

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cromarty 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 promising start made by the headteacher in developing a positive ethos and supporting a culture change in the school. This includes building on the views gathered from parents on 'what matters'.
- Children enjoy the environment for learning provided by the design and facilities of the school and its grounds.
- The use of the local marine environment and input from community partners is supporting children's understanding of sustainable development.

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

- Develop high quality learning, teaching and assessment so that children make the best possible progress in their learning. In doing this, staff should ensure that learning activities are sufficiently challenging and better matched to the needs of all learners.
- The headteacher and staff should develop ways in which they evaluate the ongoing work of the school to ensure a robust and rigorous approach to securing positive outcomes for learners.
- Implement local authority progression pathways for all curricular areas to ensure children build on their previous learning effectively as they go through the school.
- Promote learning about equality and diversity to ensure experiences and practice reflect the world in which children live and will work.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Cromarty Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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/highland/5114128>

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 nine months 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.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector