

23 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Àrd-sgoil Ulapuil - Ullapool High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work through the medium of Gàidhlig (Gaelic) and English.

- Young people learn in a caring and supportive environment, which is underpinned by respectful relationships across the school community. Young people look after each other.
- The headteacher has led on refreshing the vision, values and aims. This is beginning to improve the strategic direction of the school. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the work of the school are improving.
- Partners work effectively with the school staff to support young people's wellbeing. This is leading to positive outcomes for young people, such as improved progress for those young people who require additional support in their learning.
- Senior leaders and staff are putting in place successful approaches to raise attainment. Young people's attainment is improving in areas such as literacy. Almost all young people as they leave school go to employment, higher or further education.

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

- Teachers should take more account of information from assessment to inform their planning of learning and teaching. Along with senior leaders, teachers should check thoroughly young people's progress and have an overview of their skills, attainment and progress over time.
- Senior leaders should continue to work closely with all staff, parents/carers and young people to ensure all planning for improvement is collegiate, well planned, resourced and evaluated. There is a need to build leadership skills across the school.
- Senior leaders should continue to plan strategically for Gàidhlig Medium Education, particularly given the welcomed increased numbers at the primary stages. The numbers doing awards and qualifications in Gaelic (Learners) should be higher.
- Staff should continue to plan progress in the curriculum to meet all young people's needs. This should ensure that all young people attain to their full potential, particularly the highest-attaining young people.

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

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</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>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

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

Joan C. Esson  
HM Inspector