

4 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Achaleven Primary School. 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.

- The headteacher and staff have fostered a positive, welcoming and caring environment as central to children's learning.
- Children are happy, friendly and articulate. They are eager to learn and to make the best possible progress. The wider community appreciate children's performances at local events.
- Staff and children benefit from a range of meaningful learning in the outdoors and the community. As a result of children's efforts, they have gained eight green flags as part of the Eco-Schools Scotland award scheme.

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

- Continue to improve learning and teaching to better meet the needs of individuals and raise attainment. Staff should increase the level of challenge in tasks and activities, including during play-based learning. Children should extend their use of technology to maximise opportunities for communication given their rural location.
- At pace, continue to develop the curriculum to be clear on children's progress in knowledge, skills and understanding in all areas of learning. Planning of learning should be kept manageable and include designing high-quality assessment.
- Ensure that tracking and monitoring of progress, achievement and attainment over time is systematic, and based on reliable evidence across all curriculum areas. From this, children should know what they are doing well, the skills they are developing and what they need to do to improve.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Achaleven Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: 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/8100225>

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. Argyll and Bute 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