

9 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Auchtertyre 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's motivation for a range of new opportunities that staff and partners are providing. These include drama, sports, art and engineering.
- Staff are positive about sharing practice across the schools within their cluster. For the nursery, there are emerging improvements from the work led by the visiting management teacher, while linking to the headteacher.
- The partnership work between the school and the community which results in mutual benefits.

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

- Develop mutually respectful relationships between teachers and children in which there are high expectations of learning and behaviour.
- As an important priority, develop a clear strategic direction to guide improvements, high standards and well-paced change as a responsibility of all. All staff should be making robust and regular use of self-evaluation. This should lead to a shared understanding of what the school is doing well and needs to improve.
- As a high priority, develop the curriculum to meet national expectations. This should ensure that children build appropriately on their knowledge, skills and understanding as they move through the school. Children need to be more aware of their own progress and next steps in learning.
- Ensure a more strategic approach to improving learning, teaching and assessment, with teachers taking more responsibility for ensuring high-quality delivery. This should result in the learning needs of all children being met, including those who require specialist support.
- Ensure prompt and structured action to raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy, as well as in other areas of learning. This should focus on helping children make the best possible progress.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Auchtertyre Primary School and Nursery Class

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

Quality indicators nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5128625>.

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 one year 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.

Joan Esson
HM Inspector