

6 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Tongue 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.

- Across the school and nursery, children are friendly, polite and welcoming. They are proud of the work they do to improve the quality of their local environment. They are motivated and engage well in their learning.
- The resilience and flexibility of the headteacher and depute headteacher. They overcome challenges well to make sure children's learning continues as planned. They work very effectively together to support all children and families, who they know well.
- Staff in the nursery and school use the rich outdoor environment and local community regularly, as places to learn. This enhances the quality of experiences for all children.
- Children understand well how environmental issues affect their local area. They are proud of the valuable contributions they make to the wider community helping to improve the village environment.

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

- Staff should continue with plans to develop the curriculum across the nursery and school. They should ensure there is clear progression in children's skills across all aspects of learning.
- In the nursery and school, continue to develop the approaches used to show how much and how well children progress overtime.

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 Tongue Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	very good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	adequate
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	
4.3 Staff deployment	adequate

Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one recommendation. This recommendation has been met. As a result of this inspection, there are two areas for improvement.

1. To enable all children to access a warm and welcoming environment, the manager and staff should review and develop the environment to make it more interesting, nurturing and homely. This should include but is not limited to:

Creating comfortable area with soft furnishings where children can rest and relax.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: 'My environment is relaxed, welcoming, peaceful and free from avoidable and intrusive noise and smell'. (HSCS 5.18)

2. To ensure children are safe and receive high quality experiences at all times, the provider and manager should, as a minimum review and make appropriate changes to staff deployment to improve experiences for children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS), 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:

[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. As a result of the Care Inspectorates findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting.

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