

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ardersier Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Ardersier Primary School Nursery Class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore, we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Polite, friendly children who are eager to participate in learning and work well with each other.
- The headteacher and staff team have created strong relationships across the school. Together, they have established a nurturing learning environment.
- The approaches developed by the headteacher to check on children's progress. These help staff to identify and take action when children are not reaching expected levels of attainment.

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

- Improve approaches to learning, teaching and assessment to ensure a consistently high quality for all children across the school. This will help ensure that learning is meeting the needs of all children.
- Review approaches to planning to ensure children's learning time is used well to support improved progress across all areas of the curriculum.
- Improve children's attainment in literacy and numeracy, targeting gaps in children's learning to ensure all children make the best possible progress.

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

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</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>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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 The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Robyn McIlroy  
HM Inspector