

27 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Loanhead Primary School. 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 new headteacher has a clear vision for the future success of the school and is providing a strong foundation for improvement and change. This is contributing to a positive climate of empowerment, encouragement, open communication and support for the whole school community.
- Children are mannerly and respectful. They are very proud of their school and are eager to learn.

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

- The new headteacher should work collaboratively with all stakeholders to increase opportunities for leadership and improvement across the school. Children, parents and staff should be more involved in influencing and leading change through consultation and discussion.
- Teachers should plan and deliver more engaging and appropriately challenging tasks and activities which meet the needs of all learners. This will support children to be more engaged and accelerate their progress in learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should ensure children who require additional support for learning are fully included and access their full entitlement to education. They should develop a clear whole-school strategic approach to promote health and wellbeing and ensure equality and inclusion for all children.
- Senior leaders and staff should improve the consistency of assessments to ensure the reliability of teacher judgements about children's progress. There is a need for a clear focus on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.

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

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>weak</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:

[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 East 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 East 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.

Teri McIntosh  
HM Inspector