

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	LA/36/15

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee - 24 November 2015

Education Scotland Report – Ballachulish Primary School and Nursery Class

Report by Director of Care & Learning

Summary

This report provides details on Education Scotland’s report of Ballachulish Primary School and Nursery Class dated 15 September 2015.

1:0 INTRODUCTION TO INSPECTIONS

Education Scotland aims to provide assurance on the quality of Scottish education and promote improvement and innovation to enhance learners’ experiences and lead to better outcomes. Their inspections also contribute to National Performance Framework reporting.

Each year, they inspect and report on the quality of education in a sample of pre-school centres, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, community learning and development services, colleges and residential educational provision. They also inspect the education functions of local authorities.

To support improvement, inspectors focus on the quality of children and young people’s learning and achievement. They have a particular interest in the development of children and young people’s skills and understanding in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing which enables access to the highest possible learning within a broad general education and beyond.

Details of all aspects of the work of Education Scotland along with all the reference documentation can be found on the Education Scotland website. Link: [Education Scotland](#)

2:0 INSPECTION CONDUCTED

2:1

SCHOOL	AREA	INSPECTION DATE	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Ballachulish Primary School and Nursery Class	Lochaber	June 2015	Full	15 September 2015	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the

2:2 Members are advised that as reports are published following inspection, they will be referred directly to Members and may be discussed at Ward Business Meetings. In this way relevant Members will see each published report as they arrive in the relevant area, with the required degree of immediacy.

2:3 Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication "*How good is our school?*" Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish schools are doing.

Education Scotland evaluations are made on a 6-point scale as follows:

* Excellent/Very Good/Good/Satisfactory/Weak/Unsatisfactory

Education Scotland will make no further visits to the school in connection with the inspection letter of January 2015.

Quality Indicator	Ballachulish Primary School
Improvements in performance	Good
Learners' experiences	Good
Meeting learning needs	Good

Quality Indicator	Ballachulish Nursery Class
Improvements in performance	Good
Children's experiences	Good
Meeting learning needs	Satisfactory

Quality Indicator	Ballachulish School and Nursery Class
The curriculum	Satisfactory
Improvement through self-evaluation	Satisfactory

The visit identified the following key areas for improvement:

- Improve approaches to meeting the needs of children who need more challenge in their learning.
- Develop the leadership of the curriculum to ensure that all children can make suitable progress in all aspects of their learning through the medium of Gaelic and English.
- Strengthen the approaches to assessing and monitoring children's progress.

- Ensure that self-evaluation is rigorous and leading to well-paced improvements in children's learning and achievements.

The visit identified the following key strengths:

- Children who are friendly, caring and proud of their school.
- The role of staff, parents and partners in providing a range of learning experiences which prepare children to be part of their community.
- The school's nurturing environment in which children receive a high level of attention.
- The quality of specialised support for those who need additional help with their learning.

The full Education Scotland Report can be found on the link below
www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BallachulishPSNCIns150915_tcm4-869307.pdf

3:0 ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF INSPECTION

3:1 The Authority and Head Teacher are provided with both the report and a 'record of inspection findings' (RIF). These documents evidence both good practice and areas for improvement and using this, the school will adapt its school 'Improvement Plan' and report annually the impact on learners through the Standards and Quality Report.

4:0 COMPARISON

4:1 Members are advised that it is not possible to use Education Scotland reports to compare across schools, as the curriculum is now tailored by schools to their individual circumstances, within the overall quality indicators.

4.2 Furthermore, it is not possible to compare previous reports for a school with more recent reports. This is due to changes in the inspection focus from year to year. The link below provides the advice note from Education Scotland for the session 2014-15:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/ESInspectionAdviceNote201415_tcm4-832523.pdf

4.3 Consequently, reports should be viewed as a single snap-shot of a school's performance, against a suite of national quality indicators as laid down in *How good is our school*.

In session 2015-16 inspection activity will reflect the most recent advice note which can be found here:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/i/genericresource_tcm4865189.asp

5. Implications

5.1 There are no resources, legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever, risk, Gaelic or rural implications arising from this report.

6:0 RECOMMENDATION:

The Area Committee is asked to continue to note the Education Scotland report on Ballachulish Primary School and Nursery Class dated 15 September 2015.

Designation: Quality Improvement Manager (West)

Author: Don Esson

Date: 13th November 2015.