

23 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sandbank Primary School/Bun-sgoil Taigh A' Chladaich, and Sgoil Áraich and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. 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.

- Teamwork, led effectively by the headteacher, is resulting in strong relationships. The headteacher and staff support children, families and partners to feel fully included in school life.
- The efforts of the headteacher, staff, parents and children have led successfully to an increase in the numbers enrolling in the Gaelic Medium Education.
- Children are happy and engage well in their learning as a result of the positive start they make in their learning in the Early Learning and Childcare Centre.

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

- Improve the curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment in order to improve children's attainment and achievement across the school and Gaelic provision.
- The headteacher and staff should continue to develop effective approaches to immersion to raise further children's levels of fluency in Gaelic, attainment and achievements.
- Increase the pace of change to continue to raise staff's aspirations and increase their expectations of what children and the school can achieve.

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 Sandbank Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=4280>

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.

Rosalind J Webster
HM Inspector