

17 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Salen Primary School and Pre-Five Unit – Bun-Sgoil agus Sgoil-Àraich an t-Sàilein. 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 headteacher and staff, across the school and pre-five unit, who work well together to create positive, respectful and trusting relationships with children, parents and the community. There is a welcoming, caring and inclusive ethos across the whole school as a result.
- Children who are proud of their school and pre-five unit. They are polite, well-mannered and welcoming to visitors. They engage well in their learning.
- Staff within the sgoil-àraich who use a range of total immersion approaches to support children's increasing fluency.

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

- Develop clear processes to support the identification, delivery and review of improvement priorities in the school and pre-five unit.
- Improve approaches to planning children's learning experiences in the school and pre-five unit. Staff should include children more fully in planning learning.
- Improve the standards of learning, teaching and assessment across the school. Ensure that all learning activities across the school are matched effectively to children's needs. Children need to be better supported and challenged in their learning.
- Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school. In doing so, teachers need to develop a better understanding of national standards.

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 Salen Primary School and Nursery Class – Bun Sgoil agus Sgoil-Àraich an t-Sàilein

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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: [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 one 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.

Denise Penman
HM Inspector