

1 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Littlemill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre (ECC). During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the acting headteacher and staff.

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

- Staff prioritise positive and caring relationships across the school and ECC that support the wellbeing of children and families. This results in improved levels of engagement in learning amongst children.
- Teachers and practitioners use a range of questions and approaches to improve children's play and learning. They explain and support children through talking and helping them with their learning. This develops children's ability to talk about their learning.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should embed policies, guidance and processes to raise attainment and achievement for all children across the school and ECC.
- Senior leaders should support staff to develop further the use of assessments and data to track more clearly how much and how well all children progress overtime. This information should be used to plan learning that challenges children to make the best possible progress.
- Senior leaders should continue to improve the quality of learning and teaching across the school and ECC. This should ensure all children increase their ability to lead their own learning and are clear about their next steps and how they can be successful at school.

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 Littlemill Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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 childhood centre	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	weak
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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with East Ayrshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Ayrshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector