

22 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Lochnorris Supported Learning 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.

- Staff develop strong and positive relationships with children across the school. Children are positive, ready to learn, calm and settled and are clear on the purpose of learning.
- Teachers are beginning to use digital tools effectively to support learning, independence and accessibility for most children. This helps children develop their communication skills and increase their participation in school and 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 improve the overall quality of teaching and learning to offer children the appropriate level of challenge.
- Senior leaders and staff should improve how they gather, track and use evidence about children's progress. This will help staff ensure learning is planned more effectively and supports each child to achieve their next steps.
- Senior leaders and staff should raise children's attainment across all curriculum areas.
- Senior leaders and staff, with support from local authority colleagues, should review the suitability of current learning environments. In doing so they should develop more opportunities for children to build their skills in social and community settings.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using two quality indicators from [How good is our school \(4th edition\)](#). 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 HMIE's evaluations for Lochnorris Supported Learning Unit

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
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	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: [Lochnorris SLU | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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.

David McKellar
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland