

18 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Sgoil an Taobh Siar and Sgoil-Àraich – Nursery 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 sgoil – school and sgoil-àraich's work.

- The headteacher and staff foster warm, nurturing and positive relationships with children. This supports children to be happy and motivated in their learning, resulting in very high standards of behaviour and strong engagement in learning.
- Children's participation is high in competitions to develop confidence and performance skills through drama, singing and recitation in Gàidhlig. This helps all children connect in meaningful ways to Gàidhlig language and culture.
- The headteacher and staff enable children to develop fluency, communication and pride in Gàidhlig. This is through effective immersion in Gàidhlig, supported by very fluent staff.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

- The headteacher and staff should continue improving teaching and deepening children's learning through increased opportunities for creativity, problem-solving and meaningful use of the outdoor environment.
- The headteacher and staff need to develop a strategic range of high-quality assessment approaches. This should inform children's next steps in learning, increase pace and challenge and ensure all children make the best possible progress.
- The headteacher and staff should continue developing more coherent planning across the curriculum. They should plan more real-life contexts to enhance children's skills in numeracy and mathematics and increase children's fluency in Gàidhlig as an additional language.

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 Sgoil an Taobh Siar and Sgoil-Àraich

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	

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	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	good

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: [Sgoil an Taobh Siar | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in 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. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector

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