

**The Highland Council**

**Lochaber Area Committee**

**6 November 2019**

**Education Scotland Report – Duror Primary School Report**

**Report by Area Care & Learning Manager**

### **Summary**

This report provides details on Education Scotland's report of Ardgour Primary School of 27 August 2019. The Head Teacher at the time of inspection was Mrs Marylin MacDonald.

## **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, Education Scotland 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	PUBLICATI ON DATE	ACTION
Duror Primary School	Lochaber	May 2019	Short Model	27 August 2019	Education Scotland will return to carry out a further inspection 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, 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 return to carry out a further inspection in connection with the report of 2019.

Quality Indicator	Duror Primary School
Learning, teaching and assessment	Weak
Raising attainment and achievement	Unsatisfactory

The visit identified the following strengths:

- The welcoming ethos established across the school. Children are respectful towards each other and adults and demonstrate an eagerness to learn.
- Partners and parents involvement and enthusiasm to support the life and work of the school.
- Children's enjoyment of learning opportunities within the local community.

The visit identified the following areas for improvement:

- Develop highly motivating and relevant learning experiences that are supported by a progressive curriculum.
- As a matter of urgency, plan appropriately challenging learning that meets the needs of all children. In doing so, tasks and activities should take account of what children already know and develops their independence in learning.
- Develop assessment approaches that ensure all children make very good progress in their learning. Information gathered about children's progress should be accurate, reliable and used by teachers to inform children's next steps.
- Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children..

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

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/highland/5130522>

### **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.

- 3.2** Following the retirement of the Head Teacher in August 2019, the Highland Council made a decision to appoint an experienced Head Teacher, immediately. It was the view of the Head of Education, following discussion at Area level, that this exceptional action was required, to enable the school to begin to move forward, without delay. In addition, some Pupil Support Time was allocated to the school.

### **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 is a small financial implication associated with the time bound Pupil Support allocation time. There are no 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 **Duror Primary School** of 27 August 2019.

**Designation: Area Care & Learning Manager & Quality Improvement Manager (West)**

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**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019.**