



Welcome to North West Community Campus Secondary School Handbook 2025/2026



Self Motivated, Resilient, Relational, Embracing Challenge
Aspire Together, Achieve Together



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Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for reading this handbook, which sets out the collective

responsibilities our Council, has for your child's education and I hope you find it helpful. Like you, we want the best possible future for your child. We want to make sure that you, as parents and carers, feel involved in your child's learning, feel welcome and listened to in our schools.

We have a shared interest in your child being happy, confident and successful in school and we make it our priority to remove barriers to learning whether these are related to the classroom or at home.

This handbook gives important information on the benefits you may be entitled to and how we can help you apply free meals, free transport, free childcare, clothing grants and allowances, and to make sure you have the right financial advice.

One of the things that makes our region so special is the diversity of our communities. Our schools are all different, too and reflect the variety of the towns and villages they serve - so schools might put plans in place slightly differently.

Our head teachers will publish their own school handbook with information, which is relevant to the pupils and parents of their school. We know that when families and schools work together there are real benefits for children. We can make collective efforts on their behalf to meet their needs and uphold their rights. Our schools are welcoming places at the heart of our communities and always want to hear from you about how we can do more to support you, so please talk to us.

There are many useful contact numbers in this handbook, or you can contact me at:

Executive Director Education
SkillsCommunityWellbeing@dumfgalldgalloway.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Gillian

Dr Gillian Brydson
 Executive Director
 Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing

More Information on Education and Learning Directorate is available at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/schools

Dumfries and Galloway Council, Education Skills and Community Wellbeing
 Militia House, English Street DG1 2HR

Call 030 33 33 3000

or visit

<https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/article/15379/Contactus> for more ways to engage with the Council

2. Welcome from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents, Carers, and Young People

It is my privilege to welcome you to North West Community Campus. As Head Teacher, I am proud to lead a school that strives to inspire and empower every young person in our care. At NWCC, our values; Resilience, Relational, Embracing Challenge and Self-motivated, guide everything we do, shaping our learning community in which every individual can thrive.

We are committed to nurturing a culture of resilience, encouraging our students to face challenges with determination and a positive mind-set. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to foster meaningful relationships, grounded in trust and respect, and so that every student feels, supported and understood. This is how we describe being relational.

At NWCC, we believe that **embracing challenge** is essential for growth. We offer a broad and dynamic curriculum designed to ignite curiosity, develop critical thinking, and prepare students for an ever-changing world. We have a particular focus on developing our young people to be ready for the world of work through a wide range of vocational courses. Through collaborative efforts with families and the wider community, we ensure our students are equipped with the tools to take ownership of their learning and become **self-motivated** individuals.

Our school is a place where we aim to celebrate the achievements of each individual. We are passionate about cultivating a community where each young person feels valued and empowered to succeed. Together, we aim to create an environment where every student can flourish academically, socially, and personally.

Thank you for being part of our school community. I look forward to working closely with you to ensure your child has the best possible experience at NWCC. Should you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office by telephone on 01387 245100 or by email on gwl8officenorthwest@ea.dumgal.sch.uk.

I look forward to meeting you at some point in the future.

With warmest regards,

Barry Smith
Head Teacher

3. Education and Learning Directorate Services

Priorities and Commitments

We aim to provide a good start in life for all and are committed to giving all our children and young people an equal chance to make the most of their potential at a time when many families are facing challenges, responding to the cost-of-living crisis that we face.

We believe in the benefits of working in partnerships within a culture of collaboration and trust.

We believe that the most important decisions in the classroom are more determined, and we expect professional excellence in our staff; we support this by building confidence and capacity in school leadership at all levels, by listening to parents and pupils, by empowering Head Teachers to make local decisions and by trusting professional judgements.

This has been the basis for our approach to delivering Curriculum for Excellence, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Our Council's ambition is to be a successful region, with a growing economy, based on fairness, opportunity and quality public services, where all citizens prosper.

Working in partnership, with connected, healthy and sustainable communities.

The region will be the natural place to live, work, visit and invest.

Education Services contribute to Dumfries and Galloway Council priorities by delivering an early year and school education that provides a good start in life for all our children.

We have a strong commitment to continuously developing and improving educational provision to enable all our children and young people opportunities to fulfil their potential through striving for excellence and equity in every aspect of the work of the service.

The importance of this commitment has continued to be emphasised by the tremendous commitment demonstrated by our staff in schools as they work to address the long-term impact of the interrupted and distance learning experienced over the last few years.

Dumfries and Galloway Council continues to value and prioritise education and learning, details of which can be found in our [Council Plan 2023-2028](#)

Education Statement from Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-28

The Council will improve education and learning opportunities to help all our children, young people and citizens fulfil their potential. This starts with pre-school, then school, before progressing into further or higher education or transition into work. We will work with our partners to create and promote lifelong learning opportunities so everyone in the region can live a meaningful and fulfilling life.

3. Education and Learning

Directorate Services cont...

Priorities and Commitments

Education & learning Strategic Outcomes

- Places of learning are inclusive, sustainable and meet the needs of local communities
- We get it right for every child
- Children, young people and adult's transition successfully through all life stages
- Young people and adults succeed in what they want to achieve
- Participation in creativity and play is part of early and lifelong learning experiences

Key priorities of the National Improvement Framework

- Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

4. School Aims

School Values

Our school motto is

Aspire Together, Achieve Together

Resilient

To recover and be ready to try again after something difficult or upsetting has happened.

What are we looking for?

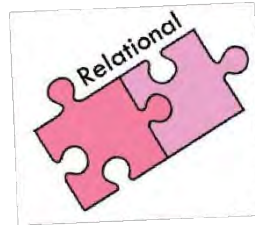


Not giving up even though you are struggling to do something. Asking help to do a task if you are finding it difficult. Keep going when things are tough.

Relational

The way you build relationships and communicate within our school, our community and the wider world.

What are we looking for?



Treat others, as you would like to be treated.
Being respectful

Embracing Challenge

To make a determined effort to tackle something new, different, or difficult for you.

What are we looking for?



Making an effort even when something is new or difficult. Being willing to try and not giving up. Working with others.

Self-Motivated

To be able and willing to work independently towards a goal.

What are we looking for?



Being ready to learn. Trying your hardest to complete a task. Remembering your goals and targets. Starting tasks straight away and finishing tasks to the best of your ability

5. School Ethos

During session 22-23 we refreshed our school values and have established new School Values for our whole campus, in consultation with our school community. Our School Values, which guide the work we do together with young people, parents and the wider community, are as follows:

- Relational
- Resilient
- Embracing challenge
- Self-motivated

We believe that developing and sustaining positive relationships with everyone in our school community is a crucial part of creating a successful, safe and healthy learning environment for our children and young people. Parents are at the heart of this process.

The staff team at North West Community Campus is committed to providing the highest quality learning experience for every learner. We create the conditions for learners to achieve and develop skills for leadership, learning, life and work through a range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities and experiences.

The approaches we take in school demonstrates our commitment to providing a Nurturing and Inclusive environment for all learners, staff,

parents and carers and partners. Examples of this are:

- We are a **Rights Respecting School**, and we achieved our **Silver Accreditation in October 2024**. This means that the practice and approaches we take reflect children and young people's rights stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child(UNCRC).
- We achieved the **RespectMe School Reward** during session 2022-23 as part of a pilot programme of schools demonstrating a commitment to anti-bullying practice in our school. We are continuing this work through staff development and working with our young people, particularly in our secondary sector, reviewing our policy and procedure during session 2024-25.

We have three school rules:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Ready to Learn**

6. School Information

Head Teacher: Mr Barry Smith

School Name:

North West Community Campus

School Address:

Alloway Road

Lochside

Dumfries DG29DF

Tel No: 01387 245100

Absence No: 01387 245106

School email:

gw08officenorthwest@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Office Hours

8.00-4.00pm

**CONTACT US,
COMMUNICATING WITH HOME**

Website:

www.northwestcommunitycampus.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/nwccdumfries/>

Instagram:

Group call Messenger:

Group call Messenger is the package we use to send out information to parents. We use Group call text for daily absence alerts, bus issues, school closures and any urgent information messages. Letters, study support information, reports and other school documents are sent out via Group call email.

Parent Council Chairperson:

Mrs Lindsay McWilliam

Parent Council Email.

nwccparentcouncil@gmail.com

Parental Involvement

Dumfries and Galloway

Council:

Parental Involvement
(dumgal.gov.uk)

Parental Involvement:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools/>

Parent zone Scotland:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

School Education Officer:

Mrs A Chambers

Mrs Karen Bryden

6. School Day & School Information

The School Day & Class Numbers

North West
Community
Campus

School Roll
Secondary: S1 – S6 217

THE SCHOOL DAY

BGE S1-S3
Senior Phase S4-S6

The school gates open at 08.45

08.50 – 15.20	School Day
10.35 – 10.50	Morning Break
13.05 – 13.50	Lunchtime

Denomination
Status:

Non-Denominational

Status of Gaelic:

Gaelic is currently not taught
at
North West Community
Campus

7 Staff Information

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Head Teacher

NWCC Secondary and Langlands School

Mr Barry Smith

Depute Head Teacher S1 – S3

Mrs Kirsty Templeton

Depute Head Teacher S4 – S6

Mrs Julie Morrison

School Support Manager

Mrs Morag Latimer

Office Staff Sec School

Office Manager/PA to Head Teacher

Mrs Sue Johnstone

Administration Staff

Ms Cheryl Young

Ms Lynsay Nisbet

Mrs Kerry Hoskins

Ms Julie Donnelly

Cook-In-Charge 2–18 School

Mrs Lorna McHallam

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS OF PUPIL SUPPORT (Secondary)

Mrs Jodie Muir/Mrs K Meechan

Mrs Gemma Jones

Ms Katie Morrison (ASL)

Facilities Management Staff

Janitor and playground supervisors

Mr W Fitzpatrick

Mr K Alexander

Mrs S Melvin

Mrs S Rae

Mr S Hale

Secondary Staff

Additional Support for Learning

Principal Teacher

Ms Katie Morrison

Behaviour Support/Learning Support

Ms Katie Morrison

Mrs Hanneke Boemer - Teacher

Learning Support Assistants (Sec)

Miss Emma Elliot

Ms Lara Dunbar

Mrs Helen Ingram

Mrs Susan Kempzell

Mrs Elaine North

Ms Karen Gemmell

Ms Eleanor Muirhead

Ms Lesley-Ann Roberts

Ms Megan Smith

Library Assistant

Mrs Norah Shann

Ms Olwen Staples

First Aid

Mrs Sue Johnstone

Ms Lynsay Nisbet

Mrs Kerry Hoskins

Mrs Rebecca Dale

Mrs Morag Latimer

Ms Julie Donnelly

School Technicians

Miss Kerry Grieve

Mrs Rebecca Dale – Science

Literacy, Languages and Social Subjects: English, French, History, Geography, Modern Studies, RMPS)

Principal Teacher: Mr Adam Torbett

English

Ms Pam Taylor

Mrs Julie Houston

Ms Nicola Davies

Modern Languages

Mrs Jodie Muir

Religious and Moral Education

Miss Rhiann McCartney

Social Subjects

Miss Cathryn Young

Modern Studies

Mr Adam Torbett

History

Mr Adam Torbett

Numeracy, Maths & Expressive Arts (Maths, Art & Design, Drama & Music)

Principal Teacher: Mrs Joanne Pullen

Mathematics

Miss Sophie Nisbet

Art and Design

Ms Terri Campbell

Drama

Mrs Sarah Dames

Music

Digital Learning, Science & Technologies

(Physics, Chemistry, Biology,
Computing,
HE, Technical Education)

Principal Teacher: Mr Martin Wilson

Biology

Mrs Katie Meechan

Mrs Gemma Jones

Chemistry

Mr Tom Newall

Physics

Mr Martin Wilson

Computing, ICT,

Mr Brant Mahon

Administration

Ms Emily Reid

Home Economics

Miss Megan Burns

Mrs Mary-Jane Laverty (Mat Leave)

PE, Health & Wellbeing, PSE

Principal Teacher:

Mrs Jodie Muir

PE

Mr Paul Cook

Miss Esther Gibson

Raising Attainment Teacher (PEF)

Miss Cathryn Young

8. Term Dates and Holidays

Holidays

We recognise that some parents have difficulties in arranging their own holidays to suit school holiday periods. Whilst parents remain, free, within reason, to remove their children for holidays during term time. You should, however, appreciate that prolonged absence, from school at any stage is harmful to a child's education and it is not possible and not fair to other children – to direct teaching time to assist a child who has been on holiday to catch up on what they have missed.

Parents should always inform the school, in writing, of any such holiday plans.

The exception to this is when a family holiday is believed to be more important to the well-being and cohesion of the family following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events.

A parent may be asked to come into school to explain the reason for their child's absence in line with the Authority's legal duty under the [Education (Scotland) Act 1980, Section 36]. Term dates can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates>

Current school year (2025/26)

Term 1

STD Tues 19th & Weds 20th 2025

First day Thursday 21 August 2025

Last day Friday 10th October 2025

Autumn holiday Monday 13th to Friday 24th October 2025

Term 2

First day Monday 27th October 2025

Last day Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas holiday Monday 22nd December 2025 to Monday 5th January 2026

Term 3

STD Mon 5th Jan 2026

Thurs 19th Feb 2026

First day Tuesday 6th January 2026

Mid-term holiday Thursday 19th February to Friday 20th February 2026

Last day Friday 27th March 2026

Spring holiday Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

Term 4

STD Fri 29th May 2026

First day Monday 13th April 2026

May Day holiday Monday 4th May 2026

School closed for staff training, Friday 29th May 2026

Last day Wednesday 1st July 2026

Summer holiday Thursday 2nd July to Wednesday 19th August 2026

9 Contact Us

If you need to find out something **Our Office Staff** are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and put you in touch the relevant member of staff.

If you have any concerns

If you have any concerns about your child/ren in the Secondary, your initial contact would be the **Principal Teacher Pupil Support (PTPS)** in charge of their House group. This will be passed to the relevant **Depute Head Teacher (DHT)** to deal with or possibly to the **Head Teacher** depending on the nature of your concern.



