

26 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ardfern School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the head of school and staff.

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

- Staff have developed strong relationships with children and young people. This is helping children and young people improve their participation in school activities.
- Staff know and understand children's and young people's needs. They use this understanding to develop individualised targets that help all learners improve and develop their social skills.
- Children and young people in the broad general education (BGE) make positive progress in improving their listening and talking and reading skills.
- Young people are increasing the amount of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) National Qualifications they achieve as they progress through their senior phase of their education.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head of school and Ardfern School's Managing Director.

- Senior leaders need to work with teachers to improve the quality of learning and teaching across the school. They should ensure all children and young people's learning experiences are consistently high quality.
- Senior leaders should support teachers to work with peers in other schools to improve their understanding of children's and young people's progress in learning.
- Senior leaders and teachers should help children and young people in the BGE make better progress and raise their attainment in numeracy and writing. They should check that young people are working towards SQA National Qualifications and accreditation that are suitably challenging.
- Senior leaders should lengthen the school week so that children and young people have the same educational opportunities as children and young people in other schools. They should ensure that children and young people can access planned and progressive learning opportunities across the whole school day.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Ardfern School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</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:

[Ardfern Learning Centre \(Johnstone and Lomond campuses\) | Inspection Report | 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. Ardfern School's Director will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

David M<sup>c</sup>Kellar  
HM Inspector