

3 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sgoil Ùige agus Sgoil Àraich - Uig 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.

- Staff have created a welcoming and friendly school. At the sgoil-àraich, children are immersed well in Gaelic. Children engage well with a range of total immersion play experiences indoors, outdoors and in the community.
- Children develop well their performance skills and understanding of their island, heritage and culture through drama and music. Children sing in Gaelic with energy, enthusiasm and joy.
- Children work with staff and other specialists in preparing for the local Mòd and in researching their identity with the historical society. This is extending children's learning and skills beyond the classroom.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

- Increase the leadership and pace of improving key areas impacting on learning and attainment, based on robust self-evaluation arrangements. A range of stakeholders, including the staff team, parents and children should have lead roles for taking forward improvements in the school.
- Develop and use a policy for total immersion education to strengthen children's progress and fluency in Gaelic. This should increase the quality and entirety of total immersion across all areas of children's learning.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to be clear on the progress that children make as they move from stage to stage at Sgoil Ùige. Teachers should have well-defined approaches to developing reading and writing, in Gaelic and English, health and wellbeing and Gaelic (Learners).
- Raise children's attainment in all aspects of learning and make better use of information from assessment, professional dialogue and tracking meetings.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Sgoil Ùige agus Sgoil Àraich

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

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [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 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar 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 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar 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 C. Esson  
HM Inspector