28 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Gateside Primary School and Early Years Class. 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 in the school and nursery class who are highly confident and kind to each other, adults and visitors. In the nursery, children have fun in their environment and in the school, children are eager, motivated learners.
- The strong nurturing relationships that exist across the school and nursery class between staff, children and their families. These relationships support children well to respect themselves and others.
- The strong sense of teamwork between staff and their willingness to take on leadership roles based on their professional learning. Senior leaders support and guide staff well to improve children's learning experiences, particularly in literacy.
- The approaches senior leaders and staff take to identify children's barriers to learning quickly and address their needs. This is helping staff to get it right for every child in the school and nursery class.
- The high levels of attainment of children across the school and nursery. Children make very good progress in their learning and development.

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

- Senior leaders and all staff should continue to work on areas identified within the school and nursery class improvement plan.

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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 Gateside Primary School and Early Years 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 nursery class	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	

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare. The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

Detailed evaluations	Evaluation
Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning?	**very good**
1.1 Nurturing care and support	**very good**
1.3 Play and learning	**very good**
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	**very good**
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	**very good**
Key question 3: How good is our leadership?	**very good**
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	**very good**
Key question 4: How good is our staff team?	**very good**
4.3 Staff deployment	**very good**

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

Areas for improvement made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

As a result of the inspection, no areas for improvement were made.

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A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | 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. North Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Helen Mulholland
HM Inspector

Eileen McColgan
Care Inspector

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