

26 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Gartocharn Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Centre. 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 headteacher's outstanding leadership and staff's highly effective teamwork in leading school improvement and improving outcomes for children.
- Staff deliver well-planned outdoor activities and outstanding learning experiences, which children benefit from.
- Confident and articulate children who engage very well in their learning. They are curious, independent learners whose behaviour is exemplary.
- All staff relationships across the early learning and childcare centre and school are positive, based on mutual trust and respect. The children's caring and considerate approach towards one another, which they develop from a very young age.
- Children's high levels of attainment in the primary stages.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from West Dunbartonshire Council.

- The school and nursery should take forward their improvement priorities as outlined in the improvement plan.

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 Gartocharn Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	excellent
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
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	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	very good

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement and one recommendation. These have now been met. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations.

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=2691>

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

Rosalind J Webster
HM Inspector

Deborah Blackhurst
Care Inspector