

## EXTERNAL EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTION REPORT

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Elected members have requested that they are provided with details of all external education establishment Inspection Reports.
- 1.2 With a view to providing further information than that contained within the Annual Education Plan and Update Report, details of all inspections carried out on a quarterly basis will be presented to Community Services Committee as a standing item.
- 1.3 This report provides details of all external education establishment inspection reports received across Argyll and Bute Education Service during the period September 2021 to December 2021.
- 1.4 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) took the decision to pause all inspection activity on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 1.5 In September 2021, HMIE agreed with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills the arrangements to resume a programme of scrutiny activities for session 2021-22. This programme and how HMIE approached scrutiny is outlined in section 3.0 of the Report.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee notes:
  - a) The contents of this report and Appendix attached;
  - b) This quarterly report will be presented on an ongoing basis to Community Services Committee detailing all establishment inspections conducted and

published by Education Scotland within that period, and

- c) That Ward members will receive copies of school inspection reports for schools within their area as published by Education Scotland.

### 3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The planned programme of scrutiny activities for session 2021-22 originally included two phases. These are outlined below:

#### **Phase One: late September 2021 to December 2021**

During this phase HMIE engaged with those establishments, settings and CLD services awaiting the outcome of further inspection or a progress report following an inspection before the pandemic. Visits included a blend of virtual and in-person engagement.

During the visits, HMIE discussed with staff progress on the areas for improvement identified from earlier scrutiny activity, recognising that some areas for improvement had been impacted by COVID-19.

In addition, HMIE reviewed the establishment approaches to safeguarding and child protection.

HMIE also explored with staff and the local authority the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the establishment/service. HMIE wanted to learn from practitioners about the work underway to address the impact of COVID-19 and support recovery.

Following each visit, HMIE published a brief report. A summary of all external school inspection audit reports published by Education Scotland across Argyll and Bute Education Service establishments during the period September 2021 to December 2021 is provided in **Appendix 1**. The full Education Scotland reports can be found via this link:

[www.education.gov.scot](http://www.education.gov.scot)

As part of Phase One HMIE undertook visits to the following schools and services in Argyll and Bute. Links to individual school reports can be found below:

- Gigha Primary School [gighapsvl211221.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](http://gighapsvl211221.pdf(education.gov.scot))
- Lochnell Primary School [lochnellpsvl180122.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](http://lochnellpsvl180122.pdf(education.gov.scot))
- Glassary Primary School [glassary\\_psvl141221.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](http://glassary_psvl141221.pdf(education.gov.scot))
- Achahoish Primary School [achahoishpsvl180122.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](http://achahoishpsvl180122.pdf(education.gov.scot))

- St Andrews Primary School [St Andrew's Primary School \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/inspections/primary-schools/2021-2022/st-andrews-primary-school)
- Campbeltown Grammar School
- Hermitage Academy [hermitageavl180122.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/inspections/primary-schools/2021-2022/hermitage-academy)
- Community Learning and Development

In addition, HMIE requested a progress report from the schools listed below:

- Dunoon Primary School [dunoonpsvl180122.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/inspections/primary-schools/2021-2022/dunoon-primary-school)
- Tiree High School [tireehspsvl211221.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/inspections/primary-schools/2021-2022/tiree-high-school)  
(Gaelic version ) [tireehspsvl211221-gaelic-version.pdf \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/inspections/primary-schools/2021-2022/tiree-high-school-gaelic-version)

3.2 In parallel with Phase One, HMIE undertook a programme of national thematic inspections focused on themes relevant to COVID-19 and recovery.

The first three national thematic inspections were undertaken by December 2021 and focused on the following:

- Approaches to supporting children's and young people's wellbeing
- Outdoor learning
- Local approaches to recovery.

Local Authorities agreed with HMIE which schools would participate in the national thematic inspections. Once the national thematic inspections are concluded, holistic Reports will be written and identified areas of good practice within a Local Authority may be highlighted within them. Again, once quality assured, these National Thematic Reports will be published on the Education Scotland website.

3.3 Phase Two: January 2022 onwards.

The programme of ELC and school inspections was scheduled to resume from January 2022. However updates received from HMIE in December 2021 and February 2022 respectively, noted that, in recognition of the ongoing challenges settings and schools are facing in dealing with COVID-19, routine school inspections would **not resume** as originally outlined.

3.4 Recovery Visits: March 2022

From March 2022 until the end of the academic year HMIE plan to carry out 'recovery visits' to a selection of early learning and childcare settings and schools.

During these visits HMIE will invite settings and schools to talk about their own current priorities as they respond to the impact of the current pandemic. HMIE will listen to how practitioners are addressing the impact of Covid-19 with a particular focus on continuity of learning and wellbeing of staff and learners. HMIE are keen to learn what is working well along with the challenges faced and solutions found. The visits will help them gather evidence of the range and quality of children's and young people's learning experiences. They also want to identify and share examples of effective practice

HMIE will continue to have a focus on safeguarding and child protection in each visit.

The visits will be of a hybrid nature with both online meetings and face to face engagements. Visits are likely to be arranged over two days within a given week,

Schools and settings are being given the opportunity to self-select to participate in recovery visits, in discussion with the relevant local authority officers.

3.5 In Argyll and Bute schools are being supported by the following members of the Education Central Team:

- Link Education Managers
- Education Officer with responsibility for supporting school improvement
- Education Officer with responsibility for supporting learning, teaching and assessment
- Lead Teacher for Recovery and Renewal

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 In summary, a total of 9 external inspection reports were received for the period September 2021 to December 2021.

4.1 A further report on the outcomes of the 'recovery visits' and inspection outcomes, if the programme of ELC and school inspections resumes, will be presented to the next Community Services Committee.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy – The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 places a duty on Education Authorities to provide children and young people with school education and (in terms of raising standards) requires Authorities to endeavor to secure improvement in the quality of that school education.

5.2 Financial – None

5.3 Legal – None

5.4 HR – None

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: – None

5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics – None

5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None

5.5.3 Islands – None

5.6. Climate Change – None

5.7 Risk – Reputational risk to the Education Service following a weak report.

5.8 Customer Service – The outcome of establishment inspections of the Education Service of Argyll and Bute Council may significantly enhance or 4 detract from the Council's reputation and attractiveness as an area to work and live in.

**Douglas Hendry**

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**Councillor Yvonne Mcneilly**

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**February 2022**

## Appendix 1 - Overview of Inspection Outcomes

School	Type of Visit	Outcome of Visit
Gigha Primary School	In-person engagement	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
Lochnell Primary School	In-person engagement	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
Glassary Primary School	In-person engagement	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
Achahoish Primary School	In-person engagement	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
St Andrews Primary School	In-person engagement	HMIE has requested that Argyll and Bute Council provide further information about the school's progress within one year of the published report.
Campbeltown Grammar School	In-person engagement	HMIE has requested that Argyll and Bute Council provide an interim report on the school's progress in six months from the published report, followed by a thorough analysis of the school's performance in one year.
Hermitage Academy	In-person engagement	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
Tiree High School	Virtual visit	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.
Dunoon Primary School	Virtual visit	HMIE will make no more visits to the school in connection with the original inspection.