

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barr Primary School and Early Years 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.

- The headteacher and staff have developed an inclusive ethos across the school and Early Years Centre that promotes children's wellbeing and confidence. Positive relationships between all members of the school community contribute to a supportive and respectful learning environment for all.
- Almost all children in the school and Early Years Centre are engaged and motivated to learn. They enjoy sharing their learning with others and have a strong sense of ownership of their experiences.
- In the Early Years Centre, practitioners support children's learning in literacy well. As a result, children make very good progress and show confidence in this area.
- Teachers have a strong understanding of the wide range of learning needs children have across the school. They provide effective support and more challenging tasks for children in mixed age classes.

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

- In the Early Years Centre, practitioners should improve their questioning and work with colleagues to develop a shared understanding of national standards. This will support them to extend children's learning further and meet the needs of children who need more challenge.
- The headteacher and teachers should provide children with more opportunities for personal achievement through participation in clubs and leadership groups. This will help children succeed in different ways and develop important skills for learning, life and work.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Barr Primary School and Early Years Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very 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	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	very 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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

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. South Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

M. A. Speirs
HM Inspector