

2 May 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 February 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited your school for a total of two days. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children 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:

- Well behaved, polite children who enjoy school and talk eagerly about their tasks.
- The effective leadership of the headteacher and depute headteacher who along with their committed and enthusiastic team, know the children and wider community very well. The school team has effectively identified the strengths of the school and understand the areas to be improved. They are well placed to further improve Ardgowan Primary School.
- Across the school, children enjoy a broad range of opportunities to develop skills in writing. By the end of their last year at Ardgowan Primary School, they produce writing of high quality and show potential to reach higher levels.

The following areas for improvement were agreed with the headteacher and a representative from Inverclyde Council:

- Continue to embed approaches to improving the school to ensure all children experience consistently high-quality learning and teaching across all primary stages.
  - In its work to improve attainment and children's progress across all curriculum areas, the school should continue to develop a bespoke curriculum that is relevant, meets the needs of all learners and supports children to build on their knowledge and skills as they move through the school.
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**Quality indicators 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 Ardgowan Primary School

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

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/inverclyde/8640327>

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

Susan Duff  
HM Inspector

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

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