

6 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Tarbert Academy and Nursery Class. 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.

- Staff have worked well to ensure relationships in the school are positive. Children and young people are articulate, respectful and proud of their school. They learn in a welcoming and calm environment.
- Staff are working together well to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment through their participation in professional learning.
- Children are making positive progress in developing their skills in writing and numeracy in the primary department.

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

- There is a need to improve the pace of change through developing leadership at all levels and a consistent approach to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school.
- Teachers should ensure that they meet the needs of children and young people more through the effective use of assessment information.
- Staff should have high expectations of what children and young people can achieve. They need to implement a whole school approach to raise attainment across the curriculum.
- Teachers should review the curriculum to ensure that young people build on their prior learning more effectively.
- Staff need to raise the profile of equality and diversity to prepare learners fully for life beyond school.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate 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 Tarbert Academy and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the whole school	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</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>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</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: [Tarbert Academy | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Argyll and Bute 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 Argyll and Bute 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.

Dr. Elizabeth C Montgomery  
HM Inspector