

20 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Strachur Primary School and Pre-5 Unit. 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.

- Children are friendly, polite and enjoy their learning. They are proud of their school and Pre-5 Unit and keen to share their successes and achievements with visitors.
- The headteacher and staff know children and families well. They create a welcoming, inclusive ethos across the Pre-5 Unit and school where children are nurtured and supported to succeed.
- Staff in the Pre-5 Unit and school provide children with rich, real-life learning opportunities, making good use of the local environment and the wider community. Children engage well with these experiences which supports them to make good progress in their learning.
- Pre-5 Unit practitioners undertake high quality professional learning which is having a positive impact on the quality of children's experiences, interactions and spaces.

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

- Continue to review and refine approaches to recording and sharing children's progress and learning across the school and Pre-5 Unit. This should help staff, children and families to easily recognise and celebrate the progress children make in their learning.
- Continue to develop approaches to play across the early level and beyond to support children's transition more effectively. In doing so, ensure closer collaboration between staff across early level.
- Provide children in the primary stages with increased opportunities to reflect upon and take more responsibility for their learning and skills development. This should support them to identify their strengths and next steps in learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Strachur Primary School

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	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 nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	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. Argyll and Bute Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susie Smith
HM Inspector