

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. 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 very caring and nurturing culture in Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre which leads to a strong cohesive community. Children are supported very well by staff and are confident, happy and proud of their school and nursery.
- The staff in the school and nursery, led ably by the headteacher and senior leaders, work together well as an enthusiastic and dedicated team. This is leading to positive experiences and outcomes for children.
- Children's high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy in the school. A significant minority of children exceed expected levels of attainment at each stage.
- Staff provide children with useful and meaningful opportunities to participate in clubs, activities and events. These develop children's leadership skills well.

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

- Continue to develop consistent approaches to planning and delivering high-quality learning experiences across all curricular areas. In doing this, staff should support children to apply their learning in new and unfamiliar ways.
- Increase opportunities for staff to work collaboratively with colleagues from other schools. This will strengthen further their confidence in making professional judgements about children's attainment.
- Practitioners know children well as individuals. They should now use this knowledge to provide more challenging learning experiences for children in the nursery.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Gargieston Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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
Learning, teaching and assessment	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	

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. East Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector