

5 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bun-sgoil Dhùn Bheagain agus Sgoil-àraich - Dunvegan 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 and sgoil-àraich's work. These apply to English and Gàidhlig (Gaelic) Medium unless stated.

- The headteacher has a clear vision in leading staff to have a much sharper focus on what is working well in learning spaces and what needs to improve. The additional support the headteacher is putting in place is starting to improve children's progress in their learning.
- Children and staff are kind and caring to each other. They promote togetherness as important to how they contribute to the school and the community.
- A range of partners, the community and volunteers work well with all staff to enhance children's learning. Children develop skills and knowledge of their local area and island. Their work on sustainability ensures children take action to care for their island and home area.

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

- The headteacher and staff should continue to accelerate children's progress in reading and writing in English, and in Gàidhlig Medium Education. They should embed permanently the more effective approaches to total immersion, introduced of late, in the school and sgoil-àraich.
- The headteacher and staff should ensure that children experience consistently high-quality learning and teaching within the nurturing atmosphere that staff have created. This should be based on a range of assessments, increased use of technology and continued use of national advice, such as 'The Advice on Gaelic Education'. Teachers should receive regular feedback to assist them in supporting children reach their full potential.
- The headteacher and staff should increase children's learning across the breadth of the curriculum, including achievements. Teachers should continue to engage in medium- and longer-term planning that enables more challenging learning for children and, for those in English Medium Education, extends Gaelic (Learners).

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 Bun-sgoil Dhun Bheagain - Dunvegan Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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
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:

[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 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 C. Esson
HM Inspector