

# Northmuir Primary School

## Session 24-25



Northmuir Primary School

91 Roods Kirriemuir Angus

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

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## WELCOME TO NORTHMUIR PRIMARY AND NURSERY

This handbook is designed to guide you around our school. It begins with the location of the school and the full staff list. The information it contains is updated annually.



## CONTACT DETAILS AND LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL

<b>School Name</b>	Northmuir Primary School
<b>Address</b>	91 Roods, Kirriemuir, Angus. DD8 4HA
<b>Telephone Number</b>	01575 52605
<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<a href="mailto:Northmuir@angusschools.org.uk">Northmuir@angusschools.org.uk</a>
<b>Twitter Account</b>	@northmuirschool
<b>Head Teacher</b>	Miss Liz Langlands
<b>Depute Head Teacher</b>	Mrs Ashley Arbuckle
<b>Principal Teachers</b>	Mrs Kirsty Marshall, Miss Ashley Spark (Acting)
<b>Class Stages</b>	Nursery                      P1-7 (12 classes)
<b>Present Roll</b>	Nursery - 76                      P1-7 - 309
<b>Parent Council</b>	Chairperson: Mrs Kelly Cobley Facebook ~ search Northmuir Parent Partnership

**Northmuir is a non-denominational school**

The School Day	During the winter months when the weather can be especially cold and wet it is requested that you send your child to arrive not before 8.50am and not before 1.20pm following a home lunch.
9.00am – 10.40am	
Morning Break	
11.00am – 12.30pm (P4-7) 11.00am – 12.40pm (P1-3)	
Lunch Break	
1.30pm – 3.10pm (P1-3) 1.30pm – 3.20pm (P3-7)	

## Getting to School



### On Foot

The school Crossing Patrol Officers are usually Mr Gerrie and Morgan Ramsay. The crossing at the school entrance is manned from 8.00am – 9.10am and 3.00pm – 3.35pm; and the crossing at Angle Road from 8.30am – 9.10am and 3.00pm – 3.35pm. If for any reason they are absent it is very difficult to get cover and, in law, you remain responsible for your child crossing the road safely.

### By Car

The school encourages children to walk to school in the interests of health and as a means of reducing traffic congestion outside the school. May I ask, in the interest of the safety of all pupils, that if you are collecting or delivering your child to school by car, you meet him/her in the lay-by opposite the school. Another option is to park at Kirriemuir Hill; it is a short and safe walk to the Hillrise entrance to the school. Please do not come into the school car park and under no circumstances turn or park in the entrance to the school as this poses serious safety issues for the children. Children and parents must always cross with the Crossing Patrol Officer.

### Breakfast and After School Care Club

The Breakfast and After School Care Club is privately operated from the Community Lounge from 8am and then from 3.10pm to 6.00pm daily. For more information telephone (01575) 575393 during these hours or email: [theweechildcarecompany@yahoo.com](mailto:theweechildcarecompany@yahoo.com).

Funded or partially funded places are available

## **VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS**

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

Parents are invited to contact the school to obtain further information which is not contained in this handbook. Prospective parents will always be made welcome at the school where the Head Teacher will be pleased to discuss any area of school life. Once your child has been allocated a place you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum and to share information.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The wearing of a school uniform helps to give the school a corporate image and also helps to build up a sense of pride in our school. Every effort will be made to encourage pupils to wear school uniform and it is hoped that parents will support the school to this end. Children can wear a more traditional school uniform or an active school uniform.



The recommended uniform is as follows:-

Girls – Grey skirt, shorts or trousers, white polo shirt, maroon sweatshirt, maroon cardigan or hoodie. Although a maroon sweatshirt or cardigan is preferable, grey is acceptable. Summer dresses are readily available in blue, red and green gingham.

Boys - Grey trousers or shorts, white polo shirt, maroon sweatshirt, or hoodie. Again, although a maroon sweatshirt is preferable grey is acceptable. Although grey is our preferred colour for skirts, shorts and trousers any dark colour is acceptable.

Active School Uniform – Plain, dark coloured jogging bottoms or leggings alongside a school polo shirt and school sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan or hoodie. In warmer weather maroon shorts or plain, dark or shorts can be worn.

Since the onset of the Covid Pandemic children have not changed for Physical Education lessons. Instead, coming to school in an Active School Uniform. Should we return to changing for Physical Education children will be asked to bring maroon or dark coloured shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings and a plain tee-shirt.

For Physical Education lessons in the gym hall children should bring indoor gym shoes or

trainers. Please avoid black soled shoes because these can permanently mark the floor of the gym hall.

