
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	13 June 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/35/17/WB
Contact Officer:	Wilma Bain	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Education Scotland Report on Ardgowan Primary School		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education and Communities Committee of an Education Scotland external evaluation of Ardgowan Primary School.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Education Scotland are phasing in four new approaches to inspection. Ardgowan Primary School was inspected in February 2017 using one of their new approaches. The recently revised Quality Indicators for early learning settings and schools were used (How good is our school? 4). The report was published on 02 May 2017.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee approve the report on Ardgowan Primary School.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Ardgowan Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in February 2017. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school including the quality of leadership and children's achievements at all stages. Key strengths and main points for action were identified.
- 4.2 Taking into account the feedback from "try-out" inspections and recent developments in Scottish education, such as the National Improvement Framework and the Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Scotland have introduced a range of new inspection models from August 2016 to suit particular circumstances and contexts. The inspection models are:
- Full inspection model
 - Short inspection model
 - Localised thematic model
 - Neighbourhood model

Ardgowan Primary School was inspected using the short inspection model. The key features of the short inspection model, which differ to the full establishment model are:

- The team will consist of fewer inspectors
 - Inspectors will spend less time in school (a total of two days)
 - There will be a focus on only two quality indicators in addition to safeguarding
 - The quality indicators evaluated will be 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement and 3.1 Raising attainment and achievement.
- 4.3 The report was published on 02 May 2017. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members, and the Convener and Vice-Convener for Education and Communities.
- 4.4 Education Scotland's evaluations for Ardgowan Primary School are:
- QI 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement - very good
- QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement - good

An evaluation of "very good" means that there are major strengths which outweigh any areas for improvement. An evaluation of "good" means that there are important strengths which, taken together, clearly outweigh any areas for improvement.

- 4.5 The report lists three key strengths of the school:
- Well behaved, polite children who enjoy school and talk eagerly about their tasks.
 - The effective leadership of the head teacher and depute head teacher who along with their committed and enthusiastic team, know the children and wider community very well. The school team has effectively identified the strengths of the school and understand the areas to be improved. They are well placed to further improve Ardgowan Primary School.
 - Across the school, children enjoy a broad range of opportunities to develop skills in writing. By the end of their last year at Ardgowan Primary School, they produce writing of high quality and show potential to reach higher levels.
- 4.6 The report lists two areas which will help the school to improve.
- Continue to embed approaches to improving the school to ensure all children experience consistently high quality learning and teaching across all primary stages.
 - In its work to improve attainment and children's progress across all curriculum areas, the school should continue to develop a bespoke curriculum that is relevant, meets the needs of all learners and supports children to build on their knowledge and skills as they move through the school.

- 4.7 In addition to the Inspection Report, Summarised Inspection Findings have been published. These give greater detail about findings including Quality Indicator 2.1: Safeguarding.

The school submitted self-evaluation information related to child protection and safeguarding. Inspectors discussed this information with relevant staff and where appropriate, children. In addition, inspectors examined a sample of safeguarding documentation. At the time of the inspection, there were no identified areas for development.

As a result of the inspection, Education Scotland have no plans to re-visit Ardgowan Primary School.

- 4.8 The Quality Improvement Officer for the school will continue to offer support and challenge as appropriate.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications - One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Financial Implications - Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

- 5.2 There are no legal implications.

Human Resources

- 5.3 There are no human resources implications.

Equalities

- 5.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

- 5.5 There are no repopulation implications.

2 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find out about our engagement with stakeholders and the approaches we are trying out as a result at [Future approaches to inspection and review](#) on our website. The inspection of your school was carried out using one of our new approaches.

In February 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited your school for a total of two days. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate aspects of the quality of leadership and children's achievements.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Well behaved, polite children who enjoy school and talk eagerly about their tasks.
- The effective leadership of the headteacher and depute headteacher who along with their committed and enthusiastic team, know the children and wider community very well. The school team has effectively identified the strengths of the school and understand the areas to be improved. They are well placed to further improve Ardgowan Primary School.
- Across the school, children enjoy a broad range of opportunities to develop skills in writing. By the end of their last year at Ardgowan Primary School, they produce writing of high quality and show potential to reach higher levels.

The following areas for improvement were agreed with the headteacher and a representative from Inverclyde Council:

- Continue to embed approaches to improving the school to ensure all children experience consistently high-quality learning and teaching across all primary stages.
 - In its work to improve attainment and children's progress across all curriculum areas, the school should continue to develop a bespoke curriculum that is relevant, meets the needs of all learners and supports children to build on their knowledge and skills as they move through the school.
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Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to identify what is working well 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*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Ardgowan Primary School

QI 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement	very good
QI 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement	good

This letter and a more detailed document called the Summarised Inspection Findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/reports/inverclyde/8640327>

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. Inverclyde Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Susan Duff
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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