

12 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dochgarroch 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 welcoming, nurturing, inclusive ethos across the school and nursery, where all children and staff feel valued and respected.
- The energising and supportive leadership of the headteacher, who has quickly gained the respect of staff, children and parents as she effectively drives forward improvement.
- The motivated and engaged children who make a significant contribution to school improvement.

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

- Continue to ensure that learning experiences are well matched to children's needs, based on effective tracking and monitoring of their progress in learning.
- As planned, refresh the curriculum rationale to ensure it appropriately reflects Dochgarroch Primary and its community.
- Improve learning experiences for all children in the nursery to ensure the best possible progress in their development and learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Dochgarroch Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5138728>

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the nursery class needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the nursery class's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection, with particular focus on the nursery class, within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the nursery class we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the nursery class has made.

Pamela Adamson  
HM Inspector