P7 pupils are invited to wear a Leavers' Hoodie after the Easter holidays of their P7 year.

Northmuir School uniform is available locally from Thistle Newsagent and Gifts (The Post Office). It is also available online [Northmuir Primary School – My Clothing](#)

We encourage the recycling of school uniform and have a supply available. There is a range of clothes in the main building available for parents to take clothes. The Clothing Hub in Kirriemuir may also have items.

**All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way. It is difficult for children to distinguish their clothing from others.**

#### Personal Property in School

- Please name all jumpers, shirts, gym shoes, jackets etc. clearly.
- If your child brings a toy for playground use, we cannot accept responsibility if it gets lost or broken.
- Please do not allow your child to bring valuable items to school.

Lost Items – We encourage children to:

- Tell an adult if you have lost something.
- Check Lost Property – it is kept in the medical room.
- Parents can look through Lost Property at any time – ask at the School Office.
- At different times through the year parents are invited to claim items, anything unclaimed is donated to charity

## PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents should contact the school immediately they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or if you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team please contact the Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher. The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up the initial conversation with a telephone call if required. If you have a concern about a pupil, please contact the Head Teacher or member of the Senior Management Team

- Miss Langlands Head Teacher
- Mr Arbucke Deputy Head Teacher
- Mrs Marshall or Miss Spark Principal Teacher

## THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

### BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

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

Our Aims:

1. To welcome all parents/carers into the school community.
2. To provide regular opportunities for parents/carers to become involved in their children's learning and the life of the school.
3. To share our parent/carer's expertise.
4. To provide training, where necessary for specific tasks.
5. To communicate with parents/carers regularly and share information whenever appropriate.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement:

Helping in classes and/or playground

- Supporting extra-curricular activities e.g. Art/Craft activities, Bikeability, maintaining school grounds
- Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Looking after the guinea pigs at weekends and over the holidays
- Educational excursions
- Fundraising events

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

Sharing Children's Progress

Parents are invited to attend two Parents' Evenings throughout the school year (September and March) to meet their child's class teacher to discuss their child's progress. Parents are also encouraged to support their child on a daily / weekly basis with the completion of homework tasks. The life and work of the school and a child's individual progress is shared electronically using an App called Seesaw. An individual report is issued in the Summer Term.

## SCHOOL ETHOS

Our Vision - **Be all we can be!**

At Northmuir Primary and Nursery, learning is our core business. We strive to build rich learning experiences that instil confidence and self-belief. We foster a “can do” attitude.

We work in partnership with our parents and our wider community to ensure all feel safe, included and valued within our school community and beyond.

Our Values -

As a staff team our values are reflective of those described within General Teaching Council of Scotland Standards. In our daily work with children our values can be described simply as:

We value safety, respect, responsibility and kindness in our community

Our Aims -

We aim for children, through their experiences in school, to develop the four capacities defined by Education Scotland and grow as Responsible Citizens, Successful Learners, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals.

We are committed to developing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. We do this through the ethos and the curriculum. We do this in partnership with parents and take account of the needs of pupils and the views of parents.

We welcome and encourage diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others and compassion and justice. All who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement council policy on equal opportunities and racial equality. All pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.





## **SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS**

Northmuir School is an integral part of the community of Kirriemuir. Children develop skills and learn to be better citizens as they engage with and support the work of the local community. Our pupils participate in community events organised by the churches, Kirriemuir Community Group, Kirrie Connections, Kirriemuir Business Group, Sustainable Kirriemuir and Rotary Clubs. They visit the elderly and participate in sporting and cultural events. Primary 7 pupils organise and run a Community Café which is supported by a number of local care homes.

### **School Chaplaincy**

The designated School Chaplain is Reverend John Orr of Kirriemuir Old Parish Church of Scotland. Reverend Orr conducts special assemblies / church services. Reverend Orr, may, on occasion, work with individual classes, and will talk to the pupils about a range of social as well as religious matters.

## **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT**

### [Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

A positive attitude is essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and teachers all have an important part to play in ensuring this. School values and expectations are of a common-sense nature, bearing in mind the interest and safety of all concerned. Expectations are devised in consultation with pupils to support and guide children in making good choices both academically and socially.

Our expectations of ourselves and each other are to:

- Be respectful and kind
- Be responsible
- Be safe

### **RESTORATIVE PRACTICE**

When things go wrong, the aim should always be the restoration of relationships and acceptance of personal responsibility for and consequences of actions on behalf of those involved. This means:

- All members of staff will listen and respond appropriately to any incidents (social and academic).
- Staff will not make judgements or take sides.
- Staff will support all pupils involved in any incidents.
- Consequences are reflective of the seriousness of the situation and consideration is given to individual needs (vulnerable individuals and pupils with ASN).

- The children are aware of non-negotiable breeches.
- Staff, parents and children work together to repair any damage caused.
- Issues are addressed in a timely manner.
- We work with those involved to find the best solution for what has happened.
- We embrace a diversity of solutions by understanding that there may be many ways to solve a problem.
- We consider what needs to happen to prevent further incidents / harm.
- We work collaboratively with families and other agencies to 'get it right' for all children.

## **CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT**

Children are encouraged to value their individual and collective effort, hard work and progress. All staff encourage all pupils, at all times, and in all activities, to give their best and "be all they can be". Their effort may be acknowledged verbally by praise in class and in assemblies through the use of Recognition Folders for classes. This is often share with families via SeeSaw.

Our end of year service celebrates children's achievements more formally, in particular the effort and achievements of our P7 pupils.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There is a range of extra-curricular activities available for your child to participate in, and although these change throughout the year, they generally include:

- Sports – football, netball, running, athletics, atheltics, curling, basketball, rugby, golf, multi-sports and games
- Choir
- Art and Craft
  - Reading
  - Gardening
  - Board Games

Some activities run over lunch breaks, others after school.

The above opportunities will be shared with your child during an assembly. Permission slips, if required, are issued to parents via email.

Many of these activities are supported by members of the community and parents – if you would like to get involved or have an idea for an activity group, please contact the school. We very much appreciate the help and support of parents and the community.

## **PUPIL COUNCIL**

There is an active Pupil Council, Rights Squad, Eco Committee, alongside Reading Champions and Sports Ambassadors at Northmuir School. These include representatives

from the classes. Throughout the year they will meet regularly with a member of staff. They will be involved in taking forward school improvement priorities and addressing emerging issues as they occur.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

We have high expectations for all our pupils and encourage them to foster independent learning skills and personal responsibility. Children learn in a variety of contexts independently and in groups including: ability, co-operative and social.

### **Educational Visits and Visitors**

School trips may occur at any time during the school year and are designed to support ongoing curricular work. There is usually a reasonable charge which is necessary to meet the cost of transport. We will always notify you of these outings and specific consent forms are issued. You will also be asked at the beginning of each session to give blanket consent for incidental trips out of school i.e. to the local supermarket, police station, leisure centre, local parks and woodland etc. The children's learning is also enhanced through visits from different people and groups e.g. Scottish Opera, M and M Productions.

## **THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE**

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design. Children and young people, throughout their education, will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher, the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of specific focus e.g. Peace and Conflict. This will be shared with parents through a sheet "We are Learning About . . ." via SeeSaw. Parents are encouraged to communicate ideas, share comments to support learning via SeeSaw or your child's homework diary. Senior Management seek parents' views at Parents' Evenings, curricular events, parents are invited to participate

## **THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL**

Northmuir Primary School is committed to developing open events for parents. At these events parents are invited to participate in a learning activity, children share work they are proud of, and parents are given the opportunity to comment on their child's efforts. Parents are also given suggestions as to how best support their child's learning at home and are invited to provide the school with feedback regarding the impact of the learning experience they have participated in. More local and national information can be found from the numerous sources listed at the back of the handbook.

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers sessions between 08.00 -13.00 and 13.00-18.00, 5 days a week, over 46.6 weeks of the year – we are only closed to children for two weeks over the Christmas/ New Year period, three

weeks in July/August, and a further three public holidays and five in-service days. Children can attend for one five-hour session each day or for a double session. A maximum of five sessions can be utilised each week. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at [www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears](http://www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears).

## **LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The school maintains close links with Webster's High School Tel:- 01575 526000 and other Primary Schools within the Angus area. The rector of WHS is Mrs Jane Esson. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

During P7 the cluster liaison teachers from WHS visits regularly throughout the year. P7 pupils visit WHS on a regular basis to familiarise them with the secondary school and to have opportunities to learn in this new environment.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (School Specific)**

### **MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**

We maintained consistently high standards of attainment.

Our children are motivated and eager to participate in learning.

Our improvement plan, focussing on developing a greater consistency in pedagogically sound maths and language strategies is supporting children's learning.

