

## Education

### Children in Scotland

It is a parent's responsibility to look after their children, protect them from harm, ensure that they are properly cared for, and ensure that they receive education. In Scotland, a child is anyone under the age of 16.

#### Pre-School Children

Children in Scotland have the right to free, part-time, pre-school provision from the age of 3 years and to free, full time provision when aged 4 years. There are Playgroups, Day Nurseries and Toddler Groups and Nurseries for pre-school age children. The link below gives details of birth dates when children will become eligible:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/950153A0-1CC0-47CF-9D69-89D6F93683E4/0/enrolmentleaflet0607.pdf>

More information and a list of Playgroups, Day Nurseries and other groups can be found by using The Highland Council Childcare Information Service:

**The Highland Council Childcare Information Service**, Tel: 0845 601 1345

#### School-Age Children

Children in Scotland have a right to a free place in school. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their children are educated and usually do this by sending their children to school. Some parents choose to educate their children at home or in private schools. Children normally start school in the August when they are aged between 4 ½ and 5 ½ years, and transfer to secondary school in the August when they are aged 11 ½ to 12 ½ years. Children must continue in education until they are aged 16. The majority of young people stay on at secondary school for up to a further 2 years until they are aged 18.

To enrol children at a school in the area where you live you must contact the school's head teacher. If you wish to enrol a child outside the area where you live you should contact the Area Education Manager:

Caithness Area Education Office  
Rhind House  
West Banks Avenue  
WICK, KW1 5LZ  
Telephone 01955 602 362

Sutherland Area Education Office  
Johnstone Place  
BRORA, KW9 6PG  
Telephone 01408 621 382

Ross & Cromarty Area Education Office  
The Education Centre  
Castle Street  
DINGWALL, IV15 9HU  
Telephone 01349 863 441

Inverness Area Education Office  
13 Ardross Street  
INVERNESS, IV3 5NS  
Telephone 01463 663 800

Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey Area Education Office  
King Street  
Kingussie  
INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH21 1HP  
Telephone 01540 661 009

Skye & Lochalsh Area Education Office  
Elgin Hostel  
PORTREE  
Isle of Skye, IV51 9EE  
Telephone 01478 613 697

Lochaber Area Education Office  
Montrose Avenue  
Inverlochy  
FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6NA  
Telephone 01397 702 466

### **Help for families on a low income**

Families who have a very low income may be able to claim a free lunch for their child at school and some assistance with school clothing. Your Area Education Manager will be able to tell you to where you can claim these.

### **Help with English language**

Schools working with pupils who need support to develop their English language skills may be able to receive advice from the Highland Council. Details of this Service can be found on the Highland Virtual Learning Community website.

### **Help with additional support needs**

Some children and young people require additional support to help them to learn in school, and if you think that your child needs additional support you should discuss this with the head teacher of your child's school. Pupils with additional support needs have a right to full-time education and this is usually provided in the child's local school. A few children and young people attend specialist schools so that they can get the expert help they require. Parents are fully consulted and involved in decisions about the additional support that their child needs.

## **Childcare**

If you need care for your child while you are at work there are several choices available. There are 'Registered Childminders', Nurseries and 'Out of school services' which can provide care for children outside school hours. For more information visit the Highland Childcare Information Service online or call the service on 01463 711 176. Their address is:

High Street  
Clachnaharry  
Inverness  
IV3 8RB

The Scottish Childminding Association can also provide information on Registered Childminders working in your area:

Scottish Childminding Association  
3 Gordon Terrace  
Inverness, IV2 3HS  
Tel 01463 715545

## **Learning English**

English classes for speakers of other languages are available in many towns across the Highlands. There are classes for absolute beginners, or for those who already speak some English. Classes are run by the Highland Council's Adult Basic Education services, by the Workers Educational Association and at Inverness College. Many of these classes are run in the evenings, and some classes can be run in the workplace.

Contact the organisations below to find out if classes are currently running in your area:

### **Adult Basic Education English Classes**

#### **Caithness**

**Wick:** telephone: 01955 609905  
email: [libby.cook@highland.gov.uk](mailto:libby.cook@highland.gov.uk)

#### **Sutherland**

telephone: 01549 402050  
email:  
[barbara\\_123@btconnect.com](mailto:barbara_123@btconnect.com)

#### **Ross & Cromarty**

telephone: 01349 864579  
email:  
[norma.christie@highland.gov.uk](mailto:norma.christie@highland.gov.uk)

#### **Nairn, Badenoch & Strathsepy**

telephone: 01479 811689  
email:  
[isabel.duncan@highland.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.duncan@highland.gov.uk)

#### **Inverness**

telephone: 01463 710013  
email:  
[jill.crawshaw@highland.gov.uk](mailto:jill.crawshaw@highland.gov.uk)

#### **Skye and Lochalsh**

telephone: 01478 614064  
email:  
[joey.graham@highland.gov.uk](mailto:joey.graham@highland.gov.uk)

### **Lochaber**

telephone: 01397 707371

email: [ann-](mailto:ann-marie.donoghue@highland.gov.uk)

[marie.donoghue@highland.gov.uk](mailto:marie.donoghue@highland.gov.uk)

### **Workers Educational Association English classes**

WEA Highland

David Whyte House

57 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1DR

Telephone 01463 710577

[inverness@weascotland.org.uk](mailto:inverness@weascotland.org.uk)

<http://www.weascotland.org.uk/>

### **Inverness College English classes**

3 Longman Road

Longman South

Inverness, IV1 1SA

Telephone: 01463 273000

## **Higher and Further Education, and Lifelong Learning**

Most study at degree level in the United Kingdom takes place at Colleges of Further Education and at Universities. Details of how to apply can be found on the [UCAS website](#).

It is also possible to study at home to degree level by taking courses provided by The Open University, and details can be found at <http://www.openuniversity.org>

### **Scottish qualifications**

There are many different kinds of Scottish qualifications gained at school, college, university and through work - Highers, SVQs, HNDs, Degrees and many more. The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework website provides information on the various types of qualifications and how they compare

### **Higher Education**

The UHI Millennium Institute (UHI) is a distinctive and innovative higher education institution offering work-related courses, such as higher national certificates and diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and research opportunities throughout the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. This is achieved through a partnership of colleges and research institutions along with an associated network of outreach learning centres.

For students new to the region, UHI offers:

- A choice of campus locations in urban, rural and island communities.
- Local access to learning and research relevant to their needs and to those of local employers
- Distinctive courses and subject areas reflecting the characteristics of the region and with relevance worldwide.
- Extensive use of information technology, including on-line materials and video-conferencing.
- Small class sizes with a focus on the needs of the individual learner.
- Welcoming communities, rich in culture and located in an area of outstanding natural beauty.
- A growing range of programmes available by on-line distance learning

For more information go to the UHI Millennium website or telephone them at 0845 272 3600.

### **Further Education and Lifelong Learning**

The Highlands can offer many different levels of learning: including basic skills, leisure classes and work-related courses for commerce or industry. Further Education can provide an entry to university-level study if you do not yet have the relevant qualifications. There are also many practical courses at a high level for technicians, business employees and managers or those looking to strengthen their skills to help them find a better job in the Highlands.

Contact the following Colleges and local learning centres for further details of courses starting soon near you:

Argyll College UHI  
West Bay  
Dunoon  
Argyll  
PA23 7HP  
Tel: 0845 230 9969  
Fax: 01369 707185  
<http://www.argyllcollege.uhi.ac.uk>

Inverness College UHI  
3 Longman Road  
Longman South  
Inverness  
IV1 1SA  
Tel: 01463 273000  
Fax: 01463 711977  
<http://www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/>

Highland Theological College UHI  
High Street  
Dingwall

Ross-shire  
IV15 9HA  
Tel: 01349 780000  
Fax: 01349 780001  
<http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/>

Lochaber College, Colaisde Lochaber  
An Aird  
Fort William  
Inverness-shire  
PH33 6AN  
Tel: 01397 874000  
Fax: 01397 874001  
<http://www.lochabercollege.co.uk/>

Moray College UHI  
Moray Street  
Elgin  
Morayshire  
IV30 1JJ  
Tel: 01343 576000  
Fax: 01343 576001  
[www.moray.ac.uk](http://www.moray.ac.uk)

North Highland College UHI  
Ormlie Road  
Thurso  
Caithness  
KW14 7EE  
Tel: 01847 889000  
Fax: 01847 889001  
<http://www.nhscotland.com/>

Through our campuses in Thurso, Wick, Ainess and Dornoch, North Highland College aims to serve all the communities of the North.

Lews Castle College UHI  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS2 0XR  
Tel: 01851 770000  
Fax: 01851 770001  
<http://www.lews.uhi.ac.uk/>

NAFC Marine Centre UHI  
Port Arthur  
Scalloway  
Shetland

ZE1 0UN  
Telephone: 01595 772000  
Fax: 01595 772001  
[www.nafc.ac.uk](http://www.nafc.ac.uk)

Orkney College UHI  
Kirkwall  
Orkney  
KW15 1LX  
Tel: 01856 569000  
Fax: 01856 569001  
[www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk)

Perth College  
Crieff Road  
Perth  
PH1 2NX  
Tel: 0845 270 1177  
Fax: 01738 877001  
[www.perth.ac.uk](http://www.perth.ac.uk)

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI  
An Teanga  
Slèite  
Isle of Skye  
IV44 8RQ  
Tel: 01471 888000  
Fax: 01471 888001  
[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

Shetland College UHI  
Gremista  
Lerwick  
Shetland  
ZE1 0PX  
Tel: 01595 771000  
Fax: 01595 771001  
[www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk)

### **Learning Centres**

Visit the UHI Millennium Institute website for details of the learning centre closest to where you live. Alternatively, call Margaret Cameron on 01397 874204.

### **Useful URLs**

#### **The Highland Council Childcare Information Service**

<http://www.childcarelink.gov.uk>

#### **Highland Virtual Learning Community website**

<http://highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/sfl/eal.htm>

**Highland Council Information on Nursery and Pre-School**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/learninghere/nurseryandpre-school/>

**Highland Childcare Information Service**

<http://www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk/LocalChis.aspx?chisid=25>

**Scottish Childminding Association** <http://www.childminding.org/>

**Adult Basic Education** <http://www.abeweb.co.uk/index.php>

**Workers Educational Association** <http://www.weascotland.org.uk/>

**Inverness College** <http://www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/>

**UCAS website** <http://www.ucas.ac.uk>

**Open University** <http://www.openuniversity.org>

**Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework** <http://www.scqf.org.uk/>

**UHI Millennium Institute** <http://www.uhi.ac.uk/>

**Argyll College UHI** <http://www.argyllcollege.uhi.ac.uk>

**Highland Theological College UHI** <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/>

**Lochaber College** <http://www.lochabercollege.co.uk/>

**Moray College UHI** [www.moray.ac.uk](http://www.moray.ac.uk)

**North Highland College UHI** <http://www.nhscotland.com/>

**Lews Castle College UHI** <http://www.lews.uhi.ac.uk/>

**NAFC Marine Centre UHI** [www.nafc.ac.uk](http://www.nafc.ac.uk)

**Orkney College UHI** [www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk)

**Perth College** [www.perth.ac.uk](http://www.perth.ac.uk)

**Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI** [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

**Shetland College UHI** [www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk)

**Children's Library**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/childrensservices/>

**Information and e-learning services**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/informationsservices/>

**Local history** <http://www.ambaile.org.uk/index.jsp>

**Books and reading** <http://www.hi-read.org.uk/>

**Adult literacies**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/adultliteracy/>

**Schools Library Service**

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/schoollibraryservice/> - offers a specialist service for teachers in Highland

**Highland Schools Virtual Library** <http://highlandschools-virtualib.org.uk/>  
web site provides on-line support for pupils and teachers