



Argyll & Bute Council

Community Services: Education

Parent Guide

Shared Head Teacher Schools



Coming together for Forest Schools

Shared Head Teachers

Main Benefits

- *Increased long-term viability of the school in the village*
- *Improvements in the quality of leadership and management*
- *Increased chance of recruiting high quality staff at all levels*
- *Enhanced opportunities for leadership development*
- *Broader and richer curriculum experiences for all learners.*

In the shared Head Teacher model, one head teacher is responsible for two or more schools, with another promoted teacher, perhaps a principal teacher, also in a position of responsibility in each school, able to deal with the day-to-day running of the school.

All teaching staff continue to have on-going responsibility for the good order and running of the school.

The Head Teacher is always contactable by either school at all times and works for all schools across the week regardless of where the head teacher is based.

Particular duties are delegated to each Principal Teacher, depending on the individual priorities and needs of each school and the skills and abilities of each Principal Teacher.

Schools develop meaningful partnerships with each other, and benefit from sharing expertise, resources and examples of good practice while also protecting the key aspects of what makes each school unique.

Opportunities are developed for learners in both schools to meet and work together, forming strong links in our communities.

Maximising resources between the schools creates increased opportunities for sporting and cultural activities as well as planning special events and trips.

Benefits for Teaching & Learning



Developing strong partnerships between schools will:

- Foster a climate of sharing, trust and empowerment to allow staff, pupils, parents and the wider community to work together and form links to enhance teaching and learning.
- Put existing informal collaborations on a formal, statutory footing
- Ensure long term commitment of schools to each other
- Provide increased opportunities for collaborative and collegiate activities across both school communities, which will become common practice with the shared goal of raising achievement for all learners.
- Allow schools to share expertise and good practice and make best use of available resources whilst being aware of each school's individual identity and the needs of the learners.
- Enhance opportunities for flexible deployment of staff
- Provide increased opportunities for children to learn together on a variety of projects with a wider peer group.
- Allow teachers to monitor and assess standards of achievement across schools, share skills and develop ideas by developing positive working partnerships across the wider staff group.
- Give children the opportunity to make new friends and form strong bonds through increased joint learning activities before progressing onto high school.



Reasons for the Shared Head Model



Joint Samba Drumming music lesson

There are many different reasons for adopting the shared head model in schools that will ultimately benefit all learners.

These reasons may be:

- The increasing pressure of multiple roles experienced by the head teacher, often including a large teaching commitment, in a small school
- Difficulties in recruiting heads and other staff
- Limited capacity in small schools to respond fully to some national initiatives
- Increased vulnerability in small rural schools caused by falling rolls



Join together for religious education.

- Fewer opportunities for delegation and professional development within a small staff

Formal collaborative structures enable schools to:

- Provide broader and richer experiences for learners
- Widen opportunities for collaborative staff development at school level
- Enable more effective staff succession planning within schools

For each group of schools, the right model will be the one that best fits circumstances and needs.