

8 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lochardil Primary School 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.

- Children who are very proud of their school and articulate well the positive difference they are making in their school and beyond.
- The highly effective leadership demonstrated by the headteacher. She leads by example, and with her staff team, has created a positive and caring environment. They have a clear identity and vision to develop children as globally aware and active citizens. The strong sense of collective achievement, is reflected in the diverse range of awards the school has earned.
- The wide range of information and data which is gathered in an effective way which enables staff to identify what is working well and what needs to improve.
- The effective empowerment of staff in the school and ELC which leads to an agreed and positive team-working approach to school improvement.

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

- Staff should continue to develop consistently high expectations of children to ensure an appropriate pace of learning for all. This should include opportunities for children to lead their own learning as well as wider aspects of the work of the school. This will help to sustain and extend high levels of attainment.

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 Lochardil Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

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=3490>

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

Jackie Maley
HM Inspector