25 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Bun-sgoil Ullapuil agus Sgoil-àraich Ullapuil - Ullapool Primary School and Nursery Classes (Gàidhlig and English Medium). 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. These apply across 3-12 Gàidhlig and English Medium Education, unless otherwise stated.

- The newly appointed headteacher is making a positive difference to establishing foundations for improving learning and teaching. She has quickly identified accurate priorities for improvement and is beginning to lead well-judged changes.
- The whole staff team provide a safe, welcoming and warm environment for learning. Staff's caring and supportive approaches help them to develop trusting and positive relationships with children.
- Children are happy, polite and keen to learn. They enjoy sharing their learning about their unique local community, West Highland heritage and Gàidhlig language.
- The whole-school community has collaborated very well to increase the numbers in Gàidhlig Medium Education.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The Highland Council. These apply across the bun-sgoil, in both Gàidhlig and English Medium Education, unless otherwise stated.

- Staff should develop high-quality approaches to learning, teaching and assessment, setting lessons and activities at the right level to challenge and support all children. Staff should review the curriculum, including daily routines and timetables to maximise the time available for learning.
- Senior leaders and staff should raise attainment in literacy and numeracy, and across the curriculum, to ensure that all children reach their potential.

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- Senior leaders and staff should develop further and embed strategic approaches to high-quality total immersion in Gàidhlig Medium Education. This should increase children's fluency and rate of progress, including for those studying Gaelic (Learners) in English Medium Education, in line with national expectations. The headteacher, working with the local authority, should ensure the sgoil-àraich is fully resourced to deliver high-quality total immersion.

- Senior leaders and staff should increase children of all ages' responsibilities, so they are more actively involved in their own learning, and in improving their experiences.

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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 Bun-sgoil Ullapuil agus Sgoil-àraich - Ullapool Primary School and Nursery Class

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	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using three quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Curriculum	**satisfactory**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**satisfactory**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**satisfactory**

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

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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 The Highland Council regarding the school's and nursery's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school and nursery within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school and nursery, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector

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

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