

30 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Inveraray 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.

- Staff work well as a team. The school's productive and positive relationships with a range of community partners who work closely with senior leaders and staff to support the work of the school.
- The extensive and varied outdoor learning environment and wider community areas.
- Well established transition arrangements for children starting school and for those moving to secondary school, which enhance their continuity of curriculum experience. In particular, the support for children who joined the recently created 'early level' classroom.
- Children in the 'early level' class who are settled, relaxed and confident as they play and learn.

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

- Improve the strategic leadership of the school to ensure consistently high quality teaching and learning. The school should increase the pace of curriculum developments, and its use of digital technology to more consistently support and extend children's learning.
- Make more effective use of the school's outdoor environment and wider community which has the potential to provide dynamic and motivating contexts for learning. Equip children with the skills to talk confidently about their learning and to know what they need to do to set and achieve more aspirational literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing targets
- Improve further children's attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Staff should develop systems to gather and analyse data on children's wider achievements to bring about increased participation and engagement.
- As a matter of importance, the school, with support from the education authority, should improve its approaches for supporting and meeting the social and emotional needs of all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Inveraray Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/argyll-and-bute/8104026>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Argyll and Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Argyll and Bute Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Marion Burns
HM Inspector