved, if there is not and there is a safe walking route available to the pupil, then it may be rejected. Please also note that if seating capacity is needed for a pupil who is entitled to free school transport, In-zone Privilege pupils may be given written notice and removed from transport.

In-Zone Privilege Transport – Guaranteed

Pupils who attend their zoned school but do not qualify for free school transport due to their residence being under the qualifying mileage can apply for In-zone privilege transport. If there is no safe walking route available to the pupil, they are guaranteed a seat on transport by applying for an In-zone Privilege pass and paying the applicable annual charge. A pupil who is guaranteed in-zone privilege transport would not be removed to make room for a pupil who is entitled to free school transport.

Out of Zone Privilege Transport

There is no transport entitlement to pupils who attend a school which they are not zoned for. Pupils may apply for Out of Zone Privilege transport; pupils are required to meet the nearest available school transport vehicle to them, and it is the parent's responsibility to bring the pupil to the nearest collection point. Out of Zone Privilege transport pupils may be removed, with written notice, at anytime for In-Zone Privilege and Entitled transport pupils

For further information and application forms, see the Council website.

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

Alternatively, copies of Privilege forms or further information can be requested by emailing: school.transport@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

28 Early Learning & Childcare Transport

Transport to early learning and childcare 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.

29 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

30 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 a Nursery, Primary or Special School, which is 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 your child attends a Secondary School, because of the large number of pupils in Secondary Schools, parents will be contacted via text/email to inform them of closure.

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 - 94.7 MW 810 kHz
- **Moray Firth Radio**
FM 97.4 MW 1107 kHz
- **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 02 28 20 If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

31 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.

32 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 or 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.

33 Anti-bullying Guidance

What is Bullying?

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services define bullying as the following:

Bullying takes place when the actions of an individual or group of people cause harm to someone by taking advantage of an imbalance of power within a relationship (whether perceived or real). Bullying behaviour can be persistent and/or intentional, but often it is neither.

Bullying can be verbal, physical, mental/emotional or cyber and is behaviour and impact. It can be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, persistent, or a one off incident. The impact is on a person's ability to feel in control of themselves.

Bullying can be verbal, physical, emotional or cyber. It can be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect, persistent, or a one off incident. People who experience bullying behaviour feel vulnerable and/or socially isolated.

What will the school do about it?

Schools should promote consistency of response to instances of bullying behaviour using a 6 step approach. They will:

1. Record the Incident
2. Speak to the individuals involved having frank and honest dialogue
3. Speak to parents
4. Utilise Restorative approaches
5. Monitor the situation
6. Review and increase response accordingly

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services Anti-bullying Policy is due to be reviewed and updated in 2019/20.

More information can be found in our School's anti-bullying guidance at meldrum.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk Copies of our guidance can also be accessed via the School Office.

34 School Meals

My Child has Allergies/ Intolerance

Parents should be aware that they can request dietary assistance for their children if there are medical or religious reasons for doing so. Children who require Medically Prescribed or Modified Diets, with parental/guardian assistance, should be identified during the admission process. Procedures are set in motion to accommodate these diets by a parent/guardian completing Admission Form D available from the school administration office. The School Management Team and the Catering staff will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Am I entitled to free school meals?

Click on the link to find a leaflet that explains the free school entitlement and how to go about it. free school meals leaflet

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/21463/free-school-meals-information-leaflet.pdf>

Secondary School Lunches

Food services at Secondary schools provide a cafeteria style dining facilities with a range of freshly prepared meal options on offer. Secondary Meal Options and Prices 2019.

Alongside the main lunchtime service many schools offer a breakfast and morning break service. Items can be purchased individually or as part of a 'meal deal'.

Most schools also provide a Pre-order service enabling lunch to be ordered in the morning using an iKiosk unit. Orders are prepared, packaged and can be uplifted from designated pick up point within the school.

Vending machines are also available and provide a number of food and drink options.

Payment for School Meals

As with Primary schools a cashless catering system is in operation for payments to pupil accounts linked to NEC/Young Scot Cards. Pupils may put funds on their account using Revaluation units located within the school. The Revaluation unit also shows a pupil's current balance at any time.

Parents make payment online to pupil accounts at the school and are also able to view account balances and a pupil's purchase history 24/7 online.

For further information or questions please contact your school, school catering team or the Education Catering Service. Academy.meals@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

35 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.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis is provided for all pupils during the third year. If a pupil is unable to keep the school appointment, parents are advised to request immunisation from their own doctor.

HPV Immunisation to protect against cervical cancer is offered to all girls in S2. This is a series of 3 injections over a six month period commencing in September each year. A catch-up programme is also in place for girls who miss any of their injections.

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 the link below to our policy and guidance: Supporting Children and Young People with Healthcare needs and managing medicines in Educational Establishments

<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.

36 Exclusion

The foundation for schools, learning establishments and education authorities is a whole school ethos of prevention, early intervention and support against a background which promotes positive relationships, learning and behaviour. Where pupils who display behaviour, whereby attendance at the school would be likely to be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school or the educational well-being of the pupils there, and where other forms of support have proved unsuccessful, the Authority exclusion policy may apply. For further information on exclusions contact the school or go to:

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

37 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.

