

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lybster 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 and nursery are polite, friendly and keen to learn. They like to contribute to the life of the school and look forward to having greater involvement in the future.
- The headteacher and staff team know children, their families and the community very well. Staff across the school and nursery are dedicated to the care and wellbeing of all children. They demonstrate warm and supportive relationships.
- The teamwork of the nursery staff. They demonstrate a strong commitment and enthusiasm to improve the quality of nursery provision.

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

- Improve approaches, across the school and nursery, to make necessary changes at the right time. Involve children, parents and staff fully in identifying improvements which focus on helping children make the best possible progress.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment so that all children experience consistently high-quality learning experiences, which are set at the right level for them.
- Improve children's progress and attainment across the curriculum, with a clear focus on literacy and numeracy.
- In the nursery, senior leaders should develop a robust system to track children's progress in learning. This should include an overview of the progress children have made since starting nursery.

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 Lybster Primary School and Nursery Class.

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

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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 The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Victoria Morgan
HM Inspector