Jodie Muir
Sec PT Pupil Support



Gemma Sellers
Sec PT Pupil Support



Katie Meechan
Acting Sec Pupil Support



Katie Morrison Sec PT
Additional Support for
Learning



Mr Barry Smith
Head Teacher Secondary



Julie Morrison
Depute Head Teacher
Secondary S4-S6



Kirsty Templeton
Depute Head Teacher
Secondary S1-S3

10. More Information or Concerns

For more information on how Dumfries & Galloway Council uses personal data, and to know more about your information rights including who to contact if you have a concern, please follow this link www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Dataprotection

If you have any concerns about data, sharing you can discuss this with the school office, or data protection officer at the Council via dataprotection@dumgal.gov.uk

Education and Learning have further privacy notices in relation to specific grants/trusts, payments to families, Early Learning and Childcare, Placing request for example. For all Education and Learning

Privacy Notices please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/Privacy Under the data protection law, you have the right to ask to see information held by the Council that is about you. Asking for your information is called making a subject access request or a SAR.

The Authority is required to make the SAR available within one calendar month. If you wish to submit a SAR, please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection.

Enrolment in School and Catchment Secondary School

Learning Centres

For those children with an identified multiple moderate or severe and complex need, we support their transition from Early Learning and Childcare settings to our Learning Centres. Learning Centres are part of the wider school community. Placements can be within a Learning Centre or have “flexible access” between the Learning Centre and the Primary 1 class.

Each individual Centre has a combination of Teaching and Non-teaching staff. They have specialist knowledge, experience and training. Visiting specialists and Allied Health Professionals provide support. The time a child spends in a Learning Centre is dictated by their needs, not a diagnosis. As a parent you will be involved in this process, however for children who may attend a learning centre this is decided by a panel who look at the most appropriate setting to meet the needs of your child as all placements are based on individual need.

SI Enrolment

Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council’s website by accessing “Near Me” For those young people leaving school. Full details on how to enrol or move school are available from the school or on the Council’s website [Get a secondary school place | Dumfries and Galloway Council](#).

In September of Primary 7 pupils along with parents and carers will complete enrolment paperwork identifying their chosen Secondary School. Once places have been allocated pupils, parents and carers will be notified and transition activity with their identified Secondary School will begin in January of Primary 7.

Exact enrolment dates and instructions will be advertised online and in local papers once they are confirmed. **Visit:**

www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places

for more information.

P7-SI Transition

Transfer from primary to secondary school will be dealt with by direct approach to parents from individual primary schools. Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council’s website by accessing “Near Me”

School Leavers

For those young people leaving school, the next step to a positive destination is supported by your school and the local authority with our local and national partners. For more information about our Youth Guarantee see page 20 of this handbook.

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to the well-being and educational development of all learners. The process of inclusion requires all involved in the business of learning and teaching to demonstrate commitment, innovation and flexibility to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and experiences.

11.1. The School Day

Secondary School Day

Our day in the Secondary Part of the school starts with Registration or assembly at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm.

A sample day from a typical timetable shows how our day is organised:

Monday to Friday	
Period 1	8.50-9.35
Period 2	9.35-10.20
Crew Time	10.20-10.35
Morning Break	10.35-10.50
Period 3	10.50-11.35
Period 4	11.35-12.20
Period 5	12.20-13.05
Lunchtime	13.05-13.50
Period 6	13.50-14.35
Period 7	14.35-15.20

Several Individual year group assemblies will take place throughout the year. These assemblies will utilise the expertise of a wide range of outside speakers to enhance the social education programme. There is a variety of contributors to assemblies including: -

- Senior Leadership Team
- Pupil Support Staff
- School Ministers
- Various school departments
- Outside agencies, partners and Guest Speakers.



11.2. School Uniform

School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools must have a dress code, which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attend school. This code must not lead to direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability. Prior to agreeing the dress code, parents, pupils and staff have been fully consulted and it is the expectation of Education Services that parents will be supportive of the school dress code. www.dumgal.gov.uk

Secondary School Uniform/Dress Code

We see our school dress code as encouraging a sense of pride in our school. At meetings with parents in the past, we have found that almost all of you are also in favour of your children conforming to our dress code.

We stress the importance of our school dress code because it shows you are 'with us' and encourages a sense of identity and pride for our school. Dumfries & Galloway Council have set up several permanent School Uniform Donation and Collection Points in partnership with community organisations throughout our Region.

Each location has an extensive stock of excellent to good-condition school uniforms which are suitable for the schools near the Uniform Bank locations.

Additional equipment including School Bags and Stationery can also be sourced at times from these locations and full details

of each can be found on the following link:
<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/25718/Free-School-Uniforms>

For secondary learners, the school uniform is:

- Black trousers, dress shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- White shirt or polo shirt
- School tie
- Black sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

Clothing which is unacceptable in school under any circumstances would include item which:

- Could potentially encourage factions (e.g. football colours)
- Could cause offence (e.g. anti-religious or political slogans).
- Could cause Health & Safety difficulties such as loose-fitting clothing, dangling earrings or clothing which leaves large areas of bare skin.
- Are flammable materials which may be a danger in certain classes.
- Could cause damage to floors.
- Carry advertising, for alcohol or tobacco.
- Could be used to inflict damage on other pupils.

School Uniform Continued

Parents in receipt of a grant for footwear and clothing from the authority will be encouraged to purchase items, which are in accordance with the school dress code. It is not normal policy for the authority to remove a pupil from school solely based on her/his dress.

However, a persistent refusal to respond to a reasonable dress code could be deemed a challenge to the Head Teacher's authority and as such be detrimental to the good order of the whole school community.

In such circumstances a Head Teacher could justify the use of other school disciplinary procedures.

Responding to environmental factors. Each school will consider adjustments to School Uniform requirements to address any extreme weather conditions and relay this to parents/carers as timeously as possible.

11.3 Financial Support for Children and Families

Grants and Bursaries

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £27.15 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful. Further information and an application can be made at: MyGov. Scot website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best

Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website

Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: [Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Our Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate are committed to supporting families through our Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Strategy 2021-2026. Full details of all of the Projects which we deliver to support families are available on the following link:

<https://www.poverty-DumfriesandGallowayCouncil>

Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Donation and Collection Points and further information can be found on the above link.

Our Dumfries & Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership have also developed a new Cost of Living Website which offers a huge amount of information to help all families currently. The following link will take you to this site:

<https://costofliving.dumgal.gov.uk/>

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a means tested termly weekly allowance of £30, payable to students aged 16 to 19 for a maximum of 3 years. Students must achieve 100% attendance per week of the agreed attendance within their EMA Learning Agreement completed at school level.

It is payable in arrears, during term time only, generally on a 2-weekly basis. No payments are made for school holidays. Students can apply if they attend a school in Dumfries and Galloway or have a history of being Home Educated, attend a Young Persons Activity with Employability and Skills D&G Council or travel daily to a Cross Border facility.

Further information and an application can be made at:
www.dumgal.gov.uk/ema

11.3 John Wallace Trust Scheme 1981

The scheme awards bursaries to secondary school pupils living in the upper Nithsdale area who are about to enter, or are attending, Higher Education or intend to travel for Education purposes.

Financial assistance may be available for up to five years. The amounts paid can change each year depending on the

number of applicants received. Successful new and continuing students are required to complete a certificate of attendance form each year to ensure payment.

Edinburgh Dumfriesshire Scholarship

This scheme awards financial assistance to secondary school pupils who have been

mainly educated in Dumfriesshire and are looking to enter higher education. Members select one student to benefit from the Trust from applications received.

Preference may be given to students entering the University of Edinburgh. The award currently stands at £500 per annum for up to four years. The Award is based on S5 examination results together with a report from the Head Teacher at the school. Usually only one award is made from any applications received.

Further information and an application can be made at: www.dumgal.gov.uk/det

11.4 Lunch in the Secondary School

In Dumfries and Galloway, Economy & Resources, Facilities Services - Catering are bound by the Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 which means they must create a balanced nutritious meal daily. By following these guidelines

Facilities Services – Catering:

- Places health promotion at the heart of school activities
- Ensures that food and drink served in schools meets nutritional requirements
- Ensures their local authority promote the uptake and benefits of paid and free school meals.

Naturally D&G

Our naturally D&G local provenance brand is about more than just food but everything we do as a school meals service from food sustainability, legislation and climate change.

Which ensures that:

- Meals are freshly prepared, with seasonal ingredients
- Eggs are from free-range hens, and our meat is from animals farmed to certain British and EU standards
- They don't serve any endangered fish
- Their menu is free from undesirable additives and GM ingredients

For further information on school meals, visit

www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk

Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a Special Diet Request Forms to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full. For more information contact

DGschoolmeals@dumgal.gov.uk to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

Online pre-ordering of school meals is currently being rolled out to all secondary schools, information will be supplied by your school.

For further information on school meals, visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Parents/Carers - Please register your child with the catering team as soon as you are aware of any allergens or intolerance to food.

Free School Meals

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals

Scottish Child Payment and Bridging Payments

The Scottish Government's Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. The weekly value of this award is £25. **Visit**

<https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment-for-further-information>.

11.4 Schools Meals Information

Students joining North West Community Campus will have applied for a Young Scot card in P7, should have been issued with the card prior to induction days. Students who do not have a card or who require a replacement card should contact Dumfries Library for more information. Parents can add money to the card to allow for cashless purchases in the canteen. Parents are also able to keep track of the purchases made by their child.

A daily "upper spend limit" of £5 prevents all the money on the card being spend in one day. You may request an alternative daily spend limit. A minimum of £2 will be required to purchase a two-course meal.

For the first few weeks, 1st year pupils are sent for lunch five minutes before the other years so that they are the first to be served each day.

The Dining Hall is also open at the morning interval for filled rolls, hot drinks etc., as part of the catering service. It provides a warm sheltered area particularly in winter months.

Students on free school meals have the same card and can be assured anonymity. Online payments are encouraged but cash and cheques can be loaded onto the account for additional purchase.

Students may also use ApplePay and Google Wallet to pay using their mobile device.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/>

For further information on school meals, visit www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk



11.5 School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

Who is entitled to school transport?

- Pupils who live 2 miles away from their catchment school if they are under 8 years old
- Pupils who live 3 miles away from their catchment school if they are 8 years and over
- Roman Catholic children attending the denominational school for their address and live the above statutory distances from that school.

However, it is the Parents responsibility to ensure that their child reaches the designated pickup point or the school safely. With respect to the safety of any route to a designated pick-up, the Transport Policy states that “All routes are assessed on the assumption that the child is accompanied by a responsible person.”

How I find out if my child will receive school transport?

When school transport is required for a pupil, the school will contact Education Services. If your child is eligible, details of the transport arrangements will be communicated to you in time for the new academic year. You can check whether your child is entitled to school transport using Near Me on D&G website

Any alterations to transport arrangements that occur during the school year will be communicated prior to any changes being made. If school bus passes are required these are issued at school.

Free Travel for 5 - 22-year-olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland.

You can apply for free travel online from today at www.getyournec.scot (This cannot be done through your school)

If you already have a National Entitlement Card, or a Young Scot National Entitlement Card, you must apply for a new or replacement card to travel by bus for free. However, all children who are currently in P7, will have forms sent home from the school to apply for the Young Scot Card on their behalf, as part of the transition to secondary. These cards will all have the free travel applied, and automatically if the form is returned to school and signed by the parent/guardian.

If you do not wish for your child to have the free travel applied to their card, you will have to apply for a card without travel either online at www.getyournec.scot

For more information on this and other entitlements through KIDZ card or Young Scot Card please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk or speak to your school for any help.

Active Travel

Active travel is about making journeys in physically active ways like walking, wheeling and cycling. We encourage parents and pupils to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot all or some of the journey to and from school, where it is safe to do so.

Active travel is beneficial for young people's health and wellbeing, the wider environment and the economy. For more information on Active Travel and the Council's Active Travel Strategy please visit the Council website: - new.dumgal.gov.uk/roads-transport-parking/active-travel.

SWestrans the local regional Transport Partnership are leading on several programmes with national partners including:

IBike schools programme ibike.sustrans.org.uk
Promoting Healthy Travel Choices in Education

Access to Bikes Schools Grants with Support from the nationally funded Bikeability programme cycling.scot/what-we-do/cycling-friendly/access-to-bikes-for-young-people

Cycle Scot Cycle Friendly Programme infrastructure cycling.scot/what-we-do/cycling-friendly/school

Any alterations to transport arrangements that occur during the school year will be communicated, as soon as possible, prior to any changes being made.

If school bus passes are required these are issued at school.

12. Class Organisation

Class Organisation

Our Broad General Education provides learners with a range of opportunities for achievement across all curricular areas in S1-S3. Young people specialise in S4, S5 and S6, studying up to 7 subjects in S4 and up to 5 subjects in S5 and S6, depending on their chosen learner pathway.

13.0 Positive Relationships and Celebrating Success

Respect For All

The Directorate of Education and Learning Respect for All Guidelines (2018) for schools incorporates revised national anti-bullying guidelines (Scottish Government 2017) that underpins our Schools' Policy.

Respect for All aims to ensure that all sectors and communities, at a national and local level, are consistently and coherently contributing to a holistic approach to anti-bullying, regardless of the type of bullying. This includes an explicit commitment to addressing prejudice-based bullying. Central to this, Respect for All is underpinned by the values of:

- Fairness
- Respect
- Equality
- Inclusion

We also acknowledge [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) as a Silver Accredited Rights Respecting School (2024):

- Children's Rights are now embedded in Scottish legislation with the promotion and upholding of the rights of children and young people and states that all education

should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. Children's voices should be heard, and their wishes respected without discrimination of any kind. AND

[The Equality Act 2010](#) that places a duty on schools to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

[The Equality Act 2010](#) put legislation in place to prevent direct or indirect discrimination against persons due to their:

- Age
- Disability
- Sex (Gender)
- Gender reassignment (Transgender)
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation

Dumfries and Galloway Council's priorities also place every child's wellbeing at the centre. In schools we do this by adhering to the principles of GIRFEC.

On occasion a school may need to exclude a child or young person to put in plans in place to address behaviours and plan for an effective return to school. This will vary, depending on the individual circumstances and the changes/actions identified.

However, exclusion should not be regarded as a punishment but instead be an opportunity to make changes that will improve the educational experience for your child and others.

We also believe that Parents/Carers and staff have the same rights to be heard, understood and respected.

Occasionally the behaviour or actions of individuals in contact with us may be seen as vexatious or unacceptable.

The Unacceptable Actions Policy has been developed to ensure that our customers and staff are treated equally, fairly and with respect.

For more Information, please visit <https://www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/council-elections/strategies-policies-plans/unacceptable-actions-policy>

Religious Observance Scottish Government Ministers consider that religious observance complements religious education and is an important contribution to pupils' development. It should also have a role in promoting the ethos of a school by bringing pupils together and creating a sense of community.

There is a statutory provision for parents to withdraw children from participation in religious observance. This right of parents' wishes will be respected. Where a child is withdrawn from religious observance, schools will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity Dumfries and Galloway Council's priorities place every child's wellbeing at the centre. In schools, we do this by adhering to the principles of GIRFEC.

Equalities Integral to this guidance is the principle of mutual respect. The diversity of belief and tradition provides an ideal context in which pupils can learn about, and so learn from, what is important in the lives of themselves and others. In line with Dumfries and Galloway Education Authority guidelines, North West Community Campus recognises and welcomes diversity and promotes respectful understanding.

Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register. Dumfries and Galloway Council's priorities also place every child's wellbeing at the centre. In schools, we do this by adhering to the principles of GIRFEC.

13. Positive Behaviour and Anti Bullying Celebrating Success in the Secondary

Positive Behaviour - Anti Bullying

Scottish-based research indicates that schools, where attainment is higher than expected for their catchment area, demonstrate positive relationships throughout the school community and that children and young people are involved meaningfully in decisions which affect them at all levels of the school.

Respect for All:

The National Approach to Anti- Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People Adults should establish open, positive and supportive relationships where children and young people feel safe, secure and listened to in their ability to discuss sensitive issues. It is essential that all adults' model behaviour which promotes positive relationships and positive behaviours.

13. Positive Behaviour and Anti Bullying & Success in the Secondary

We identified the opportunity for Parent Councils to access on-line modules to help those parents working with their schools to look at any anti-bullying or positive relationships policies.

These modules are now open to all parents and can be accessed through Learning Academy | respectme.

You will need to complete both modules within 4 weeks of registration. www.respectme.org.uk/elearning

All schools should have an anti-bullying policy. This policy must reflect the Dumfries and Galloway guidance, and also Respect for All:

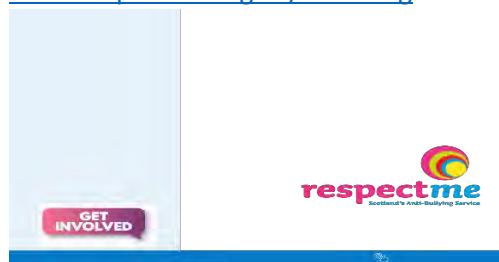
The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People.

Adults should establish open, positive and supportive relationships where children and young people feel safe, secure and listened to in their ability to discuss sensitive issues. It is essential that all adults' model behaviour which promotes positive relationships and positive behaviours.

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You will need to complete both modules within 4 weeks of registration.

www.respectme.org.uk/elearning



All schools should have an anti-bullying policy. This policy must reflect the Dumfries and Galloway guidance and Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People.

Schools will have different ways of putting the principles of anti-bullying into practice to reflect local environments and culture. Schools should have an approach which makes it clear that bullying behaviour will be addressed in line with Scottish Government approaches. The entire school community: teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents, should be involved and must be committed to this and this can be achieved by working together in the development and implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy.

The policy should be reviewed on a regular basis, and schools are currently reviewing and updating their following the advice within this link - respectme.org.uk/policy/principles-for-policy-development/

What is Bullying behaviour?

“Bullying is face-to-face and/or online behaviour which impacts on a person's sense of physical and emotional safety, their capacity to feel in control of their life and their ability to respond effectively to the situation they are in.”

“The behaviour does not need to be repeated, or intended to cause harm, for it to have an impact. Bullying behaviour can be physical, emotional or verbal and can cause people to feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out” **Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People (updated 2024)**

NWCC Secondary's aim of being an effective learning environment; a caring community; a place where people demonstrate respect for themselves and others, can only be achieved within a framework of positive relationships and behaviour. The basis of this system is laid in the classroom where teaching staff set clear expectations of effort, punctuality and politeness.

Staff also seek to establish an atmosphere of mutual respect in which teachers and pupils can achieve their common aims. A structured positive relationships and behaviour system is used to encourage positive behaviour and keep parents informed. Effort and positive behaviour are also recognised and praised through the Merit system and celebrated in year group assemblies.

Pupils are expected to always behave in a **relational and socially acceptable manner**. This involves self-discipline and consideration for others. Staff may apply several actions across the school to uphold this principle, in accordance with the school's Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy.

Pupils whose behaviour or attitude falls below what should reasonably be expected, may be referred to the Principal Teacher, Depute Head Teacher or Head Teacher and may result in:

- Interview with parent.
- Introduction of a personalised behaviour support system.
- Referral to a support agency
- Ultimately, if a young person's behaviour is significantly impacting the safety of others or is detrimental to good order in the school, more serious action may be taken.

Serious incidents could include violence towards pupils or staff, vandalism, theft or

continued refusal to comply with instructions from a member of staff.

Where a situation is potentially harmful or dangerous, appropriate action will be taken to protect the child and others. Exclusion from school is always used as a last resort to provide an opportunity to plan for positive change. We are pleased to say that at North West Community Campus we would expect these to be rare occurrences.

Success

Where students are following school rules and making positive choices, Merits may be awarded by a member of staff. These contribute to House totals and individual totals. All youngsters are in one of our three Houses Eagle, Lynx and Stag.

Success is celebrated on a regular basis between staff and students as well as through assemblies linked to the school values.

14.0 Curriculum for Excellence

14.1 Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3–18-year-olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it.

At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful no matter what their background or circumstances.

Ultimately, it aims to nurture children and young people to become

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- effective contributors
- responsible citizens

There are eight curriculums with CfE. Literacy, numeracy, health, and wellbeing are recognised as being particularly important - these are seen as being the 'responsibility of all' staff. CfE also includes Languages, Expressive arts, Religious and moral education, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. The responsibility for the curriculum offers in your school lies with Head teacher at your school.

How does Curriculum for Excellence work? Curriculum for Excellence includes four contexts for learning:

- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Ethos and life of the school
- Opportunities for personal achievement

Curriculum levels and stages

- The curriculum has two stages: the broad general education (from the early years to the end of S3) and the senior phase (S4 to S6).
- The broad general education has five Curriculum levels (early, first, second, third and fourth). The senior phase is designed to build on the experiences and outcomes of the broad general education, and to allow young people to take qualifications and courses that suit their abilities and interests.

Broad General Education

Throughout the Broad General Education (BGE) phase, children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (early, first, second, third and fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education phase. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

Experiences and Outcomes

Are what the learner will be able to understand, a skill they have developed or what they are able to do. There are detailed Experiences and Outcomes for all subjects available on the [Education Scotland website](#); teachers work to deliver these, and the progress of learners is measured in how a young person responds and achieves in relation to the Experiences and Outcomes. Teachers can use a series of measures to help them understand better and make judgements about a young person's journey through the Experiences and Outcomes. Reporting to parents is likely to include information about children's Experiences and Outcomes and about the levels at which they are working.

Curriculum Levels Early Level:

Nursery to P1

First Level:

P2 to P4 Second Level:

P5 to P7

Third & Fourth Levels: S1 to S3

Senior Phase: S4 to S6

Additional information on the Curriculum for Excellence can be found in the [Dumfries and Galloway Education Authority Handbook](#).

[Education Scotland's summary of the Curriculum for Excellence can also be found here](#)

Secondary Subject Information

All Schools produce their own subject information. This information will be included in your secondary school handbook and will also provide information on subject choices. Please contact your school about the curriculum offer and the subject choices.

Senior Phase learners work towards qualifications in the Senior Phase. Available qualifications and awards include The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels 3-7, National 1, National 2, National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher, Skills for Work, Progression Awards. Learners may also gain awards such as John Muir Award, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Youth Achievement Awards. When young people leave school aged 16+, they are entitled to a positive and sustained destination. This may be college, university, work, apprenticeships or training.

14.2 Secondary Subject Information

North West Community Campus Secondary offers a variety of subjects and levels of study from S1 to S6. All courses are well planned and delivered in an engaging and stimulating manner for pupils, to ensure high quality learning experiences.

Pupils will be required to select subjects for further study at various points throughout their time at North West Community Campus Secondary. At these times, support will be given to both pupils and their parents in a variety of ways. Subject choice information sessions will be held in addition to parents' evenings which will allow further discussion with individual subject staff members. This will allow pupils to make informed choices about which subjects to select. Parents and pupils will be invited to individual option interviews which will give the opportunity to discuss further subject selection; such interviews will be with members of the Senior Leadership Team or Pupil Support Staff.

Options booklets are updated on an annual basis giving the most relevant information to pupils.

The options process itself will begin in January of each school year. Pupils required to make subject choices will have completed the process by the end of March.

An overview of our curriculum is given in the following table, highlighting the number of subjects studied in each year.

In addition to the above, pupils also receive their core entitlements of PE, RMPS, and Health and Wellbeing. Almost all S1 pupils should have completed the Outcomes and Experiences for Level 3 by the end of S2. Some subjects in the BGE may be taught in rotation e.g., a class may be taught Home Economics for 2 periods per week for half the year and then change to Physical Education for example.

Classes in S1 and S2 are arranged in mixed ability groupings in all subjects..

Some young people access Additional Support for Learning is used to help them engage with the school curriculum more readily. This may include differentiated learning materials, in class support from learning assistants or access to the school learning centre and/or other partner provision throughout the school week.

Curriculum for S1-S3

Moving from Primary to Secondary School is a major and exciting step for any youngster. We are always pleasantly surprised at how quickly the young people settle in at North West Community Campus Secondary. They obviously enjoy the challenge of the new subjects and quickly get used to having a variety of teachers. We have well established links with our cluster schools leading to the final three induction days in June.

Pupils continue to undertake what is known as the Broad General Education (BGE) in their first three years at secondary school. This is then followed by the Senior Phase in years four to six where pupils will sit their National Qualifications. In the BGE, pupils follow a common course in S1 and S2. In S3, pupils can make some personalisation and choice in the subjects, which they wish to study.

The various subjects in S1 and S2 and their time allocations are illustrated in the table above. Taken together these subjects give our common course in S1 and S2.

Curriculum for S4-S6

At the end of S3, pupils may select SQA subjects to study. The courses they choose to study will depend on the pupil's ability and interest in the subjects as well as their possible future career choice. Advice and guidance will be provided to ensure that pupils choose a well-balanced curriculum, which will take possible future career choices into consideration. Each pupil will be carefully guided in his or her subject choice by his or her Pupil Support Teacher and parents will be consulted at all stages. Parents can discuss options with subject teachers at Parents' Evening. The final choice will be confirmed in writing to parents. Most pupils will study 7 SQA subjects; English, Maths and 5 other subjects.

At the end of S4, each student is guided by their Pupil Support Teacher to choose appropriate subjects for study in S5. The final choice is confirmed at a meeting between the student and their Pupil Support Teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Students undergo a similar process in their move from S5 to S6. Parents can come into school for consultation if they wish. All parents receive an options form to consider and sign when agreed.

Courses likely to be on offer to S5 and S6 for session 2025/26 are shown on the next page.

In S5, students will take 5 courses of study at levels appropriate to their ability. This will account for 30 periods of study per week. The remaining 5 periods per week are devoted to Social Education, Physical Education and modular courses. In S6, the programme is generally more flexible. Although S6 students still undertake 4 courses of study, a little more time is allowed to develop skills in independent study in preparation for further and higher education.

Subject	Choices (1,2,3,4,5 & R)	Level of Study				Staff Signature
		SCQF Level 4	SCQF Level 5	SCQF Level 6	SCQF Level 7	
Administration and IT		N4	N5	H		
Applications of Mathematics		N4	N5	H		
Art and Design		N4	N5	NPA H	NPA AH	
Automotive Skills		SFW				
Barista Skills			SFW			
Biology		N4	N5	H	AH	
Business Management		N4	N5	H	AH	
Chemistry		N4	N5	H	AH	
Childcare		N4	N5	FA		
Classical Studies				H		
Computing Science		N4	N5	H	AH	
Construction Crafts		SFW				
Creative and Digital Media				FA		
Creative Industries			NPA			
Cyber Security			NPA			
Cycle Maintenance		N4				
Design and Manufacture		N4	N5	H		
Digital Media Animation			NPA			
Drama		N4	N5	H	AH	
Early Learning and Childcare			SFW			
Engineering				FA		
English		N4	N5	H	AH	
Environmental Awareness					HNC	
Equine Studies			NPA			
Esports		NPA	NPA			
Events and Tourism			NPA			
Exercise and Fitness				NPA		
Financial Services			SFW	NPA		
Food and Drink Technologies				FA		
French		N4	N5	H	AH	
Geography		N4	N5	H	AH	
German		N4	N5			
Graphic Communication		N4	N5	H	AH	
Health and Food Technology		N4	N5	H		
Health Sector		SFW	SFW			
History		N4	N5	H	AH	
Hospitality			SFW			
Human Biology				H		
Introduction to E-sports			NPA			
Investigation of Modern Agriculture			NPA			
Laboratory Science			SFW			
Legal Studies				NPA		
Make Up, Hair and Beauty Skills			SFW			
Mathematics		N4	N5	H	AH	
Media		N4	N5	H		
Modern Studies		N4	N5	H	AH	
Music		N4	N5	H	AH	

Music Technology		N4	N5	H	AH	
Photography			NPA			
Physical Education		N4	N5	H	AH	
Physics		N4	N5	H	AH	
Politics				H		
Practical Cookery		N4	N5			
Practical Woodworking		N4	N5			
Principles of Animal Care			SRUC Cert			
Professional Cookery		SFW				
Psychology				H		
Renewable Energy Practical Skills			SFW			
RMPS		N4	N5	H		
Rural Skills		SFW				
Social Science Pathway - Criminology			NPA			
Social Services and Healthcare				FA		
Social Services: Children and Young People				FA		
Sociology			N5	H		
Spanish		N4	N5	H	AH	
Sport and Fitness			NPA			
Sport and Recreation			SFW			
Travel and Tourism			N5			
UWS Healthcare Foundation Academy			UWS Pathway	UWS Pathway		
Veterinary Terminology				SRUC Cert		
Volunteering Skills		GA	GA			
YASS Module					OU	
Young Enterprise				NPA		

*NPA = National Progression Award

Courses offered in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College are highlighted in blue and with SRUC (Barony Campus) in green

Online courses offered in partnership with Edinburgh College and @Southwest Connects are highlighted in purple.

