

17 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Sgoil a' Bhac and Sgoil Àraich Loch a Tuath. 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 work of the school and sgoil àraich (nursery).

- In classrooms, playrooms and beyond, staff and children enjoy positive, caring and supportive relationships. This contributes to children having a strong sense of belonging to their school and sgoil àraich.
- Partners such as parents, the community, church, employers and organisations make important and productive contributions to children's wellbeing, learning and achievements.
- Children are confident, articulate and support each other well. They have positive attitudes to their learning. The school's focus on Gaelic is helping children be bilingual and appreciate the language's value to their future aspirations.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

- Continue to extend and improve the strategic leadership of change and improvement to encompass all aspects of Sgoil a' Bhac and Sgoil Àraich Loch a Tuath. This should guide and direct achieving well-paced outcomes for children.
- Develop further the curriculum so that children build appropriately on their knowledge, skills and understanding, and attain to their full potential. A high priority is to develop a programme for health and wellbeing, and writing in Gaelic.
- Build on the most effective practice in learning, teaching, immersion and assessment to embed this as consistent practice for all children. This should include having a strategic overview of how well assessment and moderation is evidencing the achievement of each level of Curriculum for Excellence.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#) 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 Sgoil a' Bhac and Sgoil Àraich Loch a Tuath

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</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>	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>weak</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: 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/eilean-siar-\(western-isles\)/6232531](https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/eilean-siar-(western-isles)/6232531)

## Here are the Care Inspectorate’s gradings for the nursery class

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	<b>adequate</b>
Quality of staffing	<b>adequate</b>

### Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements or recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

#### Recommendations

- Personal plans for children should be developed further to ensure that children’s personal preferences, likes and dislikes are recorded. Current information on children’s routines should be maintained. Staff should ensure that purposeful individual observations, and clearly identified next steps, are recorded for each child. They should ensure that spontaneous observations are carried out, where appropriate. This will give clear information on children’s individual learning and support each child’s keyworker to identify individual next steps in learning for each child in their group. Children’s personal plans should be reviewed every six months, or as children’s needs change.

Health and Social Care Standards:

1.14 – ‘My future care and support needs are anticipated as part of my assessment.’

1.15 – ‘My personal plan (sometimes referred to as a care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.’

The service should review, update and implement the service’s medication procedures, ensuring these reflect best practice guidance. This should include:

- Recording clear information about children’s medical conditions and how medication has to be administered. This should include triggers, signs, symptoms and actions to be taken by staff.
- Demonstrating how information is shared with parents/carers when medication has been administered.
- Ensuring staff record information about any medication they administer promptly.
- Ensuring staff clarify the dose of medication with parents/carers, where this differs from the instructions.

Health and Social Care Standards:

4.14 – ‘My care and support is provided in a planned and safe way, including if there is an emergency or unexpected event.’

1.24 – ‘Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective.’

### What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar regarding the school’s capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within a year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Joan Esson  
HM Inspector