

28 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

In May 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Locharbriggs Primary School and Nursery Class. 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.

- The highly effective and creative leadership of the headteacher. His vision and drive to improve outcomes for children, parents, staff and the wider community.
- The children's pride in the school and increased sense of belonging. Their recent involvement in improving the life and work of the school.
- The standards of attainment in children's writing achieved through a range of varied, interesting and meaningful contexts.
- The hardworking staff, and their approaches to embrace and affect change. Working as a team they are making many changes that impact positively on children's learning.

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

- Build on the promising start to improving the health and wellbeing of the whole school community. Develop meaningful ways for staff to support children's understanding of their own health and wellbeing. Continue to promote respect and develop an ethos of positive relationships with everyone feeling valued and their voices heard.
- Improve leadership at all levels and approaches to self-evaluation that raise attainment. Improve the monitoring and tracking of all children including those with additional support needs in the nursery and across the primary classes.
- Continue to develop high quality learning and teaching. Ensure children in the nursery lead their learning and that it takes account of their needs and interest. In addition, focus on developing all children's skills as responsible citizens.

We gathered evidence to enable us to the schools 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 Locharbriggs Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had two requirements and six recommendations. From these, two requirements and five recommendations have been met. Outstanding issues relating to maintaining personal planning records in a way that supports staff to use them effectively to care for children are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and three recommendations.

Recommendations

- The service should ensure that multi-disciplinary support meetings for children's planned care consistently review and record children's progress in relation to any previously determined short-term targets. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child: 'my needs, as agreed in my personal plan, are fully met' (HSC 1.23) and 'any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective' (HSC 1.24).
- The service should implement plans to review the location of the nappy changing facility. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that as a child: "if I require intimate personal care, this is carried out in a dignified way, with my privacy and personal preferences respected (HSCS 1.4) and 'the premises have been adapted, equipped and furnished to meet my needs' (HSC 5.16).
- The staff team should continue to engage in training that strengthens their professional skills in observing and evaluating children's play experiences and environments. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state that: '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 for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity' (HSC. 2.27).

More detailed Summarised Inspection Findings will be available from <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5937922> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

What happens next?

We will liaise with Dumfries and Galloway Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 18 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Dumfries and Galloway 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.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Elizabeth C Montgomery
HM Inspector

Malcolm Wilson
Care Inspector