

28 August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Catrine Primary School and Early Childhood Centre  
East Ayrshire Council**

In June 2016, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and East Ayrshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve and published another letter in August 2017. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**Improve the leadership for learning of the headteacher.**

This area for improvement has been successfully overtaken given the appointment of a new headteacher. Although relatively new in post, she has made a very good start in driving forward much needed improvement across the school. She has established, along with staff, a strong and clear vision and values for Catrine Primary School. There is a clear sense of direction and purpose for the school. The drive and commitment of the headteacher in striving for school improvement is a real strength. Staff continue to take on leadership roles which are enriching children's experiences. They continue to be highly motivated and have embraced change effectively over recent years. In the Early Childhood Centre (ECC), practitioners have continued to embrace leadership roles acting as 'champions' for literacy and numeracy. They have also made changes to the learning environment and routines that have had an impact on improving learning for children. The principal teacher is well respected by the school community and is taking an active role in school improvement. She has developed and enhanced her own knowledge and skills through a range of professional learning. Teachers in school and practitioners in the ECC now reflect on their practice more regularly, benefit from more formal arrangements to work in teams and share good practice. They would still benefit from further work in developing their confidence in making robust evaluations about the work of the school and nursery. In moving forward, it will be important to plan and implement improvements in a targeted and focused way to raise attainment.

## **Improve approaches to meeting the learning needs of all children, in particular those with social, emotional and behavioural needs.**

Overall, the school has made good progress in meeting the social, emotional and behavioural needs of children. Further work is still needed in meeting the learning needs of children. The principal teacher has been instrumental in maintaining improvements in the arrangements for identifying the learning needs of children. The school has reviewed the way children, in particular those with social, emotional and behavioural needs (SEBN), are supported through multi-agency working. Children who experience barriers to the learning now feel more included and part of the school. Overall, relationships across the school between children and staff are positive. There has also been a marked improvement in the behaviour of children. Children now cooperate with and respect each other more as a result of school initiatives and the revised 'respectful relationships' policy that sets out clear expectations. In addition, children also feel safer and cared for in school. A greater number of individual plans are in place for children with identified additional support needs across the school. However, the learning needs of children are still not yet well enough met. Children would benefit from suitable tasks, activities and resources well matched to their needs and that provide greater levels of challenge. A higher range of quality early literacy and numeracy experiences are now provided across the playrooms and outdoor areas in the ECC.

## **Improve self-evaluation, including effective monitoring and tracking children's progress to raise attainment.**

The school has made satisfactory progress in this area for improvement. The headteacher has used the feedback from the original inspection to draw up an action plan for improvement identifying an appropriate range of priorities. Staff have worked very hard and made a positive start to driving forward many of these priorities. In moving forward, a greater focus is still required to those key priorities that will result in improved attainment. At the primary stages, the school has made a start to developing an accurate overview of children's progress in their learning. Although further work is still required, children are more aware of their strengths and next steps in learning. Senior leaders recognise that improvements are required to ensure that children make appropriate progress in literacy and numeracy. As a result, there is still scope to improve attainment across the school. There has been good progress in the ECC in taking forward self-evaluation. In the ECC, approaches to monitoring and tracking are developing well. The team meet each week to discuss children's learning. They have improved how they gather, reflect on and use information about children's progress to inform improvements in learning and teaching. This now needs to be extended across the school. We also recognise the considerable support given to the school and ECC by East Ayrshire Council.

## **What happens next?**

The ECC has made good progress and the school has made satisfactory progress since the original inspection. Many areas for improvement now need time to impact on children's attainment. We will ask the local authority for an update on the attainment of children in the primary stages within 18 months of the inspection. This

report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, we will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action, agreed with East Ayrshire Council, that we intend to take.

Guch Dhillon  
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.