

21 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dalmally Primary School and Pre Five Unit. 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 effective team of staff across the pre five unit and school. Together they ensure all children learn in a caring and nurturing environment. Respectful relationships are evident across the school community.
- Effective planning in the pre five unit. This ensures children's individual needs are met.
- The effective approaches teachers use to plan learning that meets the needs of all children in multicomposite classes.

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

- Increase the pace of change across the school. Ensure improvement priorities are ambitious and lead to improved outcomes for learners.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure children experience progression, breadth and depth in their learning.
- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy with a strong focus on accelerating progress to close the poverty related attainment gap.

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 Dalmally Primary School and Pre Five Unit

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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 Early Learning and Childcare 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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=2300>

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.

Marion Carlton
HM Inspector