



Ulva Primary School Curriculum Rationale



At Ulva Primary School, we have designed and continue to design a curriculum that prepares children to thrive. There are many things about our location that impact on the skills we believe young people require to build during their primary school life, and develop beyond their time at Ulva Primary School.

Ulva Primary School is situated at Ulva Ferry where there is a boat link to the charming Isle of Ulva. We are an island community and because of this, water safety is an essential aspect of school life. Children receive twelve weeks of swimming tuition in every stage of primary school. This progressive and individualised programme helps give all children the confidence to be safe and enjoy water and then refines their water proficiency as they progress.

Our unique locality provides both an inspiration and instructional potential. Children learn Gaelic and perform at the local Mod. They also learn about the history of our area including The Vikings, The Clearances and they learn about the surrounding islands such as Iona, Ulva and Inch Kenneth. Another important part of the learning that takes place within the school is the impact of pollution, particularly sea pollution. We regularly organise beach cleans and we use the beach nearby the school for our outdoor learning.

Ulva primary school has excellent relationships with the community. We have worked closely with the local residents to find out how we could support each other and build partnerships. This has resulted in the pupils forming and running enterprise businesses, providing regular cafés for the community, developing rich learning through this meaningful context and benefitting from the expertise of members of the local community regularly coming in and working with us. We support the work undertaken by Ulva Community School Association (USCA) and are very grateful for their continued support of the school. Our profile in the community has been raised with the external work we have undertaken i.e. beach clean events, Cyclesportive and other social events. Our work has been recognised by: UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools awarding us our Silver Award in November 2019, The Scottish Engineering Leaders Award and Scottish Enterprise Academy. We were also delighted to be awarded a Gold Award from the Woodland Trust in October 2020.

Ulva Primary School and Lochdonhead Primary School are shared primaries and together with Dervaig, Salen and Tobermory, form the North Mull Cluster Group, This provides close links within the area, prevents educational isolation of pupils and staff and provides opportunities for pupils to mix prior to their transfer to Tobermory High School.

The local employment opportunities in our area include; farming, fishing, fish farming, tourism, retail, wildlife, construction and many small businesses. There are few large local employers and this is why enterprise features largely in our curriculum. By building entrepreneurial skills and attitudes, children learn to identify opportunities, calculate risk, profit and loss and carry out entrepreneurial activities. The skills involved in these projects, which happen every year, are progressive and staff moderate the planning, teaching and assessment of these projects to ensure they develop our young workforce.

Many of our children will, at some point in their lives, leave the Isle of Mull to study, work or live in other areas. We feel that technology will play a large part in how they will communicate, and as such technologies in the curriculum is explicitly taught and widely used to augment learning across the curriculum. We also feel it is vital to be outward facing and to teach the children at Ulva Primary School what life in other localities is like. This takes various forms from comparative studies of localities and learning about global issues to teaching the main aspects and beliefs of faith systems and religions around the world as well as how to assess risk and stay safe in a variety of contexts.

The world is a quickly changing place and many of the pupils currently in our school will enter a working economy and landscape that is very different from the present. It is difficult to predict what technology will be like, what employment opportunities there will be and what knowledge successful adults will have in order to thrive. For this reason, there are certain skills and attributes that we constantly seek to foster in order that they become and remain effective lifelong learners.

Every year children partake in interdisciplinary learning projects that focus on research and presentation, leadership and enterprise as well as one aspect of life that is currently relevant. We believe this helps instill the success creating skills and attributes that young people will need to thrive as they grow. Coupled with the life and ethos of the school, partnership work and wider achievement and discreet courses form a rounded and balanced curriculum.

We are a rights respecting school and this underpins our school ethos. The culture and ethos of Ulva School is positive and focussed on the needs of all staff, partners and learners. Our staff feel empowered and motivated to take decisions and lead aspects of school improvement. We provide an active, safe, nurturing and caring environment in which all pupils achieve their full potential and have the confidence and skills to meet the challenges of the future.

The core values that sit at the heart of our curriculum and everyday life of the school are: **Kind, Respectful** and **Hard-working**.