Courses highlighted in yellow are being delivered at NWCC.

15. The Wider Curriculum

15.1 Health and Wellbeing Education



It is our policy to ensure that your son or daughter receives a comprehensive education on all matters relating to their general fitness and physical and emotional well-being. Health and Wellbeing Education is given at appropriate times during their school careers on topics such as:

- Personal Hygiene care of body and clothing
- Adolescence emotional and physical changes affecting young people
- Healthy Body exercise and good eating habits
- Drug Abuse - includes references to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and prohibited and medical drugs.

Health and Wellbeing Education is being dealt with in many areas of our curriculum e.g. Health and Wellbeing, Home Economics, Science, P.E. as well as by several external partners such as School Nurse, CAMHS and Police Scotland.

15.2 Wider Achievement and Participation

15.2a Extra-Curricular Activities

Secondary Instrumental Music Tuition

Secondary pupils who would like to learn and instrument can apply for tuition through Dumfries and Galloway Council's Instrumental Music Service.

Secondary school pupils will have their lessons delivered on a rota basis during the school day to ensure they don't regularly miss any one subject. Lessons will follow a structured course of study, which is suited to the pupil's abilities as well as SQA, local authority and school requirements.

The tuition also supports learning through to Advanced Higher level and external music examinations where required. For more information please visit:

[https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/19027/Instrumental Music-Tuition](https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/19027/Instrumental-Music-Tuition)

Eco Schools

The Eco-Schools Scotland programme encourages action in ten key areas: Litter, Energy, Health & Wellbeing, Transport, Waste Minimisation, and School Grounds, Biodiversity, Water, Sustaining Our World and Food & the Environment. At the beginning of each school year the eco-committee, conduct an Environmental Review to assess our school's progress in each of the ten areas.

15.3 Clubs and Activities

We have a wide range of clubs that operate in the school. These take place mostly at lunchtimes and staff deserve great credit for the time and energy they give to these activities. These clubs encourage pupils to remain in the school surroundings during their lunch break.

The number of clubs varies from year to year, but they may include-

- Esports
- Access to Fitness Suite
- Art Club (Drawing)
- Football (girls and boys)
- Rugby (after school)
- Photography Club
- Bee Club
- Sign Language Club

Secondary Student Council

The Student Council in North West Community Campus Secondary is long established and represents the pupil voice of the Secondary school. The Student Council allows elected pupil representatives from S1-S6 to discuss pupils' views and to make suggestions to the Senior Leadership

Team and teaching staff which will benefit the overall school community.

Pupils throughout the school are encouraged to discuss concerns/issues and suggestions with the Student Council and their representatives.

Council members

use a variety of methods to collect the views of fellow pupils. They speak at assemblies, have a notice board and discuss issues with their register classes during tutor time. The Student Council also regularly share news and

information about new initiatives and the important things that are achieved.

15.4 School Trips

School trips are an important and enjoyable part of school life where learning takes place outside of the classroom.

We aim to provide a range of trips during each young person's time at North West Community Campus. Most of these trips are to local destinations but we do organise additional opportunities for pupils to travel further afield.

We ask you to give permission for these trips and to pay for these trips (most of which are also subsidised by the school). If we do not have your permission, we cannot take your child.

We are fortunate to have the use of a School minibus, which enables us to have easy access to the local area.

We will do everything we can to include every child in these important experiences, and we seek to minimise the costs of school trips wherever possible. The Scottish Government provides schools with a Pupil Equity Fund which, can be used to support children living in families with lower incomes or who currently have financial constraints.

Examples of recent secondary school trips include:

- S1 Trip to Belmont
- Modern Studies - Scottish Parliament visit
- Murray Field – School of Rugby
- Chemistry Trips
- S1 Science trip to Glasgow Science Centre
- Drama/English – Theatre Outings
- S1-S3 France Trip 2025

15.5 Learning for Sustainability (Lfs) • Understand that divergent discussion can arise from environmental issues.

Sustainable development and education are the responsibility of all staff at North West Community Campus.

Sustainable Development is embedded in the School Improvement Plan. In addition, environmental issues are often discussed at the Student Council.

Many areas of our curriculum incorporate education for sustainable development. It is perhaps most easily delivered through Geography, the Sciences and Modern Studies. However, many other subjects such as English, Art, Design, and Physical Education include aspects of sustainable development education within them.

Please see our school website for information on this year's school improvement plan

www.northwestcommunitycampus.com

Learning for Sustainability principles

Our school community should:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of the natural processes that take place, both within and outside the school environment.
- Understand how life is dependent on the environment.
- Be aware of different environments past and present.
- Understand how past actions and decisions have affected the present environment.
- Know that what we do will affect others in the future.
- Be aware of environmental issues such as pollution, sustainable developments and the destruction of the rainforests.
-

15.6 Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

In school and post school support for young people, Partners across Dumfries and Galloway are committed to the vision that all young people should receive an appropriate offer of post-16 learning, training, employment or personal skills development. This vision is underpinned by an ambition to achieve 100% positive destinations for all school leavers in the region. Planning forms part of the process for ensuring there are opportunities available for young people on leaving school. Planning will help identify the most appropriate offer that matches young people's needs and aspirations.

It must be:

- at the right level
- accessible both in terms of location and local labour market opportunity
- delivered through the right learning method
- fit with each young person has chosen pathway

Dumfries and Galloway are committed to delivering this via:

Employability Co-ordination Groups (ECG)

Opportunities for young people who do not have a destination but are planning to leave school will be discussed at school Employability Coordination Groups (ECGs).

The ECG meet regularly to consider all pupils (S4-S6) to create a plan for those who may not secure a not positive destination up to 6 months before their leaving date. A key partner will be identified to help ensure the appropriate support is in place for each young person.

Young people who have been given extra support in school will automatically be considered to enable the right support to continue through the transition to post school if needed.

Employability and Skills Service (ESS) The Employability and Skills Service supports

individuals throughout Dumfries and Galloway aged 16-67 who are unemployed, economically inactive or under employed (including self-employed) to move in – or return – to work, upskill or retrain. The service offers individualised, person-centred support to identify barriers to employment, education or training and specific needs to overcome these and achieve outcomes. Trained Employability Key Workers support clients across the region to identify employment opportunities, access training courses and programmes; develop employability skills and much more.

For more information on post school support, the Workplace Skills Award or DFN Project Search email: For Workplace Skills Award: DGEmployabilityAward@dumgal.gov.uk

The Workplace Skills Award is an SQA accredited, in-work qualification delivered by qualified assessors throughout the Employability and Skills Service. Designed with local employers to identify the required skills for clients moving in to work, the Award can be delivered at Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels locally.

For all Employability (Employability and Skills Service) referrals: DGEmployabilityreferrals@dumgal.gov.uk

For Project Search: Projectsearch@dumgal.gov.uk
DFN

ProjectSEARCH Dumfries and Galloway is the local ProjectSEARCH provision across the region, supporting individuals with Autism and other additional support needs in to work experiences placements.

This is a programme delivered in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway College, delivering in-depth pre-employment training, up to three supported work experience placements and ongoing employability support. The programme runs through the academic year, providing instructor led training,

structured, fully immersive work experience placements and in-work job coaching from a dedicated Employability Key Worker.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Professionally qualified Careers Advisers from the national skills agency “Skills Development Scotland” deliver careers support in schools.

Careers Advisers work with school pupils in all secondary schools across Scotland, helping them to develop their Career Management Skills and make plans for their next steps after school. We want all young people to be effective lifelong career planners who can make informed and confident decisions about their future.

SDS offer a range of activities to support school pupils including group work sessions, face-to-face

career guidance interviews and optional drop-in appointments. SDS school services provides additional detail of the support on offer.

For those who have left school recently (and not so recently), ongoing support is available from SDS network of careers centres.

SDS centre services include:

- Career information, advice and guidance on career choices
- Advice on the routes into career including jobs, apprenticeships, training, and learning
- Help with CVs, application forms and interviews
- Insight into the local labour market
- Redundancy support
- Support for parents and carers

Check [SDS contact us page](#) to find details of your local careers centre.

The web service [My World of Work](#) provides trustworthy, expert information and advice – free to access at any time, for people at any stage in their career (including support for parents to help

their child with career conversations). My World of Work is designed to support people of all ages and stages, with activities and tools to help identify available opportunities.

Want to find out more about apprenticeships? [Apprenticeships.scot](#) provides information on work-based learning opportunities that can be undertaken by school pupils, those planning on leaving school and for those who have already left school.

You can access face-to-face career information, advice and guidance in D&G College Dumfries or Stranraer Campus, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

As well as our hubs, SDS are also present in the following community venues –

Hillview Leisure Centre, Upper Nithsdale – Tuesday 10am – 2pm

Loch thorn Library, Dumfries – Thursday 2pm – 5pm

Newton Stewart Library – Thursday 10am – 4pm

Annan Jobcentre, Tuesday and Friday 9am – 5pm

Dumfries Jobcentre, Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm

Stranraer Jobcentre, Thursday 9am – 5pm

In addition, individuals can request an appointment at any of the following locations by phoning 01387 272500:

Castle Douglas Community Centre

Dalbeattie Library

Kirkcudbright Council Offices

Lockerbie Library

Summerhill Community Centre, Dumfries

The Bridge, Dumfries

Xcel Project,

Langholm YMCA,

Dumfries

Employment of Pupils

While Dumfries and Galloway Council do not employ children under school leaving age, we are committed to the protection of children in employment. Dumfries and Galloway Council has byelaws that outline the guidelines and protocols for businesses and organisations that employ children.

The link below provides supportive information for children, parents/ carers and prospective employers about the employment of children under school leaving age.

Employment of children

Additional information can be found at www.gov.scot

Anyone who employs a young person on a part-time basis (aged between 13 and 16) must obtain a Permit to Undertake Employment.

Parents, young people, the school and the employer should ensure that all relevant paperwork held at the school is completed.

16.0 Home/School Partnership/Parental Involvement and Engagement

16.1 Parent Council and Parent Forum

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The Parent Council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities.
- Hear about what partnership with parent's means in our school.
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you.
- Identify issues you want the Parent Council to work on with the school.
- Be asked your opinion by the Parent Council on issues relating to the school and education it provides.
- Work in partnership with staff.
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible.

The type of things the Parent Council may get involved in include:

- Supporting the work of the school.
- Gathering and representing parents' views to the Head Teacher, Education Authority and Education Scotland.
- Promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils and the local community.
- Discussing aspects of the School Improvement Plan.
- Fundraising and organising events.
- Reporting to the parent forum.
- Being involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff.

For more information or support for how you can become involved in your Parent Council or support to run your Parent Council please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/23310/Parent-Councils

For more information on parental involvement in your child's school and to find out more about parents as partners in their child's learning, please contact the school or visit the Education Scotland website – education.gov.scot/parentzone/.

For local information, please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement

If you have any general enquiries relating to Parental Involvement and Engagement please contact your school in the first instance or email ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk

Parents can be directed to <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement> for further information on Parental Involvement and Engagement and support information for Parent Councils.

In addition, ALL parent Councils in Dumfries and Galloway have membership to CONNECT. Membership includes Insurance cover and training opportunities. For more information visit <https://connect.scot/>.

Community Involvement

Schools should consider promoting community involvement as volunteers in supporting learning (running clubs etc) and how the school may support learning in their community through young people delivering learning as part of their own wider achievement. Potential users of the school premises can access more information at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoollets

16.1 Parent Council

All members of the Parent Forum are welcome to attend meetings. Agendas and Minutes of meetings along with other information regarding the Parent Council can be found on the school website: <https://www.northwestcommunitycampus.com>

Our Parent Council normally meets once a term. More information can be found on the school website: <https://www.northwestcommunitycampus.com>

Parent Council Members

Our Parent Council was established to encourage a closer link between the school and the parents and to give parents greater say in the running of our school.

Our present Parent Council Members are:
 Chairperson - Mrs Lindsay McWilliam
 Vice Chair Person - Mrs Sarah Ramsay
 Treasurer – Mrs A Rae
 New members are welcomed and encouraged.
 Anyone wishing to be involved in the Parent Council in any way

16.2 Helping Your Child

Parents can support their child by listening, talking, and encouraging – this can have a big influence on children’s learning:

- Encourage your child to talk to you about their learning, what learning is happening at school and do what you can at home to build on that
- Talk to your child about their strengths/interests and how they are progressing
- Encourage your child to talk to you about their next steps in learning and find out how you can work with the school to support this
 - Ask for help if you think your child needs it for any reason
 - Praise your child if he/she is working hard at something or has achieved something within or out of school
 - Look for opportunities at home to develop literacy and numeracy skills: money, number problems, time, measuring, matching, size, encouraging reading, writing, understanding instructions, questioning information
 - Encourage your child to take part in activities e.g. hobbies, clubs which will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills
 - Help them work on tasks on their own and then talk about it with you afterwards
 - Do things together where appropriate – learn together e.g. if your child has a project or task to do, take an interest and discuss with them what he/she is doing or offer support if this is needed
 - Help prepare for change particularly at key transitions – talk together
 - Talk to them about how they are feeling

- Work together with the school by taking part in discussions about your child’s learning and progress e.g. at parent’s nights, reviews.

