

21 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate visited Drongan 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.

- Overall there are positive relationships across the school which are supporting children in their learning. Children are cooperative and well-mannered. They show consideration and respect for others which is contributing to a positive school ethos.
- The voluntary efforts of support staff, other non-teaching staff and parents are widening children's experiences and helping them to develop their skills for learning, life and work.
- Across the Early Childhood Centre and Primary, staff identify with the school and its community.

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

- Clear strategic direction, supported by robust self-evaluation, is needed to improve the work of the school. Senior leaders and all staff now require to work collaboratively to take forward the changes necessary to deliver successfully the school's improvement agenda.
- There is a need to address the inconsistencies in children's learning through developing a shared understanding of the features of high quality learning and teaching. Across the school, action is required to increase the pace and challenge of learning to raise children's attainment. This includes providing more opportunities for children to be active in leading their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff require to review all strategies and systems including their procedures to identify children requiring additional support. This will involve staff monitoring more rigorously the wellbeing and development of children and the appropriateness and impact of any interventions.
- In developing the curriculum there needs to be a clear emphasis on promoting the skills and attributes of children as learners. The curriculum should be planned to reflect more the school's local context.

We gathered evidence to enable us to 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 Drongan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

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

Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the Early Childhood Centre

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	weak
Quality of environment	adequate
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	weak

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

Since the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and two recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are two requirements and three recommendations.

Requirements:

- 1. The management team should ensure they record child protection information in a way which makes it clear what concerns have arisen. This information should be clearly communicated with all agencies and used to improve outcomes for children and families.

This is to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. SSI 2011/ 210 Regulation 4 (1) (a) Welfare of Service User. Timescale for meeting this requirement: 1st June 2018.

- 2. The provider must improve the information gathered about medication. The service must ensure that they gather the correct information about medication, store it correctly and ensure all permissions for administering medication is completed.

This is to comply with: The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. SSI 2011/ 210 Regulation 4 (1) (a) Welfare of Service User. Timescale for meeting this requirement: 1st June 2018.

Recommendations:

- 1. Personal plans should be developed further and the information gathered should be meaningful and used in a way that supports children.

Health and Social Care Standards - Standard 1.15 Responsive Care – Assessing my care and support needs.

- 2. The staff and the management team should reevaluate their approach to risk. They should ensure children are encouraged to take positive risks. Staff should enable children

to make decisions about risks, and have opportunities to partake in risky play while ensuring there are strategies in place to keep them safe.

Health and Social Care Standards - Standard 5: I experience a high quality environment if the organisation provides the premises.

- 3. The provider should support staff to access training around current best practice guidance in particular My world Outdoors, Pre-birth to three and Building the Ambition to enable staff to provide a better quality of play and care experience for children.

Health and Social Care Standards - Standard 1.15 Assessing my care and support needs.

- 4. More robust and effective procedures should be implemented by management to monitor all aspects of the service.

Health and Social Care Standards - Standard 4: I have confidence in the organisation providing my care and support.

- 5. The provider should now implement a strategic approach to identifying areas for development in the service, develop an action plan and continue to support the service as it moves forward.

More detailed Summarised Inspection Findings will be available from;

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/east-ayrshire/8241724>
and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

What happens next?

We will liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Ayrshire 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.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Charles Rooney
HM Inspector

Donna Laing
Care Inspector