

7 November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Ballantrae Primary School and nursery class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The strong leadership of the headteacher and the effectiveness of her approaches in promoting a sustainable, inclusive learning environment. The strong and productive partnership with parents and the community which impact positively on children's learning experiences.
- The strong teamwork of staff who by working well together are enhancing the quality of children's learning in and beyond the classroom. The effective approaches are resulting in improvements to the curriculum bringing about the best possible outcomes for all children.
- Responsible, respectful, happy and hardworking learners in both the nursery and primary classes who have high expectations of themselves and others. The school's very strong ethos of achievement and sense of community. Children's high levels of resilience, confidence and enthusiasm.
- The effectiveness of nursery staff in empowering children to be leaders of their own learning through open-ended experiences.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from South Ayrshire Council:

- Continue to further improve aspects of the life and work of the nursery and school such as the use of digital technology and problem solving in mathematics.
- Building on best practice already in the school, continue to develop consistency of approaches to teaching and learning to ensure that attainment continues to rise.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school? for the primary stages and for the nursery class, How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*¹. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ballantrae Primary School

Primary stages

Leadership of Change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good

Nursery class

Leadership of Change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/south-ayrshire/8232229>

¹ *How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015; How good is our Early Learning and Childcare? 2016* – [How Good Is Our School?](#) [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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. South Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Marion Burns
HM Inspector

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