

20 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find out about our engagement with stakeholders and the approaches we are trying out as a result at [Future approaches to inspection and review](#) on our website. The inspection of your school was carried out using one of our new approaches.

In April 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited your school for a total of two and a half days. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children/young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate aspects of the quality of leadership and children's achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Positive relationships between staff, children and young people across care and education.
- The extensive range of outdoor and community based learning offered by the school and residential houses which is having a positive impact on children's and young people's wellbeing.
- The relational approach adopted by all staff which leads to children and young people feeling safe, confident and cared for.
- Skilled, knowledgeable and motivated staff across care and education who communicate well and work effectively as a team.

The following areas for improvement were identified by inspectors:

- Further develop approaches to tracking and monitoring children's and young people's progress with their learning particularly at the broad general education.
  - Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure that children and young people receive their entitlements to a broad general education and senior phase.
  - Continue to identify ways to ensure children and young people have a voice in decision making at school and in the residential houses.
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**Quality indicators (QIs) help schools, education authorities and inspectors to identify what is working well and what needs to be improved in the work of the school.** You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*<sup>1</sup>? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ballikinrain Residential School

<b>QI 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>

## Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for Ballikinrain Residential School

<b>Quality of care and support</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Quality of staffing</b>	<b>very good</b>

### **Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class:**

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the school had no requirements and two recommendations. From these, both recommendations have been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and one recommendation.

### **Recommendation**

In order to make improvement:

- Care plans, risk assessments and chronologies need to be of a consistently high standard;
- All documents need to be dated; and
- Old versions of care plans and risk assessments should be archived.

This letter and a more detailed document called the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/stirling/5781043>

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<sup>1</sup> How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

## 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.

Steven McPherson  
HM Inspector

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