

4 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Tiree High School, Tiree 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 strong leadership of the interim executive headteacher in developing an open and collaborative culture. Senior leaders support the headteacher very well in driving forward improvement across the school.
- The school's progress in working with partners to enrich the learning experience of children and young people. Young people in the senior stages benefiting from access, using digital technology, to a wider range of courses leading to qualifications.
- Staff and partners have worked very well together to develop and increase uptake in Gaelic Medium Education. By the end of the primary stages, children's attainment in literacy and Gàidhlig is good.
- A nurturing and caring ethos in the nursery class, characterised by positive relationships between the staff team and children, is supporting an inclusive learning climate.
- Children's and young people's successes in music and song through the medium of Gaelic and English. These achievements support the development of children's and young people's confidence, self-esteem and help their understanding of their island community.

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

- Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment across the school and nursery. Teachers should develop approaches to assessing reliably children and young people's progress from early level to the end of S3.
- Continue to strengthen approaches to immersion in Gaelic in the nursery and at the secondary stages. Senior leaders should enable young people at the secondary stages to have their education through Gaelic, and learning Gaelic as a second language, recognised with awards and qualifications.
- Continue to improve staff's understanding of their roles and responsibilities in supporting the wellbeing of all children and young people. Staff, across the primary and secondary stages, should continue to develop positive relationships and have high expectations of children and young people.

- Staff, including middle leaders, should develop their approaches to monitoring and evaluating their own work by having a greater understanding of national expectations and standards. This would then allow teachers to better meet the needs of their children and young people.

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 Tiree High School and Primary School, and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary and secondary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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	satisfactory
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	

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=4986>.

What happens next?

We will ask Argyll and Bute Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within one year of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. Argyll and Bute Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with Argyll and Bute Council.

Guch Dhillon
HM Inspector