

The Highland Council

Lochaber Area Committee

29 August, 2019

Education Scotland Report – Lochaline Primary School

Report by Area Care & Learning Manager

Summary

This report provides details on Education Scotland's report of Lochaline Primary School of 19 March 2019. The Head Teacher at the time of the short model inspection was Mr Keith Adams, as is still the case.

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: <https://education.gov.scot/>

2:0 INSPECTION CONDUCTED

2:1

SCHOOL	AREA	INSPECTION DATE	NATURE OF INSPECTION	PUBLICATION DATE	ACTION
Lochaline Primary School	Lochaber	January 2019	Short Model	19 March 2019	Education Scotland will make no further visits in connection with the report of 2019.

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.

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 August 2018.

Quality Indicator	Lochaline Primary School
Learning, teaching and assessment	Excellent
Raising attainment and achievement	Very Good
Quality Indicator	Nursery Class
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Securing children's progress	Very Good

The visit identified the following area for improvement:

- Across the school community, continue to build on the memorable and dynamic learning experiences, which will prepare children well for the future.

The visit identified the following strengths:

- Creative, articulate and kind children, who are rightly proud of their school and their many achievements. They make the most of the varied and exciting learning experiences offered to them.
- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher in nurturing a thriving and vibrant school community. His dedication and passion for ensuring that no child misses out is ensuring equity of opportunity for all.
- The consistently very high-quality teaching at the primary stages, which ensures that all children are making very good progress in all areas of their learning.
- The outstanding sense of teamwork amongst the school community. All staff willingly take on leadership roles, and parents play a key role in supporting the school to continue to succeed.
- The dedication of all staff in creating an ethos of nurture and achievement, where children and adults alike feel valued and respected. The wellbeing of the whole school community is central to the work of all.

The full Education Scotland Report can be found on the link below

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5128323>

3:0 ACTIONS AS A RESULT OF INSPECTION

- 3:1** The Authority, Head Teacher and the public are provided with the report, “summary of inspection findings” (SIF) and an evidence report.

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.
- 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*.

The link below provides the Approaches to Inspection from August 2016:

Link:

<https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/inspection-and-review/about-inspections-and-reviews/new-approaches-to-inspection/Approaches%20to%20inspection%20from%20August%202016>

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 scrutinise and note the Education Scotland report on **Lochaline Primary School** of 19 March 2019.

Designation: Quality Improvement Manager (West)

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Date: 29th July 2019.