

19 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Rothesay Joint Campus and Pre Five Unit. 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 and nursery's work.

- Staff foster and value a strong sense of community across the school and island. They work well with community partners to ensure children and young people develop their sense of belonging and identify well with their school community.
- Senior leaders and staff foster positive relationships with children and young people. They help children and young people to develop as individuals and recognise their role in supporting children and young people's sense of wellbeing.
- In the nursery setting, practitioners provide interesting and stimulating outdoor learning spaces which promote well children's curiosity and creativity.
- Young people requiring additional support, including those who are new to Rothesay, benefit from a range of support available to them provided by staff and partners.

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

- Senior leaders and all staff should work more closely together to effect positive improvement and change. Children and young people should have a greater influence over improvements being made to the school and nursery.
- Staff should work together to continue to improve the consistency of learning and teaching across the campus. This includes improving the feedback provided to children and young people on their learning. This will help children and young people to understand clearly their next steps in learning.
- Staff should review and improve their approaches to providing support to children and young people to improve their sense of wellbeing, equality and inclusion. They should ensure they develop their approaches to evaluating and measuring the impact of support on children and young people.
- Senior leaders should support staff to raise the attainment of children and young people. The school community should strive to be more aspirational for all children and young people to ensure they achieve to their full potential.

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 Rothesay Joint Campus and Pre Five Unit

Quality indicators for the whole school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

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?	good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	good
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.

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.

Area for improvement 1

The manager and staff should streamline information gathered to ensure individualised personal plans and all about me are sufficiently detailed and completed accurately. This should include but not be limited to identified next steps in learning with focused targets and strategies that are clear and concise for all staff to follow to support children's health, welfare, and safety needs as well as play and learning targets.

This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices'. (HSCS 1.15)

Area for improvement 2

To support children to achieve their full potential the manager and staff should review the current planning cycle to include high quality observations and next steps, with a focus on children's developmental stages. This will ensure that children are supported to lead their own play and learning that is tailored to their individual abilities and needs. This should include, but not be limited to, high quality observations, meaningful next steps, and evidence of progression in learning.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state: 'As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable to my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSCS 2.27) and 'My care and support meets my needs and is right for me' (HSCS 1.19)

Area for improvement 3

To improve better outcomes for children. Management should develop and implement robust quality assurance systems with a focus on, monitoring children's personal plans, children's experiences, monitoring of staff practice and evaluating and improving the nursery.

This is to ensure that management and leadership is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards that state; 'I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes' (HSCS 4.19)

Area for improvement 4

To ensure the service continues to grow, develop and deliver best outcomes. The provider should have an active supportive role in supporting and effectively managing the leadership team to sustain and maximise the best outcomes for children, families and staff.

This is to ensure that management and leadership is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state: I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed (HSCS 4.23) and I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources. (HSCS 4.27)

Area for improvement 5

To ensure positive outcomes for children management should monitor and review the deployment and positioning of staff with a focus on staff responsibilities, engagement, staff practice including quality of experiences and resources.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which states that: 'My needs are met by the right number of people' (HSCS 3.15). 'My care and support is consistent and stable because people work together well'. (HSCS 3.19)

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Rothesay Joint Campus | Inspection Report | 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 Argyll and Bute 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 Argyll and Bute 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.

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HM Inspector

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Care Inspector