

25 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Balloch Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the joint headteachers and staff.

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

- Happy, friendly and articulate children who are keen to learn. They are very proud to be part of Balloch Primary School and nursery class and work well with each other.
- Senior leaders, together with all staff, have successfully created a strong culture of team work across the school. They collaborate regularly to improve the experiences for all children. The whole staff team are committed to continuous improvement.
- Through an inclusive environment and culture, all children are supported well to achieve.

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

- Continue to refine approaches to improvement planning across the nursery and primary stages, to ensure the priorities, which will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes for children, are taken forward.
- Develop a positive relationships policy and approach with a clear focus on children's rights, working as a whole school community.
- From nursery to P7, continue to ensure that high-achieving children are appropriately challenged in their learning.

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 Balloch Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

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

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: In order to ensure children experience a high quality lunchtime provision, staff must be responsive to children's needs. The provider and staff should work together to improve this experience, ensuring that it is nurturing and promotes independence and responsibility.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards, which state that 'I can enjoy unhurried snack and meal times in as relaxed an atmosphere as possible.' (HSCS 1.35)

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1540> .

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.

Lisa Marie McDonnell
HM Inspector

Rod Coltart
Care Inspector