

14 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bun-sgoil Àth-Tharracail agus Sgoil Àraich - Acharacle Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children are keen, enthusiastic and successful learners. They are skilled and confident in performing and sharing their learning, language and skills in Gaelic, music and song with each other and the community.
- The headteacher and staff have worked well together to offer children a rich range of experiences and opportunities through Gaelic and English. Staff's strong understanding of immersion produces children who are fluent speakers of Gaelic. They are increasing the number of speakers of Gaelic in the school and the community.
- The headteacher and staff have been solution focused and creative in assisting children sustain learning during challenging times. The headteacher and staff are making new and imaginative use of digital technology from that used during the pandemic. As a result, children's progress and attainment is good in numeracy and mathematics, and in literacy and Gàidhlig. Attainment in literacy and English is very good across the school.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The Highland Council.

- The headteacher and staff should continue with their individual-by-individual approaches to raising further attainment. This is to ensure that all children across the nursery and primary classes continue to make the best possible progress.
- The headteacher and staff should continue to take forward their vision for Gaelic (Learners) and immersion to continue to grow Gaelic in the community and nationally.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Acharacle Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#).

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C Esson
HM Inspector