

27 February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find out about our engagement with stakeholders and the approaches we are trying out as a result on our website: [Future approaches to inspection and review](#). The inspection of your child's school was carried out using one of our new approaches.

In January 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited your child's school for a total of two days. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate aspects of the quality of leadership and children's achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the work of the school and the early years' class.

- The headteacher's leadership and the clear direction she has given in leading self-evaluation for self-improvement across the school and the early years' class.
- Happy, confident children who very actively engage with their school and early years' class and benefit from being involved in helping to make improvements.
- High quality team working across the school and early years' class and the opportunities which staff have to lead developments across the school and local cluster.
- The nurturing and inclusive ethos throughout the school and early years' class and the attention given by staff to identifying and meeting individual children's needs.

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

- Continue to engage all partners to enhance learning for children and further improve attainment.
- Develop the confidence and skills of the early years' class team to develop further self-evaluation for improvement.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Tarbolton Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Self-evaluation for self-improvement	very 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
Self-evaluation for self-improvement	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	

This letter and a more detailed document called the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/south-ayrshire/8235023>

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

Morag Gunion
HM Inspector