

18 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Pre-Five Unit. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers, young people and children and worked closely with the head of campus and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the joint campus' work. These apply across the joint campus unless stated otherwise.

- The staff team is increasingly creating a caring and welcoming atmosphere for children and young people to learn.
- Senior leaders and staff work well with partners to help meet young people's specific individual needs. These lead to positive outcomes and employment for targeted groups of young people in the senior school.
- Children in the Learning Centres enjoy a range of interesting activities. Teachers' skilful questioning helps children and young people make positive progress in their learning.

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

- At pace, senior and middle leaders should collaborate to improve the strategic leadership of all areas of the joint campus.
- At pace, senior and middle leaders should increase further the use of quality approaches to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. This should identify clear priorities for improvement that will have the greatest impact on learners' successes and achievements.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to build timely positive relationships and expectations across the school. This should promote fairness, respect and behaviours in line with the aspiring values and vision of the joint campus.
- At pace, senior and middle leaders and staff should develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This should result in learners' experiences being consistently planned and delivered effectively, based on a relevant and dynamic curriculum.
- Senior leaders should ensure that all children and young people, who need targeted support for their learning and development, have immediate and thorough support plans and processes in place.
- At pace, senior leaders and staff should develop a clear strategy that results in accelerating children and young people's progress, attainment and achievement. This should include having effective processes to plan, track and monitor children and young people's progress.

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 Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Pre-Five Unit

Quality indicators for the school	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	weak
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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings, we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Argyll and Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Argyll and Bute 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.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector