EASDALE PRIMARY & EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE (ELC)  TRANSITION TO PRIMARY 1

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2023-2024

**FAQ: Who are the staff at Easdale Primary?**

Miss Frost is our Head Teacher and responsible for Primary and ELC.

Our P1-7 Staff are:

Mrs Wright Principle Teacher & Class Teacher

Miss McKenna Class Teacher

Mrs Stevenson Class Teacher

Mrs MacFadyen ASN and Classroom Assistant

Mrs Langley ASN

Our ELC Child Care & education Workers are:

Mrs MacLarty

Miss Cruickshanks

Our clerical is:

Mrs Anderson who also works as ASN and ELC Classroom Assistant

Our school meals are cooked by Mrs Mackechnie.

Our janitor is Mr Knox.

**FAQs: What happens when we share our ELC learning with Primary at transition?**

We get to know Mrs Wright, Miss McKenna, Mrs Stevenson.

Mrs MacFadyen & Mrs Langley help us in the classroom, in the playground and sometimes in ELC too.

All through the year our ELC workers enjoy helping us join in with Primary children and having them visit nursery too. We use the wet area, hall or outside for shared learning. This helps us find our way around school confidently and gives us chance to explore exciting activities and resources. We also join the P1s for PE with Mrs Gemmell on a Thursday**.**

**FAQ: Do ELC work with other children?**

Easdale Early Learning & Childcare is part of the Primary School so children are regularly sharing their learning with younger and older children. We share our time:

* in the garden
* at lunchtime and break time
* for the daily mile
* for gross motor skills activities which develop coordination , sharing and readiness to write skills
* and we keep in touch with other ELCs in the area

**FAQs: What happens when it is time to think about registering for Primary 1 (usually in January each year)?**

At Easdale ELC and Primary work together all year round so if you are already in the nursery you get used to being part of the whole school. You know your way around and are used to the routines. Primary 1-3 still have a lot of learning through play and active learning so you don’t usually find it too worrying.

If you are at a different nursery Easdale will be new to you. When you contact Mrs Anderson in the school office on 01852 300243 we can invite you for a visit so you find out who we are and how things work.

Registration forms are sent out to all eligible families in Argyll and Bute. If you need any help with these please ask Mrs Anderson in the school office or the ELC workers.

**FAQ: What do our children do outside at Easdale ELC?**

Nursery children have a minimum of 50% outdoor learning every week, mainly in our own school grounds.

On occasion we visit An Cala garden next door and the play park at Seil Hall.

Working with our Primary children we also use the shore area and nearby wooded area for some activities.

Free Flow Play is at the heart of our Nursery and we follow “Realising the Ambition” aspirations.

There is continuous provision outside for:

* Sand
* Water play
* Construction – large den making through to small world construction
* Sports play equipment for individual or group games – Nursery chidlren also get a PE taster session each week
* Art shed for all sorts of drawing and multi-media activities
* Garden and nature activities throughout the year

**FAQs: What is different in Primary 1?**

Almost everything you have learnt to do outside in nursery also happens in Primary 1 and a lot more too!



**FAQ: What do our children do inside at Easdale ELC?**

Nursery children gather in our own ELC room where we do the daily calendar to practice days of the week, months of the year, weather and add to our topic floor books.

Nursery children work with their key workers to understand how they are feeling, how to work with others, how to be healthy. This is all part of our ‘Getting It Right for Every Child’ (GIRFEC) strategy.

Inside we rotate activities around continuous provision to develop and extend skills through play. Each week children have access to:

* construction
* home corner and imaginative role play
* sand
* playdough and other malleable tactile sensory play in the tough tray
* water
* paint and other collage, modelling or art materials
* reading books both stories and factual
* games and puzzles
* science exploration such as magnet connect toys
* fine motor skills using simple tools safely
* opportunities to talk and write through play e.g. making lists, keeping a record chart for hand washing
* music and mindfulness yoga

**FAQs: What is different in Primary 1?**

Almost everything you have learnt to do inside in nursery also happens in Primary 1.

The classroom is a little different because you won’t have Free-Flow time. The curriculum becomes “Curriculum for Excellence”. The teacher helps you to understand the lessons for the day because there is work to do, sometimes in a group, sometimes individually, sometimes recording your work and sometimes through play and games. There is still some time each week when you can choose activities in the classroom.

Stories and books are just as important so you will get a book bag and books to read at home too.

You will have a buddy who is already in the class to help you settle in.

There are photos on GLOW classrooms that will help you see what classrooms are like. You will notice that the furniture is the same as nursery, there is a home corner and reading corner, colourful displays and spaces to keep your things.

Primary children have made a video to tell you what P1 is like. You will find this on the GLOW classroom.



**FAQ: Are ELC activities always the same?**

Often our activities change as we respond to something a child tells us about or shows us. Children know what resources we have and often ask for their favourites or new challenges.

We value things that they have done at home and like to hear about their interests and families.

We are often outside in all sorts of weather so children need warm and dry clothing, wellingtons and sun cream put on at home for hot days.

We follow Care Inspectorate Staffing Ratios and Risk Assess our activities so sometimes things change with what else is happening in school.

**FAQs: What changes in Primary 1?**

Almost everything is the same. Keeping good communication between home and school is really important as children start school. Letting us know things that are happening at home helps us to help your child be happy and settled.

Primary School follow the Scottish Government ‘Curriculum for Excellence’ and instead of the Care Inspectorate it is HMIe that inspect schools.

Our staff are skilled at following the interests of children and extending their learning when they are most motivated and engaged.

Each term there is also an over-arching topic.

Next Topics are: “Marvellous Me” & “My World”

**FAQ: How do families find out about what our ELC children are doing?**

All our children have their profile activities hosted in Google Classroom which is found on “GLOW”.

You will be given log in details for your own child when they start ELC. Please log on so you can see the amazing things they do. There are snap shot observations, photographs stories and video clips.

In COVID lockdown this is where our home learning activities are.

Your child’s account can only be seen by school staff and yourself.

**FAQs: How do families find out about what our Primary 1 children are doing?**

All our children have their profile activities hosted in Google Classroom which is found on “GLOW”. Weekly reading tasks are shared on GLOW. In the middle of each term you will be able to see the targets children are working on for literacy, numeracy and Inter-Disciplinary Learning.

You will get a refreshed log in to GLOW at the start of P1 along with instructions how to log in, just like in ELC.

From Spring Break ELC and P1 children begin to work together more often. Argyll & Bute have a really good transition programme each year. This is sent out to all families with chidlren going into P1. In ELC activities are linked around a theme which then continues into the P1 classroom. Usually there is a character that children get to know too. Last year was an Octopus called Calamari. We will soon know what this year’s theme will be?

Keep using ELC GLOW regularly so you can see how transition activities go.

If you have difficulties logging on please contact the school office by email Enquirie-Easdale@argyll-bute.gov.uk or on 01852 300243

**FAQs: How do P1’s learn about positive Health and Well Being?**

We use “Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)” and SHANARRI to help children be:



SHANARRI links to our learning for example:

* explore ‘Global Citizenship Goals’ and activities around the Rights of a Child (UNICEF)

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| SHANARRI principles help us to explore feelings, needs, and to find out what we need from people around us & how to look after ourselves |

**FAQ: How do I find more information about Easdale Primary?**

Easdale Primary School Handbook is updated annually & available on our website.

You will also find the School Improvement Plan on the website. This gives an overview of the main priorities for the next 3 years. It is updated annually for the start of each new academic year.

Children’s Learning Journeys are on Goggle Classroom / GLOW this gives all our families and children continuity as we use the same platform from ELC to P7.

**FAQ: How do I contact Easdale Primary or ELC?**

**Our office telephone is**

01852 300243

**Our address is:**

Easdale Primary School

Isle of Seil

Oban

Argyll

PA34 4RF

**Our email is:**

Enquiries-Easdale@argyll-bute.gov.uk