

29 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Lochnell Primary School and Pre Five Nursery Unit. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

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

- The positive and caring relationships between children, their peers and all staff. Children are proud of their school and are confident talking about their experiences.
- The strong teamwork and dedication of staff in the school and nursery. This has helped create a welcoming, nurturing and calm environment where children are happy and motivated to learn.
- The effective partnership working between staff, parents and the wider community to enhance children's learning experiences. This is contributing to good levels of attainment and achievement for children in the school.

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

- The need for clear strategic direction and improved approaches to leadership at all levels across the school and nursery.
- Develop robust approaches to evaluating the work of the school and nursery supported by effective planning, tracking and monitoring.
- Develop approaches to learning and teaching to ensure that all children are suitably challenged and make the best possible progress, leading to continued improvements in attainment.
- Continue to develop the curriculum, including health and wellbeing, to ensure its relevance to the unique context of Lochnell Primary School.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Lochnell Primary School and Pre Five Nursery Unit

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

Here are the Care Inspectorate's gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

Recommendations

Children's personal plans should be further developed and consolidated to fully reflect what they are learning and achieving as well as enable them to capture and investigate their own ideas and lead on their learning.

This is to demonstrate the Health and Social Care Standards, My support, my life, which state:

1.15 My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.

1.19 My care and support meets my needs and is right for me.

1.23 My needs, as agreed in my personal plan, are fully met, and my wishes and choices are respected.

Staff should provide children with more challenging opportunities to discover, explore, experiment, problem solve and wonder.

This is to demonstrate the Health and Social Care Standards, My support, my life, which state:

2.27 As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.

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/8106126>.

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school and nursery needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Argyll and Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Argyll and Bute Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Stuart Cathro
HM Inspector

Sheila Baird
Care Inspector