

26 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Millbank Primary School and Nursery Class (Bun-Sgoil Bruach na Muilne). 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 nurturing ethos and caring, respectful relationships across the school and in the enhanced support areas and the nursery class. Children participate well in their learning.
- The collaborative work of senior leaders and staff in developing and implementing new school processes and systems. These are beginning to have a positive influence on children's outcomes.
- Children's development of important skills such as responsibility and confidence through a variety of achievements in and outside of school.
- Children's fluency in Gaelic in the Gaelic Medium Education classes. This is developed through teachers' practice, the work of partners and children's participation in a variety of school events.

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

- Develop increased consistency in high-quality learning, teaching and assessment across the school, which meets the needs of all children and inspires and motivates children's learning.
- Develop the use of play throughout the school, building on the effective work taking place in the nursery class.
- Continue to raise attainment, in particular in literacy and English.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to analyse and use data effectively. This will help them to evaluate the effectiveness of support provided and ensure it impacts positively on children's attainment over time and in all curricular areas.
- Increase the visibility of Gaelic in the school environment to help all children connect with the language and culture. The headteacher should ensure that children across the school have an understanding of the Gaelic language, the culture and benefits of Gaelic.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Millbank Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
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: [Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector