

25 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barrhill Primary School and Early Years 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.

- The highly effective leadership of the headteacher who is supported very well by the acting principal teacher and staff. She has successfully created the culture and conditions where children and staff work very well together. They feel trusted and supported to lead and improve the life and work of the school.
- The positive relationships established by all staff across the school and nursery where there is a very strong focus on wellbeing of all. Children feel safe, supported and nurtured as a result of the family ethos that has been created.
- Staff in the nursery make highly effective use of their environment and spaces. Children benefit from the rich variety of experiences they offer through this creative environment.
- The enthusiasm and expertise of staff to develop children's skills in the expressive arts, in particular, art and design and music. As a result, children are developing well their creativity skills.

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

- All staff should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Teachers should revisit their approaches to how they assess children's learning in unfamiliar contexts. This will support further their judgements of attainment and increase greater retention of learning for all children.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Barrhill Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | Education Scotland](#)

### 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.

Judith Reid  
HM Inspector