

28 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kilmartin Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare. 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 across the ELC and school who are friendly and keen to learn. The children come to school with a range of life experiences and interests.
- The supportive way that the headteacher, school staff, partners and the wider school community work together to enrich the curriculum through a variety of experiences. These are linked to the local context and children's interests.
- The commitment of the headteacher and staff to improve further children's learning experiences by engaging in appropriate professional learning.

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

- Review approaches to promoting and supporting positive relationships and behaviour across the school and ELC. This will improve children's learning experiences and the ethos across the school.
- Teachers should improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment to ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- Children to have more ownership of their learning and develop a wider range of skills for learning, life and work.
- Children should have increased opportunities to contribute to decision-making about issues that affect them and the wider life of the school.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning through play across the early level and beyond.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Kilmartin Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare

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

Quality indicators for the ELC	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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:

[Reports page | Inspection reports | 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 Argyll and Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Argyll and Bute 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