

25 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In January a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ardfern School. During our visit, we talked to parents and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

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

- The very caring and nurturing climate within the school which places children and young people at the heart of everything it does. Positive relationships with staff help children and young people to re-engage with education and make progress with their learning.
- The high quality pastoral support offered to children, young people and their families, including outwith the school day and during holiday periods. This contributes towards very good health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people.
- The clear focus on learning and attainment and the extensive range of outdoor and community based learning offered by the school. Through the effective use of small class groups, staff support children and young people very well through carefully tailored learners' experiences. As a result, most young people attain and achieve well.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the Director, headteacher and senior managers.

- The school needs to take a more rigorous approach to self-evaluation, quality assurance and improvement planning. These approaches should include more input from children, young people, parents and partners.
- Staff should further develop approaches to tracking and monitoring children's and young people's progress with their learning.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ardfern School

Leadership of Change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/reports/renfrewshire/8680140>.

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

Liz Angus
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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