

25 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Clachan Primary School. 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.

- Children in Clachan Primary are inquisitive and eager to learn. They work well with each other, and with adults in the school and community. They enjoy sharing their learning experiences with community members, and benefit from the support they receive from a range of local organisations and individuals.
- The headteacher's strong leadership is based on a sound understanding of the needs of children and the local community. Through her drive and positive approaches, the school and community support each other very closely and add value to the life of the school and the local area.
- The outdoors is used very effectively as a context for learning. Staff are skilled in helping children to realise the potential of their surroundings as a place to learn and develop and test their practical skills. The school's commitment to raising and responding to environmental issues is a strong feature which benefits children. Through these experiences, children are learning important skills for life and work.
- The opportunities for leadership across the school have improved. Staff, children and parents are provided with a range of ways in which they are able to contribute to the school's improvement agenda. Staff and parents are responding positively in a climate where everyone wants to provide the best learning opportunities and experiences for children.

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

- Continue to review learning, teaching and assessment and develop progression pathways across different areas of the curriculum. Staff should ensure that there is appropriate pace and challenge in all areas of children's learning.
- Increase opportunities for teachers to take part in moderation activities with staff from other schools. Teachers should develop further systems for tracking and monitoring children's progress across the curriculum. They should make better use of National Benchmarks to support their shared understanding of standards.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Clachan Primary School

Quality indicators	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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/argyll-and-bute/8101922>

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.

Gary Johnstone
HM Inspector