

9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Applecross Primary School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children. We worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

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

- Enthusiastic children who are happy, curious and confident learners. They take great pride in their school and nursery.
- High quality learning experiences in the outdoor nursery and outdoor experiences for the primary class. Children's achievements beyond school and responsibilities as active leaders in the school.
- Teamwork of the staff and their involvement with the community to enhance children's understanding of the wider world. Positive relationships between staff and children encouraging them to learn.

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

- Formalise and increase the regularity of opportunities for staff to plan collaboratively together.
- Strategic leadership of the school's improvement priorities and shared vision. Improve communication between the headteacher and parents.

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 Applecross Primary School and Nursery Class

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1421>

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.

Susan Gow
HM Inspector