

29 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Catrine Primary School and Early Childcare Centre  
East Ayrshire Council**

In June 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter following the inspection of your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and East Ayrshire Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**Area for Improvement 1 - Improve the leadership for learning of the headteacher.**

The acting headteacher, relatively new in post, has made a promising start in driving forward much needed improvement across the school. She has established, along with staff, a strong and clear vision for Catrine Primary School. There is a clear sense of direction and purpose for the school. The drive and commitment of the headteacher in striving for school improvement is a real strength. Her encouragement of teamwork and collegiality amongst staff has supported them to take on leadership roles which are enriching children's experiences. In the nursery, staff have also embraced new leadership roles and have made important changes to the learning environment and routines that have had an impact on improving learning for children. The acting headteacher is very well supported by the principal teacher who continues to show a dedication to improving outcomes for children. She is eager to develop and enhance her own knowledge and skills through a range of professional learning. Teachers in school and practitioners in the nursery now reflect on their practice more regularly, benefit from more formal arrangements to work in teams and share good practice. They would benefit from further work in developing their confidence in making robust evaluations about the work of the school and nursery. In moving forward it will be important for the new headteacher, once appointed, to continue to plan and implement improvements in a targeted and focused way to further advance the vision for Catrine Primary School.

**Area for Improvement 2 - Improve approaches to meeting the learning needs of all children, in particular those with social, emotional and behavioural needs.**

Teachers are better meeting the learning needs of children in classes by providing more suitable tasks, activities and resources. Improvements are still required in a minority of classes where activities are not always sufficiently challenging. The school has reviewed the way children, in particular those with social, emotional and behavioural needs (SEBN), are supported through multi-agency working. Children who experience barriers to their learning now feel more included and part of the school, with fewer instances of them being extracted from class and fewer exclusions across the school. Overall, relationships across the school between children and staff are positive. There has also been a marked improvement in the behaviour of children. We have asked the school to continue their work in helping children to cooperate with and respect each other more and take further steps to ensure all children feel safe and secure in school. A greater number of individual plans are in place for children with identified additional support needs across the school. These now need to have appropriate targets that are reviewed regularly to ensure that children make appropriate progress.

**Area for Improvement 3 - Improve self-evaluation, including effective monitoring and tracking children's progress to raise attainment.**

The acting headteacher has used the feedback from the original inspection to draw up an action plan for improvement identifying an appropriate range of priorities. Staff have worked very hard and made a positive start to driving forward many of these priorities. In moving forward, a greater focus now needs to be given to those key priorities that will result in improved attainment. At the primary stages, the school is at the early stages of developing an accurate overview of children's progress in their learning. The school should proceed, as planned, to improve children's awareness of their own skills, progress and next steps as learners. Approaches are in place to ensure that the clear gaps in children's knowledge, skills and understanding in numeracy and mathematics and literacy and English Language are being addressed. It will take more time for these changes to result in improvements in children's progress. A higher quality of early literacy and numeracy experiences are now provided across all play situations in the nursery class. Overall, approaches to monitoring and evaluating are more regular and are leading to improvements in learning and teaching. We also recognised the considerable support given to the school by East Ayrshire Council. The school has the capacity to improve further as it continues to work with East Ayrshire Council.

## **What happens next?**

The school has made some progress since the original inspection. 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 one year 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 informing you of the progress the school has made.

Guch Dhillon  
HM Inspector

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