

22 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In March 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Toward Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

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

- The nurturing and caring ethos across the school which is underpinned by very positive relationships. The strong sense of community extends to parents, staff and partners. As a result, children feel secure and supported and enjoy coming to school.
- The teamwork of staff to improve the school. All staff work well together to provide positive learning experiences for children. Throughout a period of change, they have maintained their focus on supporting all children to achieve their potential.
- The good use of outdoor learning and the local environment to develop children's skills. Children are encouraged to be curious, creative and independent.
- The inclusive learning environment. Staff are committed to ensuring that all children participate and achieve success.

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

- Develop approaches to self-evaluation to provide a shared vision for change and improvement that drives the work of the school.
- Continue to develop approaches to assessment and monitoring children's progress to ensure all children experience appropriate pace and challenge in their learning.
- Continue to develop the curriculum so that children make progress across all curriculum areas.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Toward Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our school? (4th edition) , Appendix 3: 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/argyll-and-bute/8109729>

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

Mary Byrne
HM Inspector