38 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.

For further information go to:

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

39 Education Maintenance Allowance

An Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment paid directly to young people from low income families to enable them to stay on in further education at school or college after they reach statutory school leaving age. This is funded by the Scottish Executive. Further information on EMA's and how to apply can be found here:

<http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/assistance/ema/>

40 Public Liability Insurance

Aberdeenshire Council holds 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 Claims Handling Agents and compensation is dealt with on a strict legal liability basis. This means that there is no automatic compensation, the Council has to be found negligent in order for any compensation to be offered by our Insurers and / or Claims Handling Agents.

Whilst the school will exercise reasonable care for pupils' property, it is inevitable that property will be lost or damaged from time to time. Pupils' property which is worn or brought to school or left in bags/cloakrooms is at their own risk. This includes but is not restricted to personal items such as jewellery, phones/tablets watches and bicycles. Aberdeenshire Council cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage unless caused by negligence of the school or staff.

41 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 (as specified in the policy) , curtailment and change of itinerary (along with other sundry benefits) etc. for worldwide trips and adventurous activities (including winter sports), subject to policy terms and conditions being met.

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.

Personal / individual cover is seen as a parental responsibility and it is your decision as to whether you feel it is appropriate to obtain this.

Please be advised, however, that the Duty of Care aspect below is not insurance related:

Duty of Care

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. 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.

42 Data we hold and what we do with it.

As you are aware the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR (EU) 2016/769 came into force on Friday 25th May, 2018. This change to the law gives parents/carers and young people greater control regarding how their personal data is used.

Digital technology has advanced greatly over the years and the Data Protection Act was also updated last year to take this into account and make it fit for purpose (Data Protection Act 2018).

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to full compliance with these regulations. When you are asked for information by Education & Children's Services, we will tell you why we are collecting the information, how long we will hold it and the legal basis for gathering this information. A Privacy Notice has been issued to all schools relating to the information we hold on yourself and your child/ward.

43 The information we collect from you

Aberdeenshire Council collects personal data and information about your child in order to provide your child with a school education.

We will normally only share information (other than in child protection situations) in order to provide services for your child as part of his/her school education. We collect special category data about your child and process this because it is in the substantial public interest.

The information held by Aberdeenshire Council is used to assess, plan, coordinate, deliver and quality assure the education services to your child. The Council does not use an automated process for making decisions about your child or the services required; decisions are made with you. We will keep this information for a period of 5 years from the maximum school leaving age of your child, as required to by The Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003, unless we have a legal responsibility to keep the information for a longer period of time.

44 Your Data, Your Rights

You have legal rights about the way the Council handles and uses your data. More information about all of the rights you have is available on our website at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online/legal-notice/data-protection/>. Alternatively you can contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by emailing DataProtection@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or in writing at: The Data Protection Officer, Town House, 34 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AY.

You also have the right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, (www.ico.org.uk). They are the body responsible for making sure organisations like the Council handle your data lawfully.

The Council is required where it is data controller under the GDPR to act in a transparent manner by providing information to individuals about how it will collect and use their personal data. Privacy Notices are an essential part of complying with this requirement. The Privacy Notice must provide information to individuals in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible way and must be written in clear and plain language. There are a number of examples available on <http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/education-privacy-notice>.

45 Parental Access to Records

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 2018. An Access Request 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/your-data-matters/>

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>

46 Information Sharing

In terms of effective communication, including sharing relevant and proportionate information, where appropriate, Aberdeenshire Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998 adheres to this as part of our current routine practice.

47 ScotXed

ScotXed is a term used to represent the Scottish Government's Education Analytical Services, which is part of the Scottish Government's Learning Directorate.

ScotXed have legal powers to request data with regards all children and young people being educated in Scotland's schools, with the information collected about pupils and staff in schools used to help to improve education across Scotland. They do not collect the names of your child/children and they do not receive any contact details the school may have for you (e.g. telephone number, email address), and no information is published or made publicly available that would allow your child/children to be identified. More information on what and why they need data about your child/children, along with how they collect and store it is available in their Education Statistics Privacy Notices for parents and carers:

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/ScotXed/SchoolEducation/ESPrivacyNotices>

If you have any concerns around the national ScotXed data collections, you can:

- Contact the Data Protection & Information Assets team at the Scottish Government on dpa@gov.scot, or
 - The Head of Education Analytical Services, Mick Wilson, on at mick.wilson@gov.scot,
 - You can write to them at Education Analytical Services, Area 2A-North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ.
 - Alternatively, complaints may be raised with the Information Commissioners Office at casework@ico.org.uk.
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Further Information

The links below take you to the most up to date information on these topics.

Stats for Attainment

The Scottish Government have developed a “School information dashboard” that provides a range of statistical information about each publicly funded school in Scotland. This includes school attainment information about Curriculum for Excellence Levels Achieved (for primary and secondary schools) and attainment in National Qualifications (for secondary schools).

The dashboards can be consulted [here](#)

Aberdeenshire Council School Holiday Calendar

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/school-term-dates/>

Map of catchment area

<https://gis.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/maps/map.aspx?geolocate=true&resolution=2&initialDialog=localKnowledgeDialog>
