

8 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Arinagour Primary School and Pre-Five Unit. 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.

- Children who are enthusiastic and engaged in their learning. They are respectful and supportive of each other in learning situations and in social contexts.
- The positive relationships across the school community where children and staff feel valued and included.
- The programme of residential trips to the mainland and links with other remote schools. These learning experiences give children the opportunities not readily available on the island to develop skills for life and prepare them for transition to secondary education.

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

- Review learning and teaching methodology to introduce greater challenge across the curriculum and increase the pace of progress of learning.
- Offer more opportunities for children to lead their own learning developing independent learning skills to raise attainment for all learners.
- Develop outdoor learning to reflect the unique context of Arinagour Primary School using the rich natural environment to enhance children's learning experiences.

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 Arinagour Primary School and Pre-Five Unit

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
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/8100829>

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

Laura McLean
Managing Inspector