

13 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ardgour 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 leadership of the headteacher in creating a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all children. She listens to and acts on the views of parents and children resulting in improvements in the life of school.
- Staff across the nursery and school who work well together to promote a caring ethos which supports children and their families. All staff are committed to making improvements in their practice.
- The effectiveness of the headteacher in securing positive partnerships with parents, partners and the community. This provides a wide range of opportunities for children to develop individual skills, interests and talents, particularly in sports and music.
- Children across the nursery class and the school who support each other well, are motivated and engage well in their learning, particularly in the outdoors.

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

- Raise attainment and achievement for all learners, particularly within reading and writing. Across the school, staff should articulate a clear strategy for raising attainment and ensure learning and teaching approaches are planned at the right level of challenge. The strategy should outline support for all learners as well as specific interventions for individual learners as required.
- Continue to develop flexible progression pathways across the curriculum which support teachers to plan learning effectively to ensure children are making the best possible progress.
- Ensure there is shared understanding across the school of the standards and expectations of what is required to achieve a level of Curriculum for Excellence. Teachers should now use the results of assessment in a more timely manner to plan appropriate interventions to support learning, and monitor the impact of these more regularly.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ardgour Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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 nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5130220>.

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make the necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school 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 school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Louise Turnbull
HM Inspector