The teaching of reading has been revisited across the school. Staff have been supported in Read Write Inc via the portal and a consultant. Children's progress has been closely monitored with targeted interventions to support. New resources and strategies have been introduced to support reading comprehension and vocabulary development.

Creative opportunities for children to read for enjoyment have increased, this has contributed to achieving the Bronze reading School Award.

"Explicitly Teaching Writing" from literacy expert Stephen Graham, has been introduced with staff "dabbling" with the methodology.

Our outdoor environment (nature areas, sensory play area, Loose Parts areas, school, nursery guinea pigs, reading areas, garden and polytunnel) continues to evolve and provide a rich and exciting learning environment. We have work hard to sustain our Level 5 award from the Royal Horticultural Society and our Learning for Sustainability award from Education Scotland and the Daily Record.

Our initiative - We are the Healthiest School is motivating for all, having a positive impact

on pupil voice, making our Vision, Values and Aims a reality. Examples of where pupil voice has made an impact included P7 children leading groups for younger children – reading, construction, playground games; the range of extra-curricular activities children have requested and staff have supported, from finger knitting to running, all of which have had a positive impact on children's sense of belonging and on engagement; and participation in our community, including intergenerational work and developing community walks.

We achieved Silver accreditation within Rights Respecting Schools – we are a Rights Aware School.

Physical activity and sport continues to support children's wellbeing and school connectedness. Through support from Active Schools we achieved our Gold School Sport Award.

Children's needs (academic, social and emotional) were identified and a range of interventions were implemented. We worked collaboratively with partners to improve the outcomes for learners.

Children engaged in rich learning experiences which not only supported their academic progress but had a positive impact on wellbeing, inclusion and enthusiasm for learning. These include field visits e.g. to the Crannog Centre, to the Palace of Holyrood House.

Our children participated in a range of sporting festivals and competitions, with our football team winning the North Angus Competition.

With the support of Active Schools and school staff our children benefit from a great many extra-curricular activities and clubs.

Our nursery continues to provide nurturing and stimulating learning and care.

SeeSaw continues support our effective communication with parents - parents have a greater understanding of the life and work of the school and their individual child's learning journey.

## **IMPROVING STANDARDS**

Every member of the team at Northmuir has high expectations of and for our children. We encourage children to do their best in every aspect of their lives. Staff are reflective and committed to improving outcomes for all.

In Session 23 -24 data indicated children in Primary 1 and 7 were achieving slightly above the national norm for reading, writing and numeracy with pupils in Primary 4 achieving around the national norm.

We continue to create interesting opportunities for writing for a range of purposes. Whole school writing projects and moderation (school and with other schools) have focussed on Explicitly Teaching Writing. In P1-3 RWI has been adapted to further develop Writer's Craft through Explicitly Teaching Writing. Our Progressive Pathway is being further developed to reflect pedagogy associated with Explicitly Teaching Writing.

The continued development of children's conceptual understanding, through their use of concrete, pictorial and diagrammatic representation, remains a focus. SNSA data

and classroom practice indicates that by the time children are in P7 their clear conceptual understanding facilitates greater flexibility in their thinking.

Our nurturing environment supports children's wellbeing. A minority of children face some emotional difficulties and these children are being supported on an individual basis and in close consultation with parents.

Attendance is generally positive, though this session a number of children were susceptible to repeated infections which resulted in a few having higher than usual absence. School supported with providing home learning material and / or phased returns to school.

Children talk positively about their learning experiences at Northmuir. Annual surveys show parents support this view.

Our nursery provides nurturing and stimulating care.

In collaboration with Active Schools we monitor children's engagement with physical activity and other extra-curricular activities in and out of school. We use this data to target children to attend extra-curricular clubs in school and out of school. We encourage and promote participation and commitment over winning in Active Schools events.

