

25 August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Garelochhead Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

Garelochhead Primary School Nursery Class was inspected by Care Inspectorate within the past 18 months. Therefore we have agreed with the local authority and school that the nursery class is not part of this inspection.

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

- The headteacher is highly regarded and provides strong leadership across the school community. She is enthusing children and staff at all levels to lead impactful change.
- Children are motivated to learn by staff who create interesting and active contexts for learning. Staff and partners ensure children learn in highly-nurturing environments, underpinned by trusting relationships and the well-embedded school values.
- Staff work successfully with a range of well-planned community partners to support effectively children's learning, wellbeing and achievement. This is improving children's outcomes and promotes a strong sense of belonging to the school community.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Argyll and Bute Council.

- Staff should continue to improve learning and teaching by planning activities set at the right pace and level of challenge. Staff need to capture children's progress over time to ensure they attain well.
- Senior leaders should continue to ensure that children build on their prior learning on all aspects of equality and diversity. Children need greater opportunities to use their learning to identify and challenge discrimination.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Garelochhead Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school (4th edition) Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: [Garelochhead Primary School | 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. Argyll and Bute Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector

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