Parents and carers should be given opportunities to become familiar with and understand the approach that schools are taking to develop a positive culture and ethos and promote positive relationships and behaviour and model this approach at home to support Better Relationships Better Learning.

16.3 Family Learning

Family Learning is about children and adults learning together. It supports families to develop new skills, build stronger relationships, and create a positive learning culture at home. When families learn together, it can help children do better at school and give adults more confidence to support their child’s learning. Your school will be able to confirm specific Family Learning programmes that may be available for you and your child/children.

Family Learning activities can take many forms – from storytelling, cooking, and outdoor play to digital skills, literacy, and numeracy sessions. Some programmes also offer the chance for parents and carers to gain qualifications or take the first steps back into adult education or employment.

Our Family Learning programmes are welcoming, inclusive, and based on what families tell us they need. They are designed to be fun, practical, and focused on strengthening the bond between parent and child. Many of the programmes we offer are evidence-based and led by trained staff who understand the challenges families face.

Family Learning Continued

Whether you're looking to support your child's learning, build your own confidence, or connect with other families, Family Learning offers something for everyone.

Parents/carers who have taken part in Family Learning programmes report that they feel more confident in their ability to support their child's learning. Research shows that when parents support children's learning at home then children do better at school and in the future.

For more information or to contact us please use the links below.

E-mail: adult.learning@dumgal.gov.uk

Website: [Lifelong Learning - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

Volunteers in School

The Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate welcomes parents as volunteers and are keen to promote Parental Involvement and Engagement in Schools.

One way to do this is to promote this through supporting parents as volunteers in schools. Volunteers in schools can be parents, employees, representatives of partner organisations and outside agencies, volunteer adult helpers, senior pupils and adult learners.

This might include supporting schools with communication – assisting with school newsletters, websites or supporting social and celebration events. Skills sharing - supporting with pre/post school

clubs and activities, careers events and supporting learning in specialist areas such as supporting classroom reading or library developments or attending educational visits. Schools should encourage parents/ carers and extended family to share their skills and expertise.

To support schools and parents with this process please read the parental leaflet below and speak to your Head teacher or volunteer contact for the school who will be able to talk through the Volunteer Strategy and Volunteer Handbook.

Volunteering can help you in reaching your own personal goals that might include re-employment or a step to further training and development. Thank you to those family and community volunteers who already participate.

Volunteering in Schools Leaflet

If you are interested in volunteering in the wider community, our partner, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, also has a list of volunteer roles across Dumfries and Galloway. You can also email VolunteerDG@dumgal.gov.uk for more information.

17.0 Useful Links

Staff, parents and pupils can access key policies for the Authority at www.dumgal.gov.uk

Parents can access more information by visiting Dumfries and Galloway Council's Home page and clicking on schools or clicking www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools. From this one page you can access information on schools, school meals, transport and Parental Involvement. We would also suggest that parents are aware of the following local and national websites to support parents/carers and children and young people on their journey through school life.

Youth Democracy: [Youth Democracy and Youth Participation](#)

My Rights, My Say: a free support service for children and young people aged between 12 and 15. It offers advice and information, advocacy support, and legal representation. It also gives children a chance to share their own views about their support. myrightsmysay.scot/

DGvoice: the voice of disabled people in D&G www.dgvoice.co.uk

Cool to talk: aged 12-25? Your questions answered. cool2talk.org/

Some children and young people need extra help in school to make progress. Independent advice and information is available from:

Enquire: the Scottish advice service for additional support needs enquire.org.uk

Govan Law Centre supporting pupils' and parents' rights in education govanlawcentre.org

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance
Safeguarding vulnerable people www.siaa.org.uk

My World of Work: www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Youthlink Scotland: www.youthlinkscotland.org

Dumfries and Galloway Council support (also see page 23). Additional contact for information for staff and parents include:

For DG Workplace Skills Award:
DGEmployabilityAward@dumgal.gov.uk

For all Employability (Employability and Skills Service) referrals: ESS.referrals@dumgal.gov.uk

For Project Search: Projectsearch@dumgal.gov.uk
For Youth Guarantee: dgypg@dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service is a registered charity and voluntary organisation who offer a free, confidential and personal independent advocacy www.dgadvocacy.co.uk/

Citizens Advice Dumfries and Galloway:
www.cas.org.uk

Dumfries and Galloway Children's services plan: a commitment to improving lives of children, young people and their families. Children's Services Plan

Visit www.dumgal.gov.uk to see a range of services and support, which focus on the safety of our most vulnerable children, young people and families.

CALL Scotland help children and young people across Scotland to overcome disability and barriers to learning created by their environment, and to fulfil their potential www.callscotland.org.uk

For Support from Education and Learning Directorate please visit dumgal.gov.uk

PIN Parental Involvement Network
www.parentsinclusionnetwork.org.uk/Parents
 working together to share information/advice on disability issues

Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum
dandgparentforum@gmail.com Facebook
[Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum](#)

Parent Council Support CONNECT (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)
 Parent and Parent Council Support, Independent Advice and training opportunities. Insurance Cover and Training Opportunities connect.scot

Education Scotland/Scottish Government
 Further information on all aspects of education is available [on education.gov.scot/parentzone/](http://on.education.gov.scot/parentzone/)

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPFS) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free downloads for parents/carers these guides explain important aspects of Curriculum for Excellence.

Education Scotland education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-inscotland/assessmentand-achievement/ gives background information on assessment in Curriculum for Excellence.

Dyslexia Scotland www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk to find details of the Dyslexia Scotland Southwest Group

Parental Involvement and Engagement Partners

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the parent forum. The Parent Council is a group of parents who have chosen by parents to represent the parent forum.

As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in your school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the Parent Council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the Parent Council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible.

The type of things the Parent Council may get involved include:

- Supporting the work of the school
- Gathering and representing parents' views to the Headteacher, Education Authority and Education Scotland
- Promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils and the local community

- Fundraising and organising events
- Reporting to the Parent Forum
- Being involved in the appointment of senior promoted staff

For more information or support for how you can become involved in your Parent Council or support to run your Parent Council please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/23310/Parent-Councils

For more information on parental involvement in your child's school and to find out more about parents as partners in their child's learning, please contact the school or visit the Education Scotland website – education.gov.scot/parentzone/.

For local information please visit Parental Involvement and Engagement

If you have any general enquiries relating to Parental Involvement and Engagement please contact your school in the first instance or email [Parent Carer@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:ParentCarer@dumgal.gov.uk)

Please click this link to Page 31 for more links and support for parents/carers.

Community Involvement

Schools should consider promoting community involvement as volunteers in supporting learning (running clubs etc) and how the school may support learning in their community through young people delivering learning as part of their own wider achievement. **Potential users of the school premises can access more information at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoollets**

18.0 Communicating with Home

NWCC Secondary Communication with parents/carers

Honesty and open communication between school and home are vitally important to your child's success and happiness at school. We seek to keep you informed and involved in your child's education at all times. Our door is always open; if you have any concerns, at any time, please pick up the phone and talk to us.

Sharing information about, and involving you in, your child's learning takes many forms at North West Community Campus. We understand that all family circumstances are different, and we try to take this into account when planning events. We listen to, and act on, feedback and are open to suggestions, so please get in touch if you have any ideas for how we can improve our communication with you.

Sharing news and information

The Head Teacher with important information and diary dates for the term ahead sends out an end of term newsletter.

Social Media

Articles on the school Facebook page, Website and School Instagram feed highlight learning, achievements and important information.

Family events

Family learning events take place regularly. Examples of events include:

- Induction events
- Parent meetings
- Curriculum Evenings
- Celebration events such as Leavers' Assembly
- School performances
- Parent information sessions such as 'Online Safety'
- Parent Council meetings take place regularly throughout the school session.

- All parents and carers are welcome to attend these meetings.

The school website is an important source of more detailed information about our school - <https://www.northwestcommunitcampus.com>

Parental Involvement information and other useful sources of information include:

- <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools>
Dumfries and Galloway Council school information
- <https://education.gov.scot/>
 - Information on the Scottish curriculum
- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>
Information about how you can support your child's learning
- <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/getting-involved/national-parent-forum-of-scotland/>
- <https://www.parentclub.scot/Parentzone>

School term dates can be found at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-date>

North West Community Campus Communication with parents/carers

- Group call text messages and emails
- Social Media:
(Facebook/Website/Instagram)
- Parents' evenings
- Pupil reports
- Open evenings
- Drop-ins
- Website
- Letters
- Group call
- Parents' portal

We encourage your feedback about how you would like the school to communicate with Parents and Carers.

Secondary Parents' Evenings and Reports

These are an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress directly with their teacher.

Letters

We will often send home letters, particularly when we need a response from parents, or flyers, leaflets, etc., which we think, may be of interest to you. Please check your child's bag for these items on a regular basis. All of these letters are also uploaded to the school website:

www.northwestcommunitycampus.com

Non-Resident Parents

Non-Resident Parents of children within our school can request copies of any of the above forms of information from the school office. If requested, Non-Resident Parents can have their personal information added to the school's Seemis system, which means they will automatically receive copies of their child/children's progress reports, etc.

18.1 Attendance

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to ensuring the best possible future for all our children and young people. We recognise the important role school attendance has in ensuring all our children and young people reach their full potential.

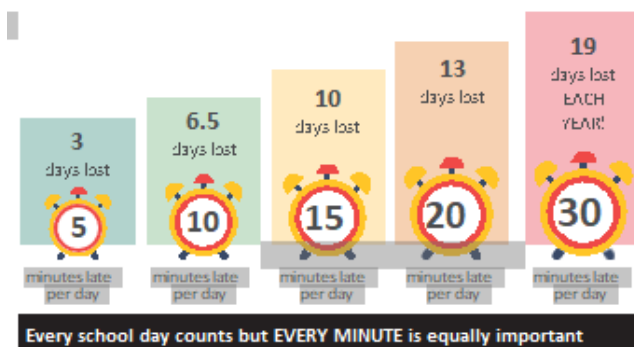
It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child/children attend school. For the safety of all children, it is important parents/carers communicate with the school prior to/at the beginning of the absences. Absences are recorded in class registers and parents/carers will be notified of frequent or irregular absences. If possible, please try to make dental/medical appointments out with school hours. If this is not possible, please inform the school of the appointment details and arrange to collect your child from school.

We understand that personal circumstances can result in poor attendance or regular late coming for your child and are sympathetic to this. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to contact our child's school direct.

Dumfries and Galloway Council have developed a dedicated resource hub for parents and carers, where you will find support and guidance in relation to supporting your child's regular attendance at school. Resources can be found at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/schoolattendance/>

Unexplained Absences/Lateness



Parents/carers are asked to ensure that:

- The school is informed if the child or young person will be late.
- The school is notified of any absence before 9am on the first day, and that further calls, before 9am, are made on every subsequent day of the absence. The school may contact you directly if there are any concerns about a child's absence.
- Contact telephone numbers, whether for home, for parents at work or for other emergency contacts, are kept up to date and are generally numbers where a response will be received. This is particularly important with mobile phone numbers. Please update your child's school if you change your mobile number. This is essential as the school may need to contact you if your child is ill or there is an emergency.
- The school is kept informed of the absence and the likely return date.
- Any planned absences are officially notified to the school in advance.
- School is informed before 1.15pm if a child is not returning to school after lunch because of becoming unwell over that period.
- Latecomers report to the school office on arrival at school.

Staff will ensure that absences are checked every day and follow up the whereabouts of any child for whom that has been no explanation provided. The safeguarding of all children is of paramount importance.

Absence from School

In Secondary Schools, Pupils who need to leave school during the school day are required to sign out at the school office and provide their reason for leaving. They must also report to the school office on their return to school. The school requires a written notification of any

absences. The school requires a notification of any planned absences, and this should be provided following individual school arrangements.

18.2 NWCC Procedure for Attendance/Absence

Parents are legally required to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any absence could adversely affect your child's progress at school. We therefore require that, if your child is absent for any reason, you phone the school office to provide details of the absence.

In addition, North West Community Campus uses a system called Group call, which allows us to contact you more quickly and efficiently. Group call gives us the ability to send text messages to your mobile phones or make automated telephone calls to your landline. We can use this facility to get a message to one parent or the whole school very quickly.

Group call email will be our first method of reaching parents, so it is important that your contact information is kept 'up to date'. Please ensure that the school office has all your current contact details, especially your current mobile phone number and preferred email address, and advise us immediately if any of these numbers change.

In view of the pressure of work during the school year, we ask parents to make every effort to arrange their annual holiday to coincide with the school holidays. Where this is not possible, we require a note several days in advance requesting permission for the pupil to be absent from school. Parents should note that the school is now required to record pupil's absence for family holidays during term time as unauthorised absence.

Pupils who are absent for lengthy periods due to illness may request work for home study. Parents

are asked to contact the school, requesting to speak to a Pupil Support Teacher

In the Secondary, parents should contact a Depute Head Teacher or the Principal Teacher Pupil Support with responsibility for their child, to discuss provision required and how best to support their child with their school work through the period of absence.

Attendance Procedures

We would like to remind you of our Absence Procedures as directed by the authority:

- Parents are asked to telephone the school by 8.50am advising that their child will not be in school on that day and explain the reason e.g. cold, flu, sickness bug. If this phone call takes place, a follow-up note is not required. A Group call text will be sent if no notification of absence is given - **you must reply to this**. Failure to do this can result in your child having absences categorised as unauthorised.
- If your child is, absent for more than one day you must phone the school each morning. However, if it is clear the absence will continue for longer, please discuss with our office staff who will confirm the number of days of absence, which will be recorded.
- If your child is sent home from school either unwell or because they have sustained an injury, we cannot assume that this is the reason for absence the next day so please still phone the school if they are going to be absent.
- For pupils out of school on a family holiday or other extended absence, which is, known in advance, prior permission must be sought by writing to the Head Teacher. Any other planned absences such as appointments, music exam, driving

- The nature of the appointment and notification of the person collecting them. This note should be handed to
- your child's teacher first thing in the morning. The note should provide details of the reason for the absence as this would determine the code entered by office staff when recording the information.
- In line with authority guidelines, attendance for all pupils is expected to be more than 95% and those pupils who fall below this figure may receive a letter relating to this. Failure to follow authority guidelines can result in your child having absences categorised as unauthorised.