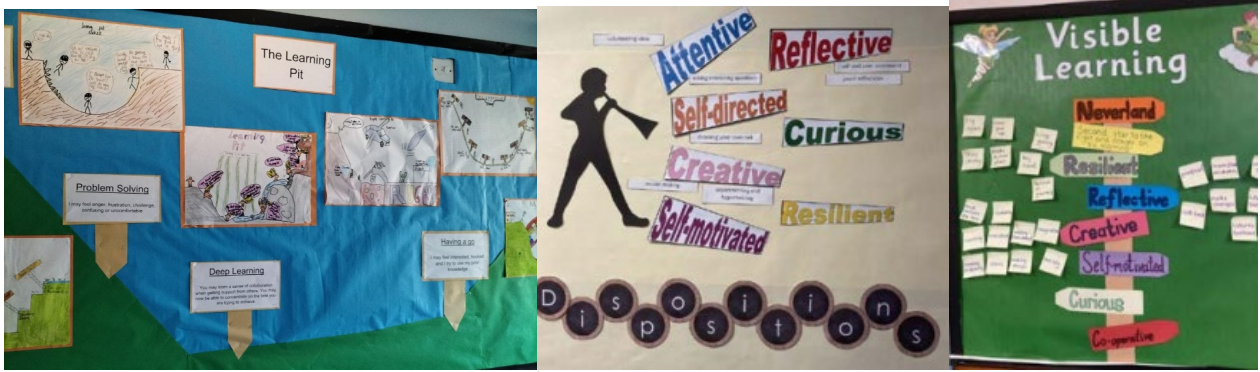
## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Ensuring children and staff wellbeing continues to be our number one priority and our project to be Scotland's Healthiest School continues to be a motivating and captivating context for our children and our wider community. It is providing our P7 pupils with fantastic opportunities to develop their pupil voice and leadership skills. We are looking forward to developing this project across the school and community this academic year and into the future.

We continue to support children's academic progress in reading, writing and maths through staff engagement with professional learning. "Explicitly Teaching Writing" from literacy expert Stephen Graham is supporting teacher and children's confidence and enthusiasm and children's progress and attainment.

We are continuing to develop leadership capacity across the school through the continued development of staff working groups. Areas of focus this session are - health and wellbeing, writing, and interdisciplinary learning.

We continue to develop our skills in using the Local Authority Tracking Tool to track children's progress and plan for timely interventions.



## HEALTH CARE

**You can contact your school health staff at: -**

Specific school staff attend to first-aid and we have regular visits from the school nurse and dentist. Please tell us as soon as possible if your child has a specific medical condition. You can contact your school health staff at:-

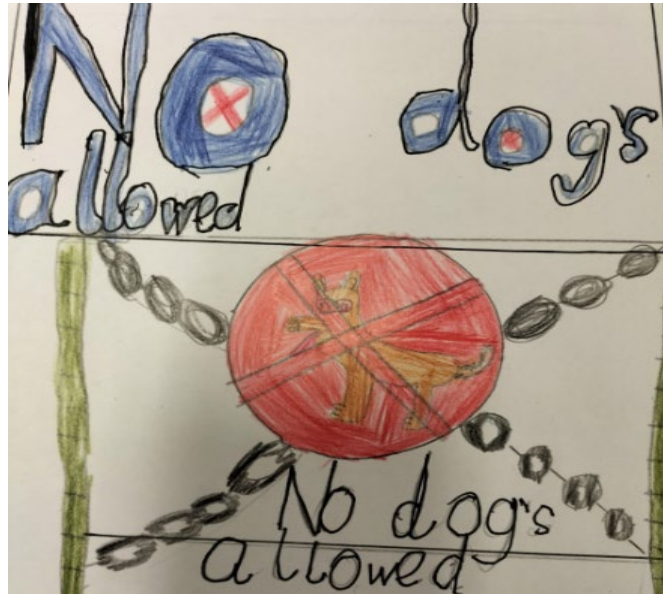
<p>School Doctor</p> <p>Community Child Health Central Office Whitehills Hospital Whitehills FORFAR Tel:- (01307) 466281</p>	<p>School Nurse</p> <p>Kirriemuir Health Centre Tannage Brae KIRRIEMUIR Tel:- (01575) 577016</p>
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### Private Appointments within School Hours

If your child needs to attend an appointment during school hours please:

1. Inform the School Office or class teacher by letter or email one day in advance of the appointment (emergencies apart).
2. A responsible adult must collect the child via the School Office.

## DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS



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

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

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

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

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

### **Child Protection Coordinator**

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

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

**In our school the Child Protection Coordinator(s) are:** Miss Longland (Head Teacher), Mrs Arbuckle (Deputy Head), Mrs Marshall (Principal Teacher), Miss Spark (Acting Principal Teacher). In nursery Mrs Miller (Lead Senior Early Years Practitioner), Mrs Kerr (Senior Early Years Practitioner) and Mrs Gilbert (Senior Early Years Practitioner) have received enhanced training in Safeguarding and Child Protection.

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

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



## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council  
Angus House  
Orchardbank Business Park  
FORFAR  
DD8 1AN  
Tel: 03452 777 778  
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

## **ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Visit [angus.gov.uk/schools](https://angus.gov.uk/schools) for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

## OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at [angus.gov.uk/linksforparents](https://angus.gov.uk/linksforparents)