

20 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Colmonell Primary School and Early Years Centre. 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 setting's work.

- The strong leadership of the headteacher who ensures equity, improves attainment and supports families and the local community. She is supported very well by the highly-skilled staff team.
- Positive, nurturing and caring relationships throughout the school and Early Years Centre. Children are supported to lead their own learning and are confident, curious and engaged.
- Very strong, effective and respectful teamwork across the school and Early Years Centre. Staff have high expectations of themselves and children. They show a strong commitment to high-quality learning and teaching. This is resulting in children making very good progress in their learning.
- Productive community partnerships that support children's sense of place and responsibility for the local area.
- All staff prioritise children's wellbeing. They provide a range of learning opportunities to support children to be respectful, feel valued and ready to learn in school and the Early Years Centre. Children have a strong sense of global diversity, which supports them in building an inclusive school community.

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

- Continue to develop the use of digital learning journals to support planning and tracking of children's learning.
- Building on the strong practice in the Early Years Centre, continue to develop approaches to high-quality learning through play at the primary stages.

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 Colmonell Primary School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the Early Years Centre	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very good
Securing children's progress	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [Education Scotland](#)

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.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector