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17 December 2002

Dear Mr Morton

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF EASDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
PRE-SCHOOL UNIT, ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

The report on Easdale Primary School was published in December 2000. HM Inspectors visited the school in September 2002 to evaluate progress made in responding to the main points for action in the report.

The school had made very good progress towards meeting the main points for action. The education authority had made insufficient progress in addressing the first main point for action, relating to accommodation. HM Inspectors will make no further visits to the school regarding the December 2000 report.

I attach an evaluation and brief account of the response made by the school and the education authority to the main points for action in the report.

I am sending a copy of this letter to parents of children currently in the school and the other recipients of the inspection report.

Yours sincerely

Frank Crawford
HM Chief Inspector
Western Division

HM Inspectorate of Education

Follow-up to the Inspection of

Easdale Primary School and Pre-school Unit

Argyll and Bute Council

Main points for action

1. *The education authority should arrange for the door-entry security system to be made operational.*

Fair progress had been made with this main point for action.

The Council's Property Services Department had arranged to complete the work on the security system by the end of October 2002.

2. *Aspects of the programmes in English language, mathematics and health education should be improved in line with the recommendations in this report.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

In English language, the headteacher and staff had improved programmes for listening and talking to provide pupils with well-structured opportunities to develop a wider range of skills. Pupils were now making regular use of computers in mathematics to handle and display information. The school was continuing to develop its health education programme. Recent additions included a variety of activities to improve pupils' physical well-being.

3. *Teachers should ensure that all tasks are matched to pupils' needs and provide sufficient challenge.*

The school had met this main point for action.

The headteacher and staff had reviewed the range of activities they provided in English language and mathematics. Teachers' plans now showed more clearly how pupils' individual needs would be met. The headteacher involved teachers in discussions of pupils' attainment and effective learning and teaching. She had organised appropriate opportunities for teachers to work together to share good practice.

4. *The school should improve further its arrangements for assessment and recording to make better use of assessment information to help plan next steps in pupils' learning.*

The school had met this main point for action.

Staff had revised their procedures for assessing and recording pupils' achievements. Teachers systematically recorded comments on pupils' progress towards learning targets. Their forward plans showed clearly how they used the assessment information to help identify the skills they expected pupils to learn next. All staff made good use of the information to monitor pupils' progress towards national levels of attainment.

5. *The headteacher should implement her plans to update written guidance on programmes of study and teaching approaches.*

The headteacher had made good progress towards meeting this main point for action.

The headteacher had updated written guidance on English language, forward planning and approaches to assessment, to reflect recent school developments. She planned to provide further advice on the curriculum and teaching approaches, in consultation with staff, when developments to other programmes of study were completed.

The school had made very good progress towards meeting the main points for action. The education authority had made insufficient progress in addressing the first main point for action, relating to accommodation. HM Inspectors will make no further visits to the school regarding the December 2000 report.