

26 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Barcaldine Primary School. 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.

- Polite, enthusiastic and friendly children who demonstrate creativity and independence in their learning. They are rightly very proud of their school and their many achievements. They are kind and supportive to one another.
- The highly effective headteacher who is successfully leading positive change in the school. By developing inclusive approaches to self-evaluation, children, staff, parents and partners all play a valuable role in shaping school improvement.
- The commitment of all staff to ensuring a caring, supportive and nurturing ethos. Embedded approaches to health and wellbeing underpin the work of all. This enables all children to feel safe and included, and to enjoy success in their learning.
- The high-quality provision for outdoor learning which allows children to apply their knowledge and skills across the curriculum in a stimulating and exciting way. Staff and children make the most of the rich, cultural heritage and natural environment of the local area.
- The successful approaches to interdisciplinary learning that provide children with relevant, real-life contexts for learning. The significant partnerships with parents and the local community also enhance children's learning experiences.

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

- Continue to develop robust systems to assess, track and monitor children's progress over time. This will help to raise further the attainment for all learners.
- Build further on opportunities for children to take ownership of their own learning. In doing so, support children to have a clear understanding of their next steps across their learning.

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 Barcaldine Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</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:  
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/argyll-and-bute/8101221>.

### 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. Argyll and Bute Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Lesley A Johnstone  
HM Inspector