

23 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2024, a team of inspectors from Foghlam Alba - Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Sgoil Lionail - Lionel School and Sgoil-Àraich (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. Unless stated, these apply to Gàidhlig (Gaelic) and English Medium Education across all stages.

- The executive headteacher has very effectively put in place key improvements to raise standards on a short- and long-term basis. In so doing, she has made very good use of information on attainment, progress and what matters to the local area. She is well respected for her well-judged, ambitious and clear leadership of learning, teaching and raising attainment.
- Children are making good progress in literacy and numeracy through the medium of Gàidhlig, and as appropriate, English. Children are resilient and embrace change well. They participate with enthusiasm in learning activities to promote the island's heritage, and Gàidhlig language and culture.
- Children experience high-quality learning through play across the early level that is motivating, meaningful and develops children's creativity very well. In Gàidhlig Medium Education, this is developing children's fluency well in a range of total immersion situations.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the acting headteacher.

- Build further on the strengths in learning and teaching to ensure high-quality experiences for all children across the sgoil. Children who are higher achieving should experience more challenging learning.
- Continue to raise attainment by ensuring that children have sharper next steps for improvement and to reach their full potential. Children in English Medium need a more planned approach for Gaelic (Learners) as an additional language. This should build on their total immersion in Gàidhlig in sgoil-àraich.

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 Sgoil Lìonail - Lionel School and Sgoil-Àraich

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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	good
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	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	very good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	good
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	good
4.3 Staff deployment	good

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

Previous requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had three requirements and three areas of improvement. All of these have now been met.

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?

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. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector

Lorraine Barr
Care Inspector