

24 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Balmalloch 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.

- Children across the school are polite, well-mannered and welcoming, reflecting the school values well. They are proud of their work and the many awards they have achieved.
- All staff work very well together to create a supportive environment. They develop caring and positive relationships across the school and nursery.
- Staff in the nursery have a strong commitment to professional development. They use what they have learned to improve practice and, notably, to support children's emotional wellbeing well.
- The nursery team understand the importance of outdoor learning and offer high-quality experiences to children and families which are stimulating and nurturing.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should improve how they identify, plan for and implement their key improvement priorities. A more focussed approach would help them to accelerate the pace of change and improve outcomes for children.
- Senior leaders and staff should focus on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.
- Staff should improve approaches to planning and assessment to better meet the needs of all learners, including those who require extra support or challenge in learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should Increase opportunities for children to lead learning and participate in a variety of motivating learning experiences to increase engagement, independence and motivation.

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 Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</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 nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>good</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>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Balmalloch Primary School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

### 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 North Lanarkshire 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 North Lanarkshire 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.

Tracie McEwan  
HM Inspector