

27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pirnmill Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

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

- Children are happy, friendly and keen to learn. They benefit from positive and caring relationships across the whole school community that support the wellbeing of children and families. This is supported by senior leaders and staff who understand the island and rural context of the local community.
- Strong partnerships which help improve children's wellbeing, enhance learning experiences and support children at times of change.

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

- Staff should develop approaches to support children to lead their own learning. This should include more regular, planned learning conversations. This will enable children to better understand what they have achieved and what is next for them in their learning.
- Senior leaders, with support from the local authority, should develop further an effective strategic approach that supports staff to raise attainment and achievement for all children. This should include embedding processes to plan, track and assess children's learning.
- Senior leaders should prioritise and support the improvement of the quality of learning, teaching and assessment to ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- All staff should further develop the use of data to track more clearly how much and how well children progress over time. They should use this information to plan learning that challenges children to 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? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Pirnmill Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

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?

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 North Ayrshire 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 North Ayrshire 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.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector