

28 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Dunlop 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.

- The positive and caring ethos in both the school and early childhood centre. This is supporting children to be highly motivated and actively engaged in their learning. Children are proud of their school.
- Led by the headteacher, the strong sense of teamwork and drive of all staff in continuing to improve the quality of learning and teaching. Effective approaches to planning learning and assessment and monitoring children's progress in supporting this well.
- The high levels of attainment in literacy and English.

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

- Continue to develop approaches for children to plan and take more responsibility to lead their learning. This should include a greater focus on helping children understand the skills and attributes they are developing through relevant and real-life contexts.
- Continue to develop approaches to planning across the early childhood centre and early stages of primary, to ensure consistency in approaches to learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Dunlop Primary School and early childhood centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very 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 early childhood centre	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>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>	

## Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the early childhood centre

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
<b>Quality of care and support</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Quality of environment</b>	<b>good</b>

## Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the early childhood centre

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and one recommendation.

## Recommendation

1. The management team and staff should review children's personal plans to ensure they are reflective of individual children's current health, welfare and safety needs. Plans should clearly outline how the service will support these needs and identify children's next steps.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care standards which states; 'My personal plan is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices' (HSCS 1.15).

Personal plans developed should be consistent in line with, The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (requirements for care services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/210) regulation 5 - Personal plans.

This letter and a more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=2428>

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

Stuart Cathro  
HM Inspector

Lisa McDonagh  
Care Inspector