Additional information for Secondary pupils:

- Communication regarding pupil absences is also particularly relevant to pupils receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance. Unauthorised absences will result in the young person not being paid for that week.
- Pupils in the Secondary must always let the school office know when they are leaving and returning to school during the normal school day, signing in and out as required.

achievements can be recognised. The process of profiling is ongoing and progressive for all learners throughout their school years (2-18yrs). It is important that profiling be seen within the context of career education.

This provides information on how as a parent you can support your child's decisions by encouraging them to talk about their strengths, skills and interests.

In Secondary Schools, the end of S3 represents an important milestone in every young person's education. By the end of S3 all young people will have completed the Broad General Education (BGE) Phase of Curriculum for Excellence. Young people should have produced their own profile, supported by staff, which gives a reliable and full account of their progress and achievements to date. It should include a focus on what they feel are their latest and best successes and the skills they have developed. Parents should know why this is produced and support their child/children in the process.

18.3 Home Learning/Homework

School will provide information on the purpose of homework/ school policy on homework/ what can parents do to support homework and how homework is shared.

18.4 Pupil Profiles

A pupil profile is a snapshot of a child's or young person's best achievements at a given point in time. Profiles are primarily aimed at learners and their parents and draw together a range of information about a child or young person's learning. It is one of the ways in which a learner's

18.5 How is my Child doing (Assessment and Reporting)(Secondary)

‘Assessment’ is the word used to describe all the things which schools do to see how your child is getting on, what they are learning and what they know and understand. It is important to know how each child is getting on so that schools can make sure that each child is progressing and developing according to their abilities and that their learning needs are well understood by the educational professionals who work with them.

Your child’s progress will not just be based on ‘tests’ but also on how they learn both in class and in other settings and takes a variety of different forms, for example what young people make, say, write or do can all contribute to building up a picture of their learning, progress and possible next steps that can be shared in learning conversations with the young people themselves and with their parents/carers.

Written work will be used to assess your child but so will their ability to take part in class discussions, make presentations, be in a production or team, produce drawings or projects etc.

Parents/carers will be involved both informally in discussion with teachers, looking at their child’s work and also formally through parent’s nights, profiles and reports.

As an Authority some of our schools may wish to reference the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) informing parents that pupils at P1, P4, P7 and S3 complete online standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy as part of everyday learning and teaching. The

assessments help to identify children’s progress, providing diagnostic information to support teachers’ professional judgement.

The assessments are as inclusive as possible to accommodate the needs of children and young people who require additional support. There is no pass or fail and children and young people do not have to revise or prepare for these assessments.

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child’s progress throughout their learning journey. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Learning Conversations that might take various formats including the more traditional and familiar Parents Evening or Afternoon. For some this may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.

Reporting

It is very important that parents be given regular and accurate information about the progress being made by their children.

Teachers will deal appropriately with any poor behaviour, class work, homework, attitude or effort.

It is important that we deal with low-level indiscipline immediately and positively.

Pupil Support and senior staff can gather a very clear picture of a pupil’s behaviour around the school.

Currently every pupil receives at least one report in the course of the school year. Where more than one report is issued, one will be a shorter interim one, followed by a second, fuller, final report.

Reports for pupils in S2-S5 will be issued prior to Option Choices to help provide essential information for this process. S1 pupils receive a less formal settling in report. Pupil reports give information on progress, effort, behaviour and homework and very importantly contain action points which, if followed, will allow pupils to fulfil their potential.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress with each individual teacher. **These meetings work best when parents, teachers and pupils discuss progress together.** This is also an opportunity to meet and discuss career options and further education opportunities with representatives from Skills Development Scotland. In addition to these formal parents' evenings, there are Option Choice Information Evenings and Careers events throughout the school session for parents and pupils to attend.

Tracking Pupil Progress

Pupils will have regular discussions with class teachers about their progress from

S1 to S6. Individual pupil progress is tracked at two points during the academic session for each individual pupil in each subject. This information is sent home to parents through the interim and final pupil reports. Where a pupil is not performing as expected, a member of the Pupil Support Team or Senior

Management Team will speak with the pupil and support them in a variety of ways. This could involve extra academic support, help with homework or help with organisational

skills. By tracking pupil progress in this way, we are able to support each pupil to achieve their best and overcome any barriers to their learning.

Open Door Policy

If any parent has any concern about any aspect of their child's progress or experience as a North West Community Campus pupil, we encourage them to contact the school immediately and request a meeting with the relevant Principal Teacher of Pupil Support, Depute Head Teacher or Head Teacher..

19.0 Support for All

19.1 Pupil Support

Getting it Right for Every Child Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is an approach from Scottish Government that sets out how schools and other services should work with children and their families. GIRFEC is all about ensuring that children get the help they need when they need it – the right help at the right time. The ‘named person service’ is part of our local GIRFEC approach and how we support children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway. For you and your child, GIRFEC means that:

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child means that the school will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

- Every child will have someone in the school who can be the point of contact. The named person function is there if needed, but children and families do not have to make use of their named person, and many children and their families will never need to do so.
- In primary schools the named person is likely to be the Head teacher or the deputy head teacher. In secondary school, it is likely to a child’s pupil support teacher. These members of school staff already have existing roles in
 - providing help and support to children and their families.
 - If your child has complex needs and needs help from several different services, GIRFEC means that all these services must work together for you and your child. In these instances, a ‘lead professional’ will be agreed from within the network of practitioners who are working with your child and family and this

person will coordinate the support for your child.

For more information on getting it right for every child in Scotland visit

www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/ For any local enquiries please email GIRFEC@dumgal.gov.uk
Child Protection

Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. Every adult in Scotland has a role in ensuring all our children and young people live safely and can have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and childcare services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well. Further information can be found at [Spot the signs of child abuse | Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership](#)

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same. Child abuse is any action by another person, adult or child, that causes significant harm to a child. www.dgppp.org.uk

There is an expectation that drugs, cigarettes, vapes and weapons will not be brought onto the school environment. In responding to drug/substance or weapons related incidents, schools will follow education authority guidelines. In all such circumstances, parents/carers will be contacted, and their cooperation expected. Police Scotland will be involved if drug use is suspected or discovered; this initially may be through the School’s Youth Engagement Officer. If there are concerns regarding the possession, threat

or use of a weapon Police Scotland will be informed.

All schools and early learning and childcare settings in Dumfries and Galloway are expected to record any unusual incidents or concerns they may have about a child. Normally this information will be shared with parents/carers when issues of concern arise.

The wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for all schools. As a result, all schools have child protection co-ordinators who will work with children, families and supporting partners in matters relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection. The Child Protection Co-ordinator is also the single point of contact for PREVENT.

Prevent sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs and physical and sexual exploitation. Prevent is one part of the government's **overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST**.

The aim of Prevent is to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

More information on Safeguarding and Child Protection and who the child protection co-ordinator is for each school can be found in the school's handbook, website, or their school app. The name of the Child Protection Co-ordinator and who deputises in their absence should be clearly identified at the front of the school too.

Educational Psychology Service

Dumfries & Galloway Educational Psychology Service is a statutory educational service for children and young people normally resident in, or looked after by, Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Educational Psychologists aim to improve the life chances of all children and young people. Working in partnership with families and other services, we use applied psychology and knowledge of child development to address inequalities, support vulnerability and enhance inclusion.

We seek to ensure that children and young people realise their potential to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

We do this by:

- Working with others in a consultative way to help them make sense of difficulties and make informed choices and decisions
- Sharing knowledge about 'what works' and promoting evidence informed approaches to develop the policy and practice of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in our educational establishments and communities
- Raising awareness of the crucial role of communication, relationships and nurture in children's lives
- Training and developing the skills of other professionals to improve children's attainment and achievement
- Highlighting the interactive nature of assessment, teaching and learning
- Designing and implementing interventions in partnership with others which support individuals and communities to develop resilience and

ensure that children are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included

- Supporting effective transitions (early years into primary, primary to secondary and secondary to post school) to improve the life chances of young people.

Further information about the service is available from the school or on our webpage - www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/22434/Educational-Psychology-Service

This may involve talking to the child, other members of staff or other professionals who may be working with the child.

The Child Protection Co-ordinators in North West Community Campus are:

SI-S6

Mrs K Templeton/Mr B Smith

More information on Safeguarding and Child Protection and who the child protection co-ordinator is for each school can be found in the school's handbook, website, or their school app. The name of the Child Protection C

19.2 Pastoral Care/Anti Bullying

Scottish-based research indicates that schools, where attainment is higher than expected for their catchment area, demonstrate positive relationships throughout the school community and that children and young people are involved meaningfully in decisions, which affect them at all levels of the school.

Adults should establish open, positive and supportive relationships where children and young people feel safe, secure and listened to in their ability to discuss sensitive issues. It is essential that all adults' model behaviour, which promotes positive relationships, and positive behaviours.

All schools should have an anti-bullying policy. This policy must reflect the Dumfries and Galloway guidance, and Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People.

Schools will have different ways of putting the principles of anti-bullying into practice to reflect local environments and culture. Schools should have an approach, which makes it clear that bullying behaviour will be addressed in line with Scottish Government approaches.

The entire school community: teaching and nonteaching staff, pupils and parents, should be involved and must be committed to this and this can be achieved by working together in the development and implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy.

The policy should be reviewed on a regular basis, and schools are currently reviewing and updating their following the advice within this link - [respect me. org.uk/policy/principles-for-policy-development](https://www.respectme.org.uk/policy/principles-for-policy-development)

19.3 Additional Support for Learning

All children receive support at school and nursery to help them learn. 'Additional support for learning is how we describe any support that is extra or different to the help that most children receive. Most of this additional support is provided by teachers in mainstream classes, focused on learning and support to be fully involved in school life.

How We Allocate Learning Assistants in Schools

We use information from SEEMIS, our education data system, to help decide how learning assistant support is shared across schools. This data tells us about the levels of support needed by children with additional support needs.

Instead of assigning specific hours to individual children, we use a formula that helps us fairly distribute learning assistants across all schools in the region. Schools always make sure that children who need the most help get support first, so every child gets the right level of help, at the right times within the school day, to learn and grow.

This approach ensures that schools can use their share of support in the best way possible, making sure the children who need the most assistance, for an activity, receive it as a priority. For nearly all children and young people this will be delivered in a mainstream classroom supported by their classroom teacher for a few this will mean some additional support alongside the classroom teacher, and for a very few this will be part-time or full-time access to a school with a learning centre or an inclusion base.

The provision of additional support for learning is a legal duty for all Councils and schools through the education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 amended in 2009. Additional support should be tailored to the child's individual

needs, build on their strengths and help them overcome any difficulties they are experiencing.

The Presumption of Mainstream (www.gov.scot/publications/guidance-presumption-provide-education-mainstream-setting/) means that most children will be supported in their local mainstream school.

What is Additional Support for Learning (ASL)? If your child is experiencing a barrier to their learning they can be said to have 'Additional Support Needs (ASN). Children may need additional support for short or extended periods of time and for a variety of reasons. The reasons can include:

Disability or Health	Down's syndrome	Visual Impairment	Language or speech disorder	Autism spectrum disorder
	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	Health needs	Physical and motor impairment	Deaf and hearing impaired
Learning environment	English as an additional language	Dyslexia	Highly able pupils	
Family circumstances	Young carers	Separated families	Looked after by the local authority	Interrupted learning
Social and emotional factors	Experiencing bullying behaviour	Social and emotional behavioural needs	Bereavement	Restorative approaches

If you are worried about your child, you should speak to a member of staff in the school in the first instance. The majority of children with Additional Support Needs have them met in the classroom by their teacher, through differentiated teaching approaches.

Further information can be found at [Framework for Inclusion-Getting It Right For All Learners](#)

If worries become concerns, the stated intervention process will escalate the response to an appropriate level of support.

Stages of Intervention Booklet

There are several ways in which concerns about your child's progress can be followed up. This may involve the input of other educational professionals such as Specialist Teachers, Inclusion Specialists, Impairment Specialists and Educational Psychologists.

This may include a request for assistance with the Supporting Learners Service or to Care Experienced Education Team for support from a Care Experienced Teacher or Care Experienced Officer. It may also involve your child being referred to staff in external agencies such as Health staff (Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist etc.).

As a parent you will be actively involved in the process and your views sought throughout. If, after discussion with all concerned, and agreed as appropriate, your child will have an educational plan which will identify how they are to be supported. This plan would likely be either an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Child's Plan.

Your child's progress will be kept under review, and any plans and support will be changed as agreed with you. As a parent you will be actively involved in any review process. A small number of children will require a more detailed planning process which co-ordinates the input of education and other agencies to fully support the child. This plan is called a Co-ordinated Support Plan. The Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP) process is overseen by the Supporting Learners Service with responsibility for Additional Support for Learning. Any additional support needs of your child will primarily be addressed by access to excellent classroom teaching.

Further information on the above is available from the school or on the Council website www.dumgal.gov.uk.

www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16163/Additional-support-for-learning or from the following sources:

- Enquire – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC003527 enquire.org.uk/
- Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC033576 www.siaa.org.uk; or
- Scottish Child Law Centre, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC012741 <http://www.sclc.org.uk/>
- Parents may also access further support through mediation services provided by Common Ground Mediation www.commongroundmediation.co.uk/

Or advocacy support by searching:

- Let's Talk ASN is a free service that helps parents and carers of children with additional support needs handle education disputes. Children aged 16 or 17 years old with additional support needs can also use the service directly. www.disabilityscot.org.uk/organisation/lets-talk-asn-scotland/
- My Rights, My Say is a free support service for children and young people aged between
- 12 and 15. It offers advice and information, advocacy support, and legal representation.

- It also gives children a chance to share their own views about their support. myrightsmysay.scot/
Parents Inclusion Network (PIN) www.parentsinclusionnetwork.org.uk/
- Dumfries and Galloway Advocacy Service is a registered charity and voluntary organisation who offer a free, confidential and personal independent advocacy www.dgadvocacy.co.uk/

- fits with each young person's chosen pathway In Dumfries and Galloway this is delivered via:

Employability Co-ordination Groups (ECG)

Opportunities for young people who don't have a destination, but are planning to leave school, will be discussed at school Employability Coordination Groups (ECGs). Each school has an ECG which meets regularly to consider all pupils (S4- S6). Young people who may not secure a positive destination 6 months prior to leaving will be identified and a personalised plan developed. They will be offered support from a key partner who will work with the young person and the school to appropriate support is in place.

Young people who have been given extra support in school will automatically be considered as part of the ECG to enable the support to continue post school if needed.

DG Works

DG Works is delivered by a team within DG Council and other services across the region. Service support individuals throughout Dumfries and Galloway aged 16-67 who are unemployed, economically inactive or under employed to move into or return to work, upskill or retrain. The service offers one-to-one support from an Employability Key Worker who work with people to access employment opportunities, training courses and programs, develop employability skills and much more.

20.0 Enrolment in School & Catchment in Secondary School

20.1 In school and post school support for young people

Partners across Dumfries and Galloway are committed to the vision that all young people should receive an appropriate offer of post-16 learning, training, employment or personal skills development. This is underpinned by the ambition to achieve 100% positive destinations for all our school leavers in the region, an ambition supported by our Employability and Skills Partnership.

A significant amount of planning is taken place to ensure there are opportunities available for young people on leaving school. These plans are designed to identify the most appropriate offer that matches young people's needs and aspirations.

Plans are based on ensuring that support is:

- offered at the right level
- accessible both in terms of location and local labour market opportunity
- delivered through the right learning method

20.1 In school and post school support for young people

Please email for more information on post school support, the Workplace Skills Award or DFN Project Search – see below:

Website: [DGLEP](#) or [Skills Training Network](#)

Email: DGEmployabilityreferrals@dumgal.gov.uk

Project Search

Support for some individuals with autism and other additional support needs is provided by the two DFN Project Search sites in region. Places are available at the Stranraer and Dumfries sites for up to 12 individual per course. The program is delivered jointly between DG Council Employability and Skills Service and Dumfries and Galloway College.

It delivers in-depth pre-employment training, up to three supported work experience placements and ongoing support for the individuals to secure sustained and permanent employment. The program runs from September to June and recruitment for the program begins in May each year

Website: [Project Search](#)

Email: Projectsearch@dumgal.gov.uk

20.2 Enrolment in School AND Catchment Secondary School

Transfer from primary to secondary school will be dealt with by direct approach to parents from individual primary schools. Our catchment secondary school is North West Community Campus.

Enrolment Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places>

Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest"

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6293>

On completion of their primary education, pupils in North West Community Campus Primary and our cluster primary schools will normally transfer to North West Community Campus.

Transition Activities

We work very closely with all the other primary schools in our cluster to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary for your child.

Early in the academic session, NWCC Secondary organises an information evening for pupils and parents.

Currently, there also begins a series of visits from NWCC staff to the primary to meet the pupils and to discuss each child with their P7 teacher.

During their P7, year pupils attend various events to help them become familiar with the layout of their new school and the staff who will be teaching them, such as enterprise initiatives.

These events also allow the pupils to meet P7s from the other cluster schools who will be their future classmates. Any pupils attending from non-cluster schools will be invited to attend 'non-cluster transition days' in May.

These allow pupils to meet new classmates and teachers before the Induction Days in June. At the end of the year, copies of Pupil Profiles and attainment information are passed on to secondary staff.

These are shared with subject specialists as appropriate, so that they can ensure your son or daughter has the best start to their secondary education.

Induction Days P7 pupils attend their chosen secondary for 3 full days, normally in the second or third last week of the summer term. They follow their S1 timetable on these days. This is an opportunity for them to find out who will be in their classes and what their timetable will be for the following session.

Pupils are well supported during the induction days, and generally really enjoy the experience.

Support Available

For most pupils, the above support is sufficient to ensure a smooth transition to secondary. However, where appropriate, enhanced arrangements can be put in place for pupils who might benefit from greater support.

This may be because they have received behaviour or learning support in the past, or often it can be because they do

not find it easy to make new friends and are anxious about a change of school.

If you have any concerns about your son or daughter's transition to secondary, please discuss these concerns with us as early as possible.

Career choices

Throughout each pupil's time at NWCC, support, guidance and information are provided to encourage pupils to plan positively for their future career choices. Pupils receive careers/options interviews at the end of S3, S4 and S5.

In addition, as they prepare to leave school, senior pupils receive individual support in choosing and applying for courses in either further or higher education, apprenticeships or other employment or gap year activities.

All our S4, S5 and S6 pupils have access to a Careers Advisor who will assist them in uploading useful links received from Universities and Colleges who are offering a wide variety of support and guidance as well as information on Apprenticeships, Virtual Open Days and Work Experience Opportunities.

This information will support our students with course choices and is excellent preparation for their next steps into further education and employment.

After pupils leave North West Community Campus, they are encouraged to update the school on their progress.

Their achievements can be an inspiration to others to work towards their own goals.

Useful links

A recommended starting point for all pupils considering their future career pathway is the

Planitplus website:

<https://www.planitplus.net/>.

Information can also be found by visiting the following sites:

UK Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/findcourse>.

Employment of Pupils

Pupils should notify their PT Pupil Support that they intend to take up part-time employment. PTs Pupil Support will discuss pupil employment procedures with the pupil and encourage the pupil and their parents/carers to read the Scottish Government Guidance on Employment of Children. Anyone who employs a young person on a part-time basis (aged between 13 and 16) must obtain a Permit to Undertake

Employment. Parents, young people, the school and the employer should ensure that all relevant paperwork held at the school is completed

20.2 DG Schools Connect

DG Schools Connect is our digital school offer for session 2025-26. Starting in June 2025 this will bring increased option choices to S5 and S6 secondary learners across Dumfries and Galloway.

Many of our learners are educated in rural and remote schools and many of our schools are also small with less than 400 learners. This makes it difficult to ensure a wide and equitable range of subject offers in the Senior Phase.

In common with many local authorities across Scotland we are now able to offer access to a wide range of subjects through live online classes delivered by teachers in our schools.

All secondary schools in Dumfries and Galloway have now aligned their school timetable structures to make this a real possibility. DG Schools Connect is a live delivery, with a teacher planning, delivering and assessing learning. It offers a range of courses which may not have been available to learners previously in their own schools. S5 and S6 learners are able to engage in a range of opportunities, including Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, Foundation Apprenticeships and music awards. This will enhance their learner pathways.

Participation in the programme will also ensure young people have the opportunity to develop essential digital skills required for learning, life and work.

For further information on DG Schools Connect please see [DG Schools Connect](#)

Pupil Profiles

A pupil profile is a snapshot of a child's or young person's best achievements at a given point in time. Profiles are primarily aimed at learners and their parents and draw together a range of information about a child or young person's learning.

It is one of the ways in which a learner's achievements can be recognised. The process of profiling is ongoing and progressive for all learners throughout their school years (2-18yrs). It is important that profiling is seen within the context of career education.

This provides information on how as a parent you can support your child's decisions by encouraging them to talk about their strengths, skills and interests.

In Nursery, your child will have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) or 'Special Book' or in an online platform. This will be a record of your child's progress and achievements throughout their time in nursery and will include photographs, samples of work and staff comments. Your child will be involved in creating their PLP and talking about their learning.

We would like parents/carers to add items and comments to the PLP and to contribute to planning for your child.

In Primary Schools, nationally it has been agreed that profiles will be produced at P7 although working towards profiles may start earlier than this. Parents are involved in supporting their child/children in this process.

In Secondary Schools, the end of S3 represents an important milestone in every young person's education.

By the end of S3 all young people will have completed the Broad General Education (BGE) Phase of Curriculum for Excellence.

Young people should have produced their own profile, supported by staff, which gives a reliable and full account of their progress and achievements to date.

It should include a focus on what they feel are their latest and best successes and the skills they have developed.

Parents should know why this is produced and support their child/children in the process.



21.0 School Improvement Plan 2025/2026

21.0 Improvement Planning and Priorities

Our improvement plan priorities for this session are as follows:

Empowering Learner Voice, Leadership and Participation

Ensuring that young people staff and parents participate fully in shaping school life.

Excellence in Learning, Teaching & Assessment –

Continuing to improve the quality of learning and teaching in the school to ensure our learners have the very best learning experience possible.

Equity, Inclusion and Skills for life and work

Continuing to improve school attendance and find solutions for learners and families who struggle to have their child regularly attend school. Skills Academy and partnership working to improve our curriculum offering.

Improvement planning and priorities

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's website and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools

All staff, pupils, parents and partners, should be involved in improving the life and work of the school. A School Improvement Plan is written by the Headteacher and staff but should reflect a range of stakeholders who take lead roles in aspects of school.

improvement. The Parent Council plays a key role in this, and Parent Councils should have arrangements in place for gathering the views of parents.

It is important to acknowledge that the gathering of views is significant to creating an intense sense of school community that will help to inform decision making. However, ultimately decisions will be made by the Headteacher who has the responsibility for:

- Staffing and how best to allocate resources.
- Curriculum design and how best to deliver this to meet the needs of learners.

Classroom Organisation / timetabling to support individual needs as part of the whole school ethos.

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team of the school are best placed to deliver the necessary support and provide appropriate communication to key stakeholders regarding the application and impact of Council policy, improvement planning and the school priorities, so we would always encourage parents/carers to engage with their school in the first instance.

You can find more about your school's performance information by visiting: Education Improvement Plan 2023 to 2027 Dumfries and Galloway Council

And Parentzone Scotland School Information Dashboard where you are able to search for data on your own school. School Information Dashboard/My School/Parentzone Scotland/Education Scotland

For information regarding the following please visit:

Staffing:- Appendix 2.9 – SCNT Handbook

Curriculum Design:- Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence

Classroom Organisation:- (New sway link to be added)

21.2 Wider Achievement

Wider Achievement means everything that children learn from hobbies, interests, and volunteering, part-time jobs and so on. The skills they gain from these are important for young people for life, and for their future college, university and job applications. These skills are valued by employers and are an important part of your child's learning and development. The National Parent Forum of Scotland has made a guide for parents, which can be accessed here

You will probably hear teachers use the words 'wider achievement'. This means everything that children learn from hobbies, interests, and volunteering, part-time jobs and so on.

The skills they gain from these are important for young people for life, and for their future college, university and job applications. These skills are valued by employers and are an important part of your child's learning and development.

This Nutshell explains what wider achievement means so you can support your child at home and understand what is offered at school.

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), which all children follow from age 3 to 18, is not all about classrooms and exam results. There is also an emphasis on young people 'achievements' in the widest sense, and on the skills they need for life, learning and work. Young people acquire these in all sorts of different ways, in and out of school. Under CfE, results and qualifications (attainment) and life and work skills that come from all kinds of activities (achievement) are equally important.

As a parent, one of the best ways you can help your child is to encourage them to learn new things, and to be proud of what they can do. Some young people take part in activities like swimming or drama and youth groups like guides/scouts.

These are not available in every area, and they may be too expensive for many parents. However, young people do need opportunities to learn and develop.

They will get many chances at school. In addition, what you do with them at home counts for a huge amount. It can be as simple as involving them in cooking meals, or taking them to the swimming pool or library, exploring the local park, or visiting neighbours and family.

Whatever opportunities you can give them, whether it is teaching them to ride a bike or to make a pot of soup, it helps your child learn something useful and gain confidence and a sense of satisfaction.

In this way, they learn skills for life like getting on with other people, being helpful, respectful, and adaptable and open to new ideas, being creative and taking responsibility

Wider achievement is about the skills for life and work those children, young people gain from hobbies, and interests like sport, mentoring, voluntary work or fundraising whether at home, school, college or elsewhere.

21.2 What schools are doing about wider achievement?

Schools want children and young people of all ages to value and be proud of what they learn out with the classroom, as well as in it. They want to give credit to pupils for what they are doing. The words they use for this are 'recognising achievement'.

Nursery, primary and secondary schools are encouraging young people to develop themselves and their abilities in and out of school. As well as formal teaching (the curriculum), schools now offer all sorts of opportunities like:

- ❖ **School shows**
- ❖ **School newspapers**
- ❖ **Clubs Bands and orchestras**
- ❖ **Paired reading/ buddying**
- ❖ **Eco groups**
- ❖ **Charity/ fundraising activities**
- ❖ **Sports**
- ❖ **Outdoor activities**

Many run 'wider achievement' days and events for different year groups.

It is worth looking at your school's website to see if it has a page on 'wider achievement' where you can find out more so you can talk to your child about opportunities in and out of school.

What schools want to know?

To help young people value what they are learning outside school, schools need to know about their interests and successes. Therefore, they are encouraging pupils and their parents to share this information with them. That is where you come in. It is good if you can encourage your child, or for you, to tell your child's teacher(s) about any interests and successes.

Your child and/or teachers can then add this information to the pupil profile, which goes with your child as they move through the school. It means that teachers and, in time, colleges/universities and employers can see the bigger picture about your child. In addition, your child can see this too.

Wider Achievement Awards

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) offers Wider Achievement Awards to secondary school pupils. Your child can take these alongside the National Qualifications that they study in the senior phase of secondary school (S4 to S6).

To find out more, visit [sqa.org.uk/wider achievement](https://sqa.org.uk/wider-achievement)

Wider Achievement Awards are flexible, and they recognise volunteering skills, citizenship, leadership, employability, wellbeing, personal development and much more. You can find out more at: sqa.org.uk/awards.

NWCC offers awards as part of the timetable, such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Personal Development and Saltire Awards. There is information about these and other awards at awardsnetwork.org/parents

These awards fit with the Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and give pupils credits. You can see the SCQF at [scqf.org.uk/ interactive-framework](https://scqf.org.uk/interactive-framework)

You can check to see if a programme is on the SCQF at: [scqf.org.uk/ the-framework/search-database](https://scqf.org.uk/the-framework/search-database)

Many programmes fit with the SCQF that your child might do at school or in their spare time.

Anything they do should go into their pupil profile or CV.

There is information for parents about this at bit.ly/scqf_lealet

What you can do now

- Encourage your child to learn new things and to value itself, at any age
- Find out what your school offers as ‘wider achievement’
- Encourage your child to take part (speak to the school if there are costs which you can’t afford)
- Encourage your child to tell their teacher(s) about their achievements and to record this on their pupil profile
- Check to see if their achievements are being recognised and celebrated by the school
- At parent’s evenings ask your school how it is promoting and recognising non-academic achievement
- Find out more at the links above

This leaflet is part of the Curriculum for Excellence series, which also includes Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell npfs.org.uk/2019/06/cfe-in-a-nutshell-2
Senior phase in a Nutshell
npfs.org.uk/2019/06/senior-phase-in-a-nutshell

See other NPFS Nutshells at:
npfs.org.uk/downloads Curriculum for Excellence fact file
www2.gov.scot/resource/doc/920/0121215.pdf
 Scottish Qualifications Authority: wider achievement sqa.org.uk/sqa/80033.html Parents as partners in their children’s learning education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parents-as-partners-toolkit.pdf

22.0 Health & Safety

22.1 Emergency Procedures Including Safer Together

If your child feels unwell or has hurt themselves during the school day, they must report this to staff in the school. If we feel that they would be better at home, we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g., cuts, bruises, will be dealt with by the school staff. Thankfully, serious accidents are rare, but should one occur, you or your emergency contact will be notified, and you will be asked to collect your child (unless the accident results in serious harm in which case the school will call an ambulance directly). We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e., your own home, work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. We will request such information at the beginning of each new school year. Please update this as necessary.

Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.

There are some emergency situations, when circumstances in the vicinity of the school could endanger the safety of the school community. Pupils, visitors and staff must stay within the school to remain safe during situations like this. The event could be a road accident outside of the school, intruders, a spillage/leakage, or a loose animal. Parents can request, from the school office, additional information regarding Education.

Support Services Safer Together Inside guidance and procedures, if needed. Schools should also reference Education Support Services Safer Together Inside guidance and procedures and make this available to parents on request.

22.2 Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Head Teachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances, parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

Parents can help the school by planning for any potential school closure by monitoring weather reports and checking on the Council Website.

[Emergency school closures | Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

It is the responsibility of parents to make sensible decisions on behalf of their children when weather conditions are severe. If they have concerns about their children travelling between home and school, they should “play safe” and keep them at home.

Parents must also set up a support network where a trusted friend can look after their children. These emergency contacts will be logged in SEEMIS against the child and called in the event of school closure if the parent cannot call to collect their child or be at home when they arrive

22.3 Health Care (inc First Aid)

The Education and Learning Directorate is committed to ensuring that all children can fully participate in the life of the school. Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the Secondary environment, for most children this will be for short periods only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements.

Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS, Dumfries, and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

The First Aid Regulations do not require employers to provide first aid for anyone other than their own employees. However, schools provide a service to pupils, and this may require first aiders to receive additional training above the legal minimum requirement so that they are able to act competently, for example additional training in paediatric first aid if operating in a primary school or early learning centre (ELC).

Schools should make clear that they have staff with responsibility for first aid with appropriate training that includes administering first aid, reporting in line with the Accident and Incident Reporting procedures and keeping a record of first aid administered.

When assessing first aid needs for schools, this must include the likely risks to pupils, visitors, as well as to staff. To ascertain what first aid provision each school will require; a first aid needs risk assessment is undertaken. This assessment needs to consider the circumstances of the workplace, the hazards and risks that may be present, and the workforce.

Accident statistics can indicate the most common injuries, times, locations, and activities at a particular school. These can be a useful tool in risk assessment, highlighting areas to concentrate on and tailor the first aid provision to.

Accidents

Serious accidents are few, but should one occur, parents are contacted immediately. An ambulance will be called if necessary.

Emergency Contact

Please note the emphasis placed on supplying the school with a telephone number for emergency contact. This is normally your home or work number, or that of a relative or near neighbour if; you do not have a phone in the house. Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting then contact details should take account of this. You can have more than one emergency contact.

Fire Evacuation and Lock Down

We have termly fire evacuation and lockdown practices to ensure that all members of staff and pupils are aware of the procedures in the event of an emergency. Procedures are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure staff and pupil safety.

22.4 Vaccinations & Health Support

Vaccinations and Health Support

The NHS deliver an annual school-based vaccination programme. These vaccines are offered free of charge and are delivered during the normal school day.



The Child flu vaccine is offered to all young people from P1 through to S6 from September to December each year. The flu vaccine is usually a nasal spray and will reduce the risk of your child getting or spreading flu to friends and family who are at greater risk from flu. Further information on the Child flu vaccine can be found on the NHS Inform website:

[Child flu vaccine](#)

The teenage booster for diphtheria, tetanus and polio (DTP) is offered to all young people in S3 as part of the routine childhood schedule. The DTP vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus and polio. These are serious diseases that can be life-threatening. You need a total of 5 doses of the DTP vaccine to build up immunity. This will give longer-term protection. You should have had:

- the first 3 doses as a baby
- the fourth dose before you started primary school (after turning 3 years and 4 months)

meningitis and septicemia (blood poisoning), which are caused by meningococcal bacteria A, C, W and Y.

This will be delivered in school January to March. Further information on the MenACWY vaccine can be found on the NHS Inform website: [Meningitis ACWY](#)

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is offered from S1-S6 for those who missed 2 doses as a child. The MMR vaccine helps to protect people against measles, mumps and rubella. These are highly infectious viral diseases. They can cause serious medical complications. Further information on the MenACWY vaccine can be found on the NHS Inform website:

[Immunisation | NHS inform](#)

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is offered to all S1 pupils. This vaccine protects young people against future risks as HPV can lead to various cancer. This will be delivered in school January to March.

Further information on the HPV vaccine can be found on the NHS Inform website: [HPV](#)

[Vaccine](#)

For all these vaccination campaigns, you should receive a consent pack via the school to allow you to fill in the consent forms and return to the school. We recommend that the young person gets agreement from their parent or carer to have the vaccine, however, it is not always necessary

22.5 Data Protection

Each year, your child/young person's school will send home a copy of the personal data we hold about your child/young person as part of our annual update process. If at any other time you would like to review information held as part of your child's educational record, you can do so as part of the Access to Educational Record legislation. In the first instance, you should contact the Head teacher at your school to make this request.

An "Educational Record" means any record of information (Excluding a Record of Needs) which relates to the school education of the pupil in question, and which originated from a teacher, any other employee of the Authority, the pupil or his/her parent. It will, in most instances, be the information held in the pupils' personal file (PPR) and in their electronic SEEMiS record.

Schools Privacy Notice

www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/24263/PrivacyNotice-Schools/pdf/Privacy-Notice-SchoolsApril-2021.pdf?m=637570383275100000

What personal information do we collect from you and why do we need it?

Data about children and young people includes, name, date of birth, gender, and address, racial or ethnic origin, religion. It will also include information about any additional support needs and any relevant medical conditions.

Data about the pupils' family will include names, addresses, email, phone number, emergency contact details and family situation.

Data held will also include pupil progress, assessments and exam results. It will also include records of attendance, absence and any exclusions.

We will hold data about when and where the pupil goes after they leave Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC)/School. This includes information about their next setting, career paths or intended destinations.

If your child is accessing school transport and school meals, data will be shared with School Mainstream Transport Team/Contractors and Enterprising DG.

When we record and use personal data, we will only collect and use what we need. We will keep it securely, and those that have legitimate reason to will only access it. We will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary and will follow the Council's Record Retention Schedule and archival procedures.

Sharing pupil data

If a child/young person moves Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC)/School, we have a legal obligation to pass on information to their new ELCC/ School/education authority.

Sometimes we also receive information about a child/young person from other organisations, such as NHS, Police Scotland, Social Work, Additional Support Services and sometimes other organisations or groups connected to the pupil's education.

We also need to share pupil information with other organisations. Law requires us to pass certain information about our pupils to the Scottish Government and to other services/departments within the Council. This data is for statistical purposes.

We share your data with third parties who process it on our behalf, including the operator of our Education Management Information System, our schools' intranet GLOW, and our text-messaging provider Group call.

For more details about this processing, please contact miss@dumgal.gov.uk. Dumfries and Galloway Council take the security of your data seriously and access to SEEMiS is restricted to approved staff and by username and password only.

The Council's Data Protection Policies and Procedures make clear that all staff have a responsibility to ensure that they handle personal data appropriately and that suitable organisational security measures are in place. To prevent unauthorised disclosure, hard copies of data are stored securely at your child's nursery or school.

Dumfries and Galloway Council need to ensure you and your child's personal data remains accurate, to assist with this, please ensure you keep your nursery and school up to date with any changes. For example, if you do not inform the school that you have moved to a new house, this may result in your personal data being sent to an incorrect address.

If you would like to access any information we hold, then you can do so under the Pupils' Educational Records (Scotland) Regulations 2003, by making a request to your child's school in the first instance.

More Information or Concerns

For more information on how Dumfries and Galloway Council uses personal data, and to know more about your information rights including who to contact if you have a concern.

If you have any concerns about data sharing you can discuss this with the school office, or data protection officer at the Council via

dataprotection@dumgal.gov.uk

Under the data protection law, you have the right to access and receive a copy of your and/or your child's personal data and other supplementary information. This is commonly referred to as a subject of access request or 'SAR'.

The Authority is required to make the SAR available within one calendar month. If you wish to submit a SAR, please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection

22.5 Information and Communication Technologies

Digital Citizenship, Pupil Safe and Responsible Use of Technology

The Authority has an overall Policy and Procedure for the use and application of ICT in schools. We recognise that social media and mobile phone technology has potential benefits for learning and teaching, therefore the authority has produced guidelines for the use of technology, mobile phones, digital images and use of social media.

Schools take images of pupils for various reasons e.g. the prospectus; ceremonies (recognition of achievement, Prize Giving, Sports Day etc.); functions (discos, charity events etc.); curricular activities (Communication Passports, performance in sport/ dance, field trips etc.); extra-curricular activities (school sports fixtures, school excursions, class outings etc.). Images are also used to create a record of an event to show to participants, other pupils and parents/carers. To do this, photographs are displayed throughout the school; videos and photographs are shown to parents/ carers, staff and others; media coverage arranged; prospectuses are published and distributed.

The Authority has a policy on the use of images of pupils. You will be asked to read this when your child enrolls and to clarify your consent about the publication of images of your child, but you can amend your permission at any time by contacting the school office. Please ask at the school office to see a copy.

We also provide additional guidance for parents and families on how we use Digital Learning in learning. For more information on what is used and how you can support your child's learning please visit Safe Digital Learning and Social Media [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media](#)

In addition, there is growing understanding and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) despite being around for a long time. The older kind, called Traditional AI, follows rules to help it make decisions or give advice.

For example, voice assistants like Siri or Alexa use this kind of AI to answer your questions. Netflix also uses it to suggest what you might want to watch next.

Generative AI (or Gen AI) is a newer type of AI. It can create new things like pictures, stories, music, and more. It learns by looking at lots of examples from the internet. This kind of AI can be used by teachers to make learning materials. Some Gen AI tools, like Google Gemini or Adobe Express, are available in Glow for teachers and

- ***pupils to use. These tools use enhanced protections to keep data private and safe.**
- ***Age restrictions apply**

This [Parents Guide to Generative AI](#) from Common Sense Education might be useful for parents/carers who want to understand more

to see a copy of any of the policies mentioned on this page or for any school specific guide.

22.6 Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that children and young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being updated. We have a policy for using the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

Please ask your school office if you wish to see a copy of any of policies mentioned on this page or for any school specific guidance.



Comments, Complaints and Compliments

Your feedback can help shape and improve the service you receive.

It is important for us to understand your experience of dealing with Dumfries and Galloway Council. If there is an area where we could do better, we want to learn from your experience and improve how we deliver our services.

A comment might be about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action. You may suggest an improvement to what we do or a change to how we operate. If you have something you would like to raise, we will always ask you to discuss any concerns / issues you have initially with your:

- Nursery manager/primary class teacher if the enquiry relates to classroom practice.
- Head teacher if the enquiry relates to whole school matters or you require an unresolved classroom issue to be discussed further.
- Parent Council and/or Connect (the membership organisation to support your Parent Council) if your enquiry relates to whole school matters linked to Parental Involvement.
- In secondary, the teacher with responsibility for Personal Social and Emotional Supervision followed by the Head teacher.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can Askus to Look Again. You can do this by contacting.

ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk. At this point an Officer will contact you and discuss the issue and direct the enquirer as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/council-elections/have-your-say

If you remain dissatisfied and wish to make a formal complaint

If you remain dissatisfied, the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Directorate operates within the complaints handling procedures for Dumfries and Galloway Council. Information on this can be found on the [Have Your Say](#) as above and [Make a complaint online](#)

Normally, you must make your complaint within six months of the event you want to complain about. If you feel that the time limit should not apply to your complaint, please tell us why.

Compliments

It is important for us to know when we are getting it right. If you have positive feedback about a service or staff member, it is useful for us to know. When we receive a compliment, it is passed on to the relevant manager and fed back to the staff involved in delivering that service.

Make a comment or compliment

If you don't want to speak to the service directly and you want to provide feedback on how we have handled a situation or delivered a service, or you want to give us a compliment you can do this [online Comments and Compliments](#)

Child Friendly Complaints

The national Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has been working on an original approach to handle complaints that involve children, to ensure the complaints procedures under their remit meet children's rights under www.unicef.org.uk/ the UNCRC.

With the help of children, young people and staff from a wide range of public bodies including Dumfries and Galloway, SPSO have co-designed seven Child Friendly Complaints Handling Principles which have been agreed by the Scottish Government. The SPSO expect all public bodies under their jurisdiction to take these into consideration when handling complaints involving children.

The process guidance can be found here – www.spsso.org.uk. By taking this approach of focusing on core principles supported by best practice guidance, SPSO hopes to provide us with the flexibility to continue with existing local good practice, whilst also providing detailed step-by-step guidance for those who would find it useful.

