

13 March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Bun-sgoil Stafainn 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 strong start that children in the Sgoil Àraich are making to their learning. In particular, they are progressing well in their understanding of Gaelic, and development of literacy and numeracy.
- Children who are content, ambitious and value their learning. They are ambassadors for their school, community and the Gaelic language through their high profile successes in national and local competitions.
- The range and quality of partnerships that the staff have developed with the community, parents and Comunn na Gàidhlig. These partners, along with staff, are increasing children's knowledge of their local area, as well as Gaelic culture and music. Partners enhance children's fluency in Gaelic.

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

- Develop a more strategic approach to self-evaluation and the leadership of change as a responsibility of all staff. Self-evaluation needs to be more firmly centred on the Gaelic aspects of the school and the Sgoil Àraich. The headteacher should ensure that all stakeholders are involved in improving the school, based on a climate of collegiality.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to raise attainment. This should focus on defining further children's progression, development of skills and, at the primary stages, more of the curriculum being through the medium of Gaelic.
- Develop a strategic approach to health and wellbeing which builds on the school's vision, values and aims and the use of wellbeing indicators.
- Increase the pace of developing effective arrangements to assess, track and evidence the progress that children are making. Staff should ensure that this information is used to plan learning and timely interventions. Parents need to be better informed of their children's progress.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Bun-sgoil Stafainn and Sgoil Àraich.

Quality indicators primary stages	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
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 nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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, will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5128323>.

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve. We will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Within six months of publishing this letter, we will ask The Highland Council for their plans on making self-evaluation more based on Gaelic Medium Education. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector