

6 November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Tong Primary School and Sgoil Àraich. 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 early emerging improvements that the headteacher is beginning to make to the school. She is identifying what the school needs to improve. Staff are showing a commitment to taking forward priorities.
- Children who are articulate, capable and keen to learn. They benefit from caring and respectful relationships with staff.
- The way staff have worked together to establish a new Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision. Children are making good progress from being immersed in the language.

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

- Continue to develop a clear direction to guide well-paced change and leadership at all levels of the school. All staff should be making robust and regular use of self-evaluation.
- Give very prompt attention to developing the curriculum to meet national expectations, initially prioritising the planning of literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing. This should ensure that children build appropriately on their knowledge, skills and understanding as they move through the school. Children need to be aware of their own progress and next steps in learning.
- Include the further development of GME in the strategic planning of the school. The learning of Gaelic, as a second language in English Medium, needs to result in children making better progress. Children would benefit from an increased use of Gaelic in the daily life and learning of the school.
- Improve learning and teaching. Staff should develop a shared understanding of the features of high-quality learning and teaching. Action is required to make learning more engaging, based on the needs of individuals, and with increased pace and challenge.
- Raise attainment in all areas of learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Staff need to make better use of ongoing assessment to ensure children achieve as highly as possible.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Tong Primary School and Sgoil Àraich

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

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

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	adequate
Quality of environment	adequate
Quality of staffing	adequate
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the nursery class

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had one requirement and no recommendations. The requirement has not been met. Outstanding issues relating to upgrading the outdoor environment are carried forward in this inspection. As a result of this inspection, there are two requirements and no recommendations.

Requirements:

Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011. (SSI 2011/210) – Regulation 5. Personal Plans

- Subject to paragraph (3) a provider must, after consultation with each service user and, where it appears to the provider to be appropriate, any representative of the service user, within 28 days of the date on which the service user first received the service, prepare a written plan (“the personal plan”) which sets out how the service user’s health, welfare and safety needs are to be met.
- Subject to paragraph (3), a provider of a care service must: review the personal plan when there is significant change in a service user’s health, welfare or safety needs; and
- at least once every six months whilst the service user is in receipt of the service.

The provider must, within six months of the publication of this report ensure the care plan is completed.

Health and Social Care Standards - My support, my life

1.19 My care and support is consistent and stable because people work well together.

- Regulation 10. Fitness of Premises:(1) A provider must not use premises for the provision of a care service unless they are fit to be so used.
- Premises are not fit to be used for the provision of a service unless they are suitable for achieving the aims and objectives of the care service and to comply with National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare Up to the age of 16:
Standard 2: A safe environment

- Some action has now been made on the requirement. Money has been ring fenced to start the development of the outdoor area.

The provider must, within six months of the publication of this report, provide a suitable outdoor play area for Tong Nursery School.

To comply with The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210).

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-\(western-isles\)/6232124](https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/eilean-siar-(western-isles)/6232124) and the [Care Inspectorate website](#)

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 and their arrangements for supporting the school. 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

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Care Inspector