

18 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Dalrymple Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. 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.

- Friendly children who benefit from a welcoming and caring family ethos. They are keen to be involved in improvement and ready to take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Staff who know children well. They work well as a team, and are keen to engage in the process of change and school improvement.
- Strong relationships between the school and its partners to improve outcomes for children. Partners make an effective contribution to children's learning. They contribute to improvement and engage well to support staff, children and families.

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

- Continue to develop effective strategic leadership and self-evaluation approaches in the Early Childhood Centre which lead to improved outcomes for all children.
- Continue to engage children and staff across the school in improving the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment, whilst ensuring an appropriate level of pace and challenge.
- Continue to develop a curriculum across the school that is relevant to the context and supports children to make progress and develop appropriate knowledge and skills. This should include ensuring effective use of assessment and tracking of children's progress across all curriculum areas.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Dalrymple Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the Early Childhood Centre	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

## Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the Early Childhood Centre

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	adequate
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	weak

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and one recommendation. From this, the recommendation had been met. As a result of this inspection, there are two requirements and two recommendations.

#### Requirements:

1. In order to ensure the health and welfare of children attending the service, the provider must develop and maintain effective risk management procedures. Risk assessments must be completed for all areas of the service. This must be completed by 5 November 2018. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My environment is safe and secure' (HSCS 5.17). It is also necessary to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations 2011.

2. In order to improve outcomes for children, the provider must develop and implement a robust quality assurance system and improvement plan by 19 November 2018. This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes. (HSCS 4.19) and in order to comply with Regulation 4(1)(a) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland Regulations 2011.

#### Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the service develops a consistent system to record children's identified needs and show how these will be met by the service. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15)

2. It is recommended that the service develops a training plan to monitor staff training and development needs. This should be audited to measure its effectiveness in developing practice and improving outcomes for children.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that 'I have confidence in people because they are trained, competent and skilled, are able to reflect on their practice and follow their professional and organisational codes' (HSCS 3.14)

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/east-ayrshire/8241627> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the Early Childhood Centre needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the Early Childhood Centre's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection, with a particular focus on the Early Childhood Centre, within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Ayrshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

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HM Inspector

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Care Inspector