

27 August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Gigha Primary School and Pre-Five Unit. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the school staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children who are kind and respectful to each other. They respond well when given opportunities to engage with a variety of visitors.
- The strong sense of teamwork across the school.
- School staff and practitioners in the Pre-Five Unit who provide a wide range of interesting and stimulating experiences to promote children's curiosity and creativity.

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

- Develop further approaches to planning, learning, teaching and assessment ensuring an appropriate level of pace, challenge and differentiation.
- Children should be given opportunities to lead their own learning and be more involved in evaluating their own progress and next steps.
- Ensure that there is a sharp focus on raising attainment and achievement for all children. This should include robust tracking and monitoring of children's progress in learning and achievement.

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 Gigha Primary School and Pre-Five Unit

| Quality indicators for the primary school | Evaluation |
|--|---------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Raising attainment and achievement | 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 |
|--|-------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | good |
| Securing children's progress | 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/inspection-reports/argyll-and-bute/8103321>

What happens next?

We are not at present confident from our visit that the school has effective arrangements for ensuring continuing improvement in the quality of education for all learners. We will return within one year to explore this further. After the return inspection we will report our findings to you.

Lorraine Fisher
HM Inspector