

25 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich agus Sgoil Àraich. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the head of sgoil (school) and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the sgoil's work. Unless otherwise stated, these apply across the sgoil-àraich (nursery) and sgoil through Gàidhlig (Gaelic) and English.

- Children demonstrate a strong understanding of emotional and physical wellbeing. They enjoy very positive relationships with staff. Children feel safe, supported and nurtured.
- In the sgoil, children focus well on a range of motivating real-life learning activities. Children respond well to teachers' enthusiasm for teaching. This contributes to children making positive progress in their learning.
- In Gàidhlig Medium Education, children benefit from strong immersion experiences that result in their high-quality fluency in Gàidhlig. Across the sgoil, children talk articulately and with confidence to a range of audiences.
- The staff team, led by the head of sgoil, work well together and with partners, to provide a range of meaningful opportunities and insights into the world of work. In the sgoil, children recognise how personally and in work they can contribute to sustaining Gàidhlig language and culture.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head of sgoil and representatives from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

- Senior leaders and practitioners should plan learning in the sgoil-àraich to enable children to be immersed in Gaelic, follow their interests, and be curious and creative. All parents/carers requiring Gàidhlig Medium Education should have a total immersion place for their child in the sgoil-àraich.
- Senior leaders and staff should raise further children's attainment, particularly at Curriculum for Excellence first level.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to develop the curriculum, including play-based learning, Gaelic (Learners) and technologies.
- Senior leaders and staff should ensure that all children have leadership roles. Children need to be aware of the resulting skills from all opportunities for achievements.

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 Bhaile a' Mhanaich

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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 sgoil-àraich	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	

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	good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	adequate
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	adequate
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.

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no areas for improvement.

As a result of this inspection, there are two requirements and one area for improvement.

Requirement 1

By 31 July 2024, the provider must ensure that children are cared for in a safe and hygienic environment where sufficient measures are in place to protect children in line with

current best practice guidance.

To do this, the provider must, as a minimum ensure:

- a) Staff should continue to maintain a safe and comfortable environment where children are supervised.
- b) Nappy changing policies and procedures should be consistent with best practice. Children under two years must have a self-contained designated nappy changing room.
- c) Staff must ensure that registers and signing in and out sheets accurately reflect children's attendance.

This is to comply with:

The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulation 2011 (SSI 2011/210) - Regulation 4(1)(d) - health, welfare and safety of service users.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

"My environment is safe and secure" (HSCS 5.19)

Requirement 2

By 31 July 2024, the provider must ensure that children experience a high-quality service that is well led and managed.

To do this, the provider must, at a minimum, ensure the manager is clear about her role and responsibility in relation to notifications that must be made to regulatory bodies and submit the required notifications within the timescales required.

This is to comply with regulation 4(1)(a)(Welfare of users) and (7)(2) (c) (fitness of managers) of the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that:

"I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed" (HSCS 4.23).

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

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been made.

To support service improvement, the manager and staff should continue to develop concise and effective quality assurance systems to ensure that the quality of the service is monitored and assessed effectively. This should include, but is not limited to:

- a) Monitor staff practice and provide staff with constructive feedback to support them in meeting children's needs.
- b) Carry out regular and effective monitoring and auditing of chronologies and personal plans to ensure detailed and relevant information is gathered to support children's needs.
- (c) Further development of the self-evaluation framework to support the service identify strengths and areas for improvement

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes" (HSCS 4.19).

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?

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.

As a result of the Care Inspectorate's findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting.

Joan